

# Newsletter 3 • 2023

## EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V.

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# EUDXF NEWSLETTER 3 • 2023

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**change  
of address**

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

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



## Imprint

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

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

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

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



## Welcoming Words of the President

Thanks to our members, the EUDXF is able to give financial support to an increasing number DXpeditions. Let me also make a friendly reminder to some members to pay their outstanding annual fee (we need that to support DXpeditions). We are happy that we could welcome new members and also some new life members!

Within the first half of this year we received 17 sponsor requests of which almost all got a positive response. Since we are only half way this year, we may expect more requests coming in. I think we can be proud that we can contribute to so many DXpeditions that certainly need support from clubs and individuals.

All DXpeditions or activities that we financially support are always published on our web site so you know in before they get on the air. Some bigger DXpeditions are scheduled for the second half of this year and early 2024, so a lot to chase.

Personally I was happy to make my first visit to the Dayton Hamvention where I could meet many people in person and also experience how these events in America are organized. Obviously many visitors but also many companies that sell amateur radio equipment. The Contest University, DX dinners, etc. are all well worth a visit.

Last month we also had the annual Ham Radio 2023 in Friedrichshafen which was a great event again. EUDXF was represented prominently at the DX Plaza and we had many visitors that passed by for a chat. Once again a great opportunity to meet friends in person. See further the article about Ham Radio 2023 in this newsletter.

This year we have supported the WRTC and in particular the AF2 team, 5T5PA (PA5X) and 4V9A (KF5EYY). Also this time it was a well organized event and we are happy that the EUDXF banners and flag were at display.

I also like to draw attention to the DXpedition to Guyana 8R7X in 2024 with 4 young radio operators (DK6SP, M0SDV, DJ4MX and HA8RT resp. 25, 22, 21 and 25 years old). It is nice to see that we still have young people joining our radio hobby but also going on a DXpedition. These are the people that hopefully will continue to pursue their ambitions and

interests in our great hobby and enjoying operating from rare places and meeting different people and cultures.

With the rising sunspot numbers we can experience good propagation on the higher bands and this opens opportunities for those who still need confirmation on these bands. For some it may be the first time to experience the effect of the high sunspot numbers. Lots of interesting DX is waiting for us.

### - Annual General Meeting -

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

Deutsch-Niederländische  
Amateurfunger Tage (DNAT).

The meeting will take place  
on Saturday  
26<sup>th</sup> August 2023

and will start  
at 14:00 local time  
as usual in  
Forum of the Burg Gymnasium  
Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2,  
48455 Bad Bentheim,  
Germany

## Silent Keys

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

### Silent Key

534 Sergey V. Kislov, RJ3AA, LM #31

May he rest in peace.

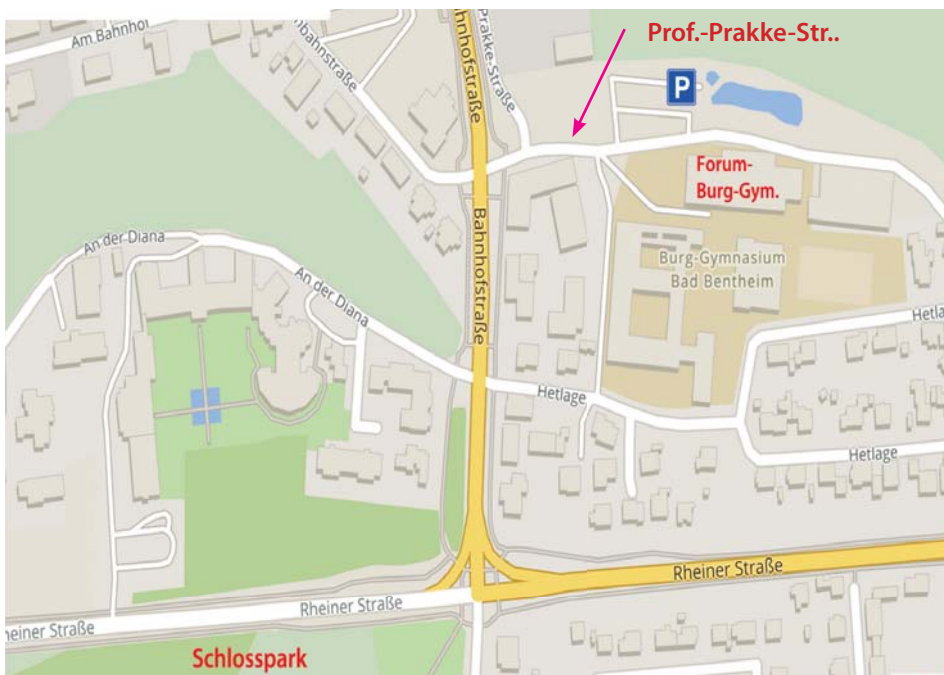
## New Members

Since November 2022 we welcomed the following DX-enthusiasts as new EUDXF members:

### New Members

#1033 Volkwin Siebe, PA1VS  
#1034 Andreas Pfaffel, DL1PAN  
#1035 Wolter Nijmeijer, PA5WN  
#1036 Pierre Leroy, ON6PL  
#1037 Werner Corstjens, ON7WM  
#1038 Gavin Tayler, GM0GAV  
#296 Jorma Friman, OH2BEJ  
#1039 Rune Øye, LA7THA  
#1040 Mitch Wein, KH6M  
#1041 Tamás Varro, HA8RT  
#1042 Hans-Ulrich Buschle, DL4MFR  
#1043 Yevgeniy Samorodov, YL2TD  
#1044 Philipp Springer, DK6SP  
#1045 Dr. Ulmar Schmidt, DK1CE  
#1046 Pascal Tassinari, F8TRT  
#1047 Jamie Williams, M0SDV

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



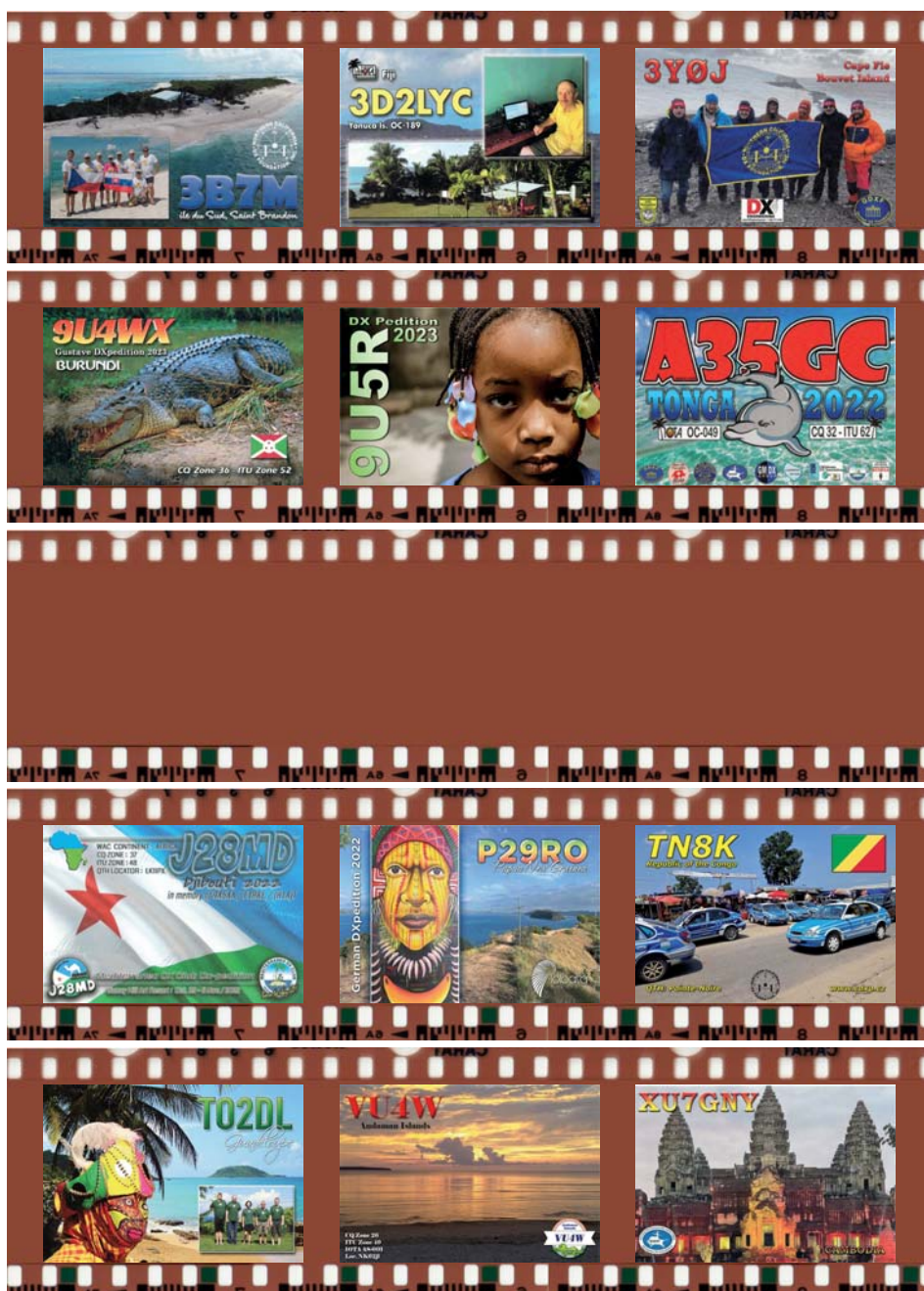
## EUDXF Life Members

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

The following EUDXF Members are registered as Life Members:

### Life Members

Prof. Dr. Achim Rogmann, DF3EC  
 Klaus Schlich, DF3GL  
 Jürgen Carow, DF3OL  
 Herbert Orthaus, DG8YFM **NEW**  
 Jan G. Stadman, DJ5AN  
 Gerd Richter, DJ5IW  
 Christian (JAN) Harders, DJ8NK  
 Dr. Dieter Messer, DJ9ON  
 Hans-Martin Kurka, DK2HM **NEW**  
 Dr. Gottfried Dutiné, DK3DG  
 Dr. Andreas Söchting, DK6AS  
 Timm Wangerin, DL1BKT  
 Robert F. Lörcks, DL1EBV  
 Frank Rosenkranz, DL4KQ  
 Leo Wirth, DL4NBE  
 Dominik Weiel, DL5EBE  
 Klaus Huber, DL5EC  
 Felix J. Riess, DL5XL  
 Johannes Langner, DL7BQ  
 Olaf Bunner, DL7CX  
 Robin U. Go, DU9RG  
 Iñaki Echeveria, EA2AAZ  
 Fred C. Handscombe, G4BWP  
 Andrea Panati, IK1PMR  
 Yoshihiko Hirano, JA2MNB  
 Tsutomu Kitahara, JA0DBQ  
 Katsuyama Kazuo, JA0EQO  
 Noriko Nakamoto, JF0JIL  
 Daniel Dankert, N6PEQ  
 Pertti Turunen, OG2M  
 Jorma Friman, OH2BEJ **NEW**  
 Martti Laine, OH2BH  
 Jukka Heikinheimo, OH2BR  
 Jari Jussila, OH2BU  
 Veijo Kontas, OH6KN  
 Rob van de Kamer, PA1X  
 Gert van Loo, PA2LO  
 Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP  
 Maarten Bos, PA3EYC  
 Dick Grolleman, PA3FQA  
 Henk Hofman, PA3GCV  
 Michael Driksen, PA5M **NEW**  
 Johannes Hafkenscheid, PA5X  
 Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T  
 Roberto "BOB", PB5X **NEW**  
 Sergey V. Kislov, RJ3AA **SK**  
 Tomasz Barbachowski, SP5UAF  
 Thor Stefansson, TF4M  
 Ingrid S. Geissler, W7ISG



### Sponsored activities 2022/2023

3B7M – Saint Brandon 2023  
 3D2LYC – Fiji  
 3Y0J – Bouvet Island 2023  
 9U4WX and 9U5R – Burundi 2023  
 A35GC – Tonga  
 CY0C – Salble Island  
 D60AE – Comoros  
 FT8/c – Crozet Island

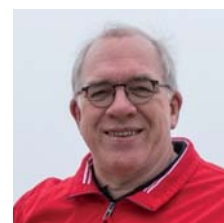
J28MD – Djibouti  
 P29RO – Papa New Guinea  
 TN8K – Congo  
 TO2DL – Guadeloupe  
 VU7W – Lakshadweep Island  
 WRTC 2022  
 XU7GNY – Cambodia

### pending sponsored

5W0LM – Samoa  
 8R7X – Guyana 2024  
 9Q2WX – DR Congo  
 E6AM – Niue  
 T2C – Tuvalu 2023  
 T30ET – Western Kiribati  
 TX5S – Clipperton Island  
 TX7L – Marquesas Island  
 W8S – Swains Island  
 ZL7/SP5EAQ – Chatham Island

Regards,

Gerben – PG5M  
 EUDXF President







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

## Correspondence:

Gerben A. Menting  
PG5M  
Leembodde 19  
9472 ZR ZUIDLAREN  
THE NETHERLANDS  
☎ +31  
✉ [president@eudxf.eu](mailto:president@eudxf.eu)

**Date:** 01.08.2023

To all

EUDXF Members

## Generalversammlung 2023/General Meeting 2023

Hiermit lade ich Sie herzlich zur Jahreshauptversammlung der European DX Foundation in Verbindung mit den *Deutsch-Niederländischen Amateurfunker Tagen* (DNAT) für Samstag, den 26. August 2023, 14:00 Uhr im Forum des Burg Gymnasiums, Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2, 48455 Bad Bentheim ein.

*I cordially invite you to the Annual General Meeting of the European DX Foundation in conjunction with the „Deutsch-Niederländischen Amateurfunker Tagen“ (DNAT) on Saturday, August 26, 2023, 14:00 hrs, at the Forum of the Burg Gymnasium, Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2, 48455 Bad Bentheim, Germany.*

## Tagesordnung:

1. Begrüßung durch den Vorsitzenden
2. Anwesenheitsfestellung
3. Wahl des Protokollführers
4. Verabschiedung des Protokolls 2022
5. Bericht des Vorsitzenden
6. Kassenbericht
7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer
8. Anträge der Kassenprüfer
  - a. Genehmigung der Jahresrechnung
  - b. Entlastung des Vorstandes
9. Verschiedenes

## Agenda:

Opening by the chairperson  
Roll call  
Appointment of the minute taker  
Adoption of the AGM 2022 minutes  
President's report  
Financial report  
Auditor's report  
Motions of the Auditors  
Approval of the annual financial statement  
Discharge of the board of directors  
Miscellaneous

European DX Foundation e. V.

Gerben A. Menting  
President

### **President:**

Gerben A. Menting  
PG5M  
Leembodde 19  
9472 ZR ZUIDLAREN  
THE NETHERLANDS  
☎ +31  
✉ [president@eudxf.eu](mailto:president@eudxf.eu)

### **Cashier:**

Robert F. Lörcks  
DL1EBV  
Sommerlandstrasse 23  
47551 Bedburg-Hau  
GERMANY  
☎ +49 2824 999703  
✉ [cashier@eudxf.eu](mailto:cashier@eudxf.eu)

### **Bank account:**

Volksbank Kleverland  
IBAN:  
DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19  
BIC: GENO DED1KLL  
  
PayPal  
[cashier@eudxf.eu](mailto:cashier@eudxf.eu)

### **Tax number:**

336/5810/1057  
**registry court:**  
VR 1301315 AG Osnabrück  
**Club station:**  
DLØEUF  
[www.eudxf.eu](http://www.eudxf.eu)



# Ham Radio Friedrichshafen 2023

## DX Plaza and EUDXF Dinner

BY HANS BLONDEEL TIMMERMAN, PB2T

From 23 to 25 June more than 11,000 radio enthusiasts visited the Messe in Friedrichshafen for Ham Radio 2023. On Thursday afternoon the EUDXF stand was built up on the well-known DX-plaza. We shared this area with other DX related groups Swiss DXF, Clipperton DXC, MDXC, GDXF, CDXC and IOTA. This year EUDXF hosted the W8S team in our stand to promote their DXpedition to Swains Island.

DX Plaza was the centre of activity during Ham Radio 2023. Our stand offered space to sit and talk with morning coffee and afternoon softdrinks including beer. In between shopping and collecting QSL cards lots of members and non-members spent their time with us. The reason is obvious: If you stay long enough you will meet all your friends.







Achim DF3EC • Pista HA5AO • Gene K5GS



Hans-Martin DK2HM



DX Plaza the centre of activity during Ham Radio



Paul F6EXV • Fernando EA8AK • Cliff SV1JG



Two Life Members – Achim DF3EC and Klaus DL5EC





EUDXF was glad to welcome nine new members: Rune LA7THA, Mitch KH6M, Tamás HA8RT, Hans-Ulrich DL4MFR, Yeu-geenyi YL2TD, Pascal F8TRT, Ulmar DK1CE, Philipp DK6SP and Jamie MØSDV. As new Life Member we welcomed Bob PB5X.

The EUDXF dinner organised by Hans-Martin DK2HM took place in restaurant Heuschober. The event was fully booked and the food was excellent. There are already plans for the EUDXF dinner next year.

Worth mentioning are the 3YØJ presentation by Cezar VE3LYC, that attracted a big audience and of course the famous Clipperton DXC lunchtime aperitifs. Kenneth LA7KIA, team leader of 3YØJ came to our booth and presented us with a piece of rock from Bouvet Island as an appreciation for EUDXF support.



Piece of rock from Bouvet Island

On Sunday the fun ended. We hope to see you next year.

We owe a big thank you to our stand manager Jan DJ5AN, who again did a fantastic job, assisted by the stand crew with Achim DF3EC, Jan DJ8NK, Hans-Martin DK2HM, Pista HA5AO, Margreet K2XYL, Ronald PA3EWP, Hans PB2T and Gerben PG5M.

Unfortunately Jan DJ5AN has indicated that he will no longer be available as stand manager and we invite volunteers to take over this important job.

Hans PB2T.



### Dear friends

now that HAM RADIO 2023 is a few weeks behind us, it's time to take a short look back.

In my perception DX-Plaza is now established and has become what it was supposed to be: the meeting area for all those interested in DXing. Throughout Friday and Saturday there were always some of the well-known DXers around and enthusiastic discussions going on (Sunday is a different story).



The 3YØJ presentation by Cezar VE3LYC



left to right: Philipp DK6SP • Tomi HA8RT • Jan DJ8NK • Pista HA5AO • Jamie MØSDV • Sven DJ4MX

Thanks to all of you for supporting our idea that originated back in 2018.

Jan, DJ5AN, had an important role from the beginning as he was the contact point for Alesandra Weigl from the Messe Friedrichshafen. Based on his efforts we got plenty of space for our Plaza. Unfortunately, Jan indicated that he may not attend HAM RADIO 2024. Thanks Jan for all you support!

I met Alessandra to let her know that I was the new contact for DX-Plaza 2024 and left my details. She indicated that someone else would be in charge next year, but

she will forward the details. Hopefully, this works out as well as in the last three event. What made me very happy was her comment that from her perspective DX-Plaza had a good crowd throughout the event. With so many of the commercial exhibitors no longer present, it is important they acknowledge our efforts to attract an audience.

Best wishes for the summer and the remaining time until HAM RADIO 2024 and I hope to meet all of you again at DX-Plaza, vy 73, Stephan HB9DDO





# All you need to know about a guest license in Albania

## For a change an article that is not a DX-pedition report

BY HANS BLONDEEL TIMMERMAN, PB2T

### Introduction

My first visit to Albania was back in July 2016. I then operated as ZA/PB2T under CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01. Later that week I met with one of the Board Members of the Albanian Amateur Radio Association AARA. He tried to explain that in Albania a different procedure has to be followed, mainly for security reasons. I argued that if a country signs on to T/R 61-01 it accepts the terms and conditions. If additional constraints would be put on visiting amateurs, it should at least be clearly announced. We agreed to meet with the responsible person in the Radio Communications Agency (AKEP) to discuss the matter. At the very last moment (we were already in front of the AKEP building) the meeting was cancelled.

### The current situation

In 2022 AKEP still requires a license for visiting amateurs, including those operating under T/R 61-01. Obtaining a guest license through the AKEP webpage in the Albanian language is a cumbersome process.

Recently at least two incidents happened and amateur radio equipment was confiscated by police and/or customs.

Albania is on the current agenda for future enlargement of the European Union (EU). With that the country has entered a new phase in the EU accession. The start of negotiations was officially launched on 19 July 2022. Albania is now very active updating their legislation and related paperwork to meet EU standards and requirements. For me this was an excellent opportunity to offer my expertise to assist in the review of the Albania amateur radio legislation.

### Meeting with the regulator

Supported by an introduction letter from IARU Region 1 President Sylvain Azarian F4GKR, I offered the Chairman of the AKEP Board, Mr. Tomi Frashëri, assistance to revise the Albanian amateur legislation. My offer got accepted and on 12 January I met with AKEP Board Member Mr. Lorenc Bako and Mr. Jetmir Braha, Director of Authorizations in AKEP.

EUDXF life member and seasoned DX-er Martti OH2BH provided me with

detailed historical background. It was a pity that he was unable to accompany me to Albania. Martti also arranged local support from Jovan Bojdani ZA1H. One of Jovan's (aka Vani) drivers picked me up at the airport and dropped me off at my hotel. You always feel welcome when someone holds up a sign with your name and call.

I also met with Mr. Frederik Kote, former Chairman of the AKEP Board and still well respected in his country. He gave some excellent hints on how to approach AKEP officials.

Behind the scenes he also pushed and massaged AKEP to invite me for this short meeting.

During the meeting with AKEP the following items were discussed:

- **T/R 61-01.** See <sup>[1]</sup> By requiring a separate license for visiting amateurs Albania is not in line with CEPT regulations. AKEP claims that there are several reasons for this. The main reasons being security (they want to know the visitor's location) and customs (you need a license to import and export equipment). The AKEP website is not very user friendly for someone who doesn't understand Albanian. Mr Braha indicated that the website will be modified so that non Albanians will understand what needs to be done. There is a small license fee of approximately 4 Euro. The licensing process will take one day maximum. In 2019 it was decided that amateur equipment is excluded from import/export duties, but for that a license from AKEP is required.

- **Recent WRC decisions.** The Albanian amateur regulations have not been updated recently and the bands 135.7-137.8 kHz, 472-479 kHz and 5351.5-5366.5 kHz are not shown in the amateur regulations. Mr Braha pointed me to the National Allocation Table <sup>[2]</sup> and said that this document is leading. The NAT shows the new amateur allocations and also the European 70 MHz allocation 69.9-70.5 MHz. The new bands will be included in an updated

version of the amateur regulations <sup>[3]</sup>

- **T/R 61-02.** The recommendation is in place for resident Albanian citizens. It should also apply to resident foreigners. Unfortunately there is no clear definition for a resident foreigner.

- **Workshop.** I suggested to assist AKEP with an update of the amateur regulations. A workshop in which all issues mentioned above will be addressed, would be a good way forward. Although they understood that work has to be done they said that currently they have no funds to organise such a workshop. To meet the EU obligations, AKEP can only change documents after public consultation. AKEP sees local amateurs as their stakeholders. They very much value the expert opinion of CEPT and IARU. To me this seems a good opportunity/reason for a workshop. Although we did not agree on a firm date for such a workshop I have the feeling that AKEP will agree to have such an event.

### Positive developments

AKEP has made some positive changes after my visit to Albania. The license application procedure has been simplified. Visiting amateurs can now apply for a license by e-mail in English. Ms Aferdita Mazniku in AKEP handles the applications. The guest license is valid for three months and is free of charge. The license can either be e-mailed to the applicant or sent by snail mail.

Licences for permanent residents are valid for 6 months, but call signs are similar to the T/R 61-01 regime (ZA/owncall). A modest fee has to be paid in advance.

I am confident that Albania is on its way to implement T/R 61-01 and T/R 61-02 in full.



<sup>[1]</sup> <https://docdb.cept.org/download/2ae38a89-e58a/TR6101.pdf>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://akep.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/FZ-2021-35.pdf>

<sup>[3]</sup> [https://akep.al/wp-content/uploads/images/stories/AKEP/rregullore/2017/RREGULLORE\\_PER\\_SHERBIMET\\_RADIOAMATORE\\_2.pdf](https://akep.al/wp-content/uploads/images/stories/AKEP/rregullore/2017/RREGULLORE_PER_SHERBIMET_RADIOAMATORE_2.pdf)

# WRTC 2022 – Bologna Italy – 04-10 July 2023

BY JOHANNES, 5T5PA (PA5X)

The World Radio Team Championship, WRTC 2022 took place in Bologna, Italy this year between 04-10 July 2023. WRTC is called the Olympics of Radiosport and takes place once every four years, each time organized in a different country. This WRTC had been delayed due to the various crisis taking place in the past years and was therefore postponed till 2023. The Championship is a huge event, consisting of 58 radio stations being setup by volunteers in an entire province of the host country. A tri-bander yagi, as well as wire dipoles for 80 m and 40 m were installed from a tower for each station and all stations were located in various designated sites. The actual Contest took place on 08-09 July 2023 and EUDXF sponsored WRTC for the second time.

Team Africa 2 (AF-2) consisting of Johannes 5T5PA as Team Leader and Ashraf Chaabane 3V9A as Team Member were carrying the EUDXF sponsor flag during the event.

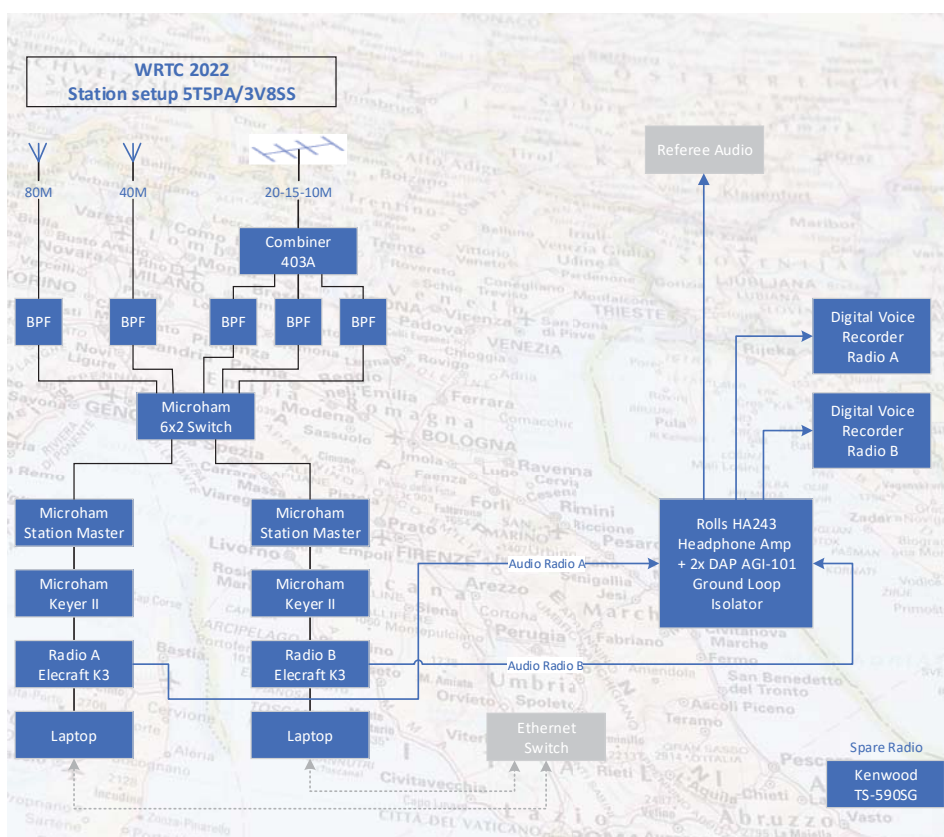
During the first days of the event, Teams from all over the world assembled in the village of Castel San Pietro Terme in Bologna. In various hotels located in the same area, close to the birthplace of Guglielmo Marconi, the first days were assigned to socializing, exploring the area, explaining the WRTC rules by the organizing committee and testing of equipment setup.

Once all the preparations were finalized, the 58 teams were assigned a referee by an automated selection process. Team AF-2 was linked to referee Bill Fehring W9KKN. Once the setup was approved and the audio recording equipment was tested, it was time for the next step, the draw of the Site locations.

Team AF-2 was assigned site RA09 and Site Manager Massimo Marcis IK4ZHU. The Site proved to be a great spot, a location at the local flying club, not too far from the Adriatic Coast. The Team received a warm welcome at the flying club and our host Massimo, who is apart from Ham radio operator and pilot also an amazing cook.



Team AF-2 Johannes 5T5PA (Team Leader) and Ashraf 3V9A (Team Member)







Bill W9KKN (Referee), Ashraf 3V9A (Team Member), Johannes 5T5PA (Team Leader) and Masimo IK4ZHU (Site Manager) at Site RA09 (Local Flying Club)

The participants had to bring their own Transceivers, BPF's and antenna switches etc. In this case due to import restrictions in Tunisia, the complete station setup was provided by Team Leader Johannes 5T5PA. The Team assembled the station on the day prior to the start of the Contest and everything proved to working perfectly.

The actual WRTC Contest started on 08 July 2023 at 12:00 UTC and lasted 24 hrs. Being mainly a CW Contest and Johannes 5T5PA operating mainly SSB resulted in quite some periods where there was low traffic and subsequently a low overall score. Nevertheless, it was a huge honor to participate and great fun! Thanks to EUDXF for sponsoring WRTC!

73 de Johannes 5T5PA / PA5X



Team AF-2 Johannes 5T5PA (Team Leader) and Ashraf 3V9A (Team Member) at Contest location RA09



WRTC 2022 PA5X gets EUDXF Flag and WRTC 2018 Banner from Stand-manager Jan PA1TT



WRTC 2022 Opening ceremony



# P29RO – our Papua New Guinea experience – did we really rock the bands ?

BY WERNER HASEMANN, DJ9KH

Some facts about Papua New Guinea (PNG):

PNG is situated on the world's second-largest island New Guinea in the south-western Pacific Ocean. This island with an area of app. 300,000 sq.miles is politically divided into Western New Guinea, which is a part of Indonesia and the independent state of Papua New Guinea. In the past the PNG-territory was partly governed by the United Kingdom, by Australia and Germany. In 1975 PGN was declared as an independent state and still is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations with Charles III as their king.

The population is around 18 millions. Beside English as the official language there are more than 800 different languages and dialects spoken on PNG.

## Why PNG ?

To be realistic: to activate really rare spots requires a considerable budget and causes huge logistic challenges. So Rolf DL7VEE as our organizer found P29 to be a good compromise between the ranking on the most wanted lists and the budget of the team-members. We found PNG in the Clublog-ranking slightly above 100 and there was not too much activity from P29 in the past. So good assumptions for us as team-members to agree with Rolf. He began with the first planning-steps just after returning from El Salvador (HU1DL), which he completed in mid-2021 with pre-booking the hotel and applying for a license.

As we all know, the Covid-19 situation was unpredictable that time. We had no chance to enter PNG in October 2021, so we postponed the expedition, hoping for a better situation in 2022. And indeed, the pandemic situation in Europe and the Pacific area improved from month to month as well as the band-conditions on the higher bands did. Fortunate coincidence?

Anyway, we had to apply again for licenses and for visas, which was online no big deal. Our flights from Berlin via Dohar and Singapore to Port Moresby

with two 6 hours stops were strenuous, but without any problems with the customs or the security-controls. We had no extra-luggage, the 25 kg limit was ok for all the antenna-material and electronic-equipment we had with us.

Our pre-booked hotel was the Loloata Island Resort on an island half an hour by boat from Port Moresby. A very comfortable but expensive hotel with more luxury you need on a hamradio-expedition. For more interest for us: there was no man-made noise, a stable power-line, a fast internet-connection and a very under-



Island overlook



Arriving in Port Moresby



Ferryboat to Loloata Island  
DL6KAC in the foreground





Our hotel



Relaxing in the pool



Antenna works

standing hotel-manager. He prepared a shack for us with all necessary furniture, power-lines and internet-access and supported our plans for establishing our 'antenna-farm' on the hilly area behind the hotel-complex.

The hotel by the way is equipped with two diesel-generators and water/waste-water treatment plants. The management has a special eye on ecological aspects on the island.

During our planning-phase we used satellite-images of the island to find the best location for our antennas and to calculate the length of the necessary coax-cables taking into account, that we have to observe enough separation between the 6 antennas. With 60 to 65 meters for each of the 6 cables we were quite ok.

#### Installation of the antenna-farm:

We began installing the antennas shortly after arriving in the hotel. High-noon, 35° C and almost 100 % humidity after 36 hours in airplanes or in airports were not the best circumstances for antenna-works, so we restricted us that day



All antennas ready



All antennas ready

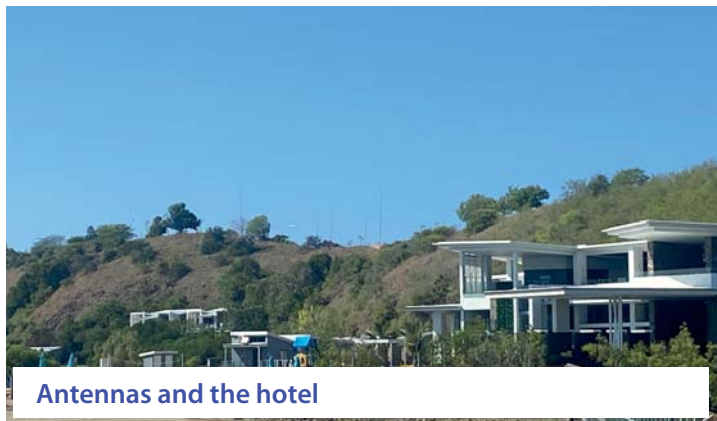


160m antenna





Antennas after the first day



Antennas and the hotel

on building up the 5-Band - LZ-Beam on a 9 m mast and antennas for 40 and 30 m on 12 m masts.

The 160 m, 80 m verticals on 18 m masts and the 60 m and 6 m antennas followed the next days.

There were no significant alignments on the antennas necessary, they were all pre-tested and proved in expeditions before.

Our 2-el.-5-band beam was connected to a Pentaplexer, which allowed us to transmit with 500 watts on 3 bands simultaneously. Great thing, no interferences and only one feedline for 5 bands.

As usual on our expeditions we were using double-filtering in the shack. That means, one bandpass-filter between the transceiver and linear and one between the linear and antenna.

#### Our operating-sites:

Our modified appartement offered room enough for 4 (5) operating-sites with sufficient distances to the neighbour-operators. They were equipped with K3s-transceivers, laptops and the necessary peripherals. Operating under these conditions was quite comfortable, even with 4 to 5 operators in action. All 5 transceivers were connected in a local network with internet-access. Daily upload into the Club-Log-system as well as

correspondence with the 'outside-world' was never a problem.

#### On the air:

Shortly after the first antennas were up, the first station was on the air. Rolf, DL7VEE, began his first shift on 20 m CW, whilst the rest of the exhausted crew enjoyed their dinner in the restaurant.

First stations in the log were JS6RTJ, DJ2IA and F6GCP. They gave us an idea of that what we could expect in the next weeks.

We were operating with 4 ½ hours-shifts, which gave us 9 hours time between the shifts for recreation, sleep, swimming, diving and visiting the restaurant with their excellent kitchen.

The first 24 hours of activities were finalized with for us sensationally 10,000 QSOs! At home we dreamt of 50,000 QSOs in 14 days! No doubt that we would have a good chance to exceed that. And indeed, 7 days later we were counting 50,000 QSOs. The 16<sup>th</sup> and last day of our activities ended up with 93,740 QSOs. Included are more than 5,000 contacts we had in the WWDX Contest, where we were found us on place 35 worldwide and place 3 in Oceania.

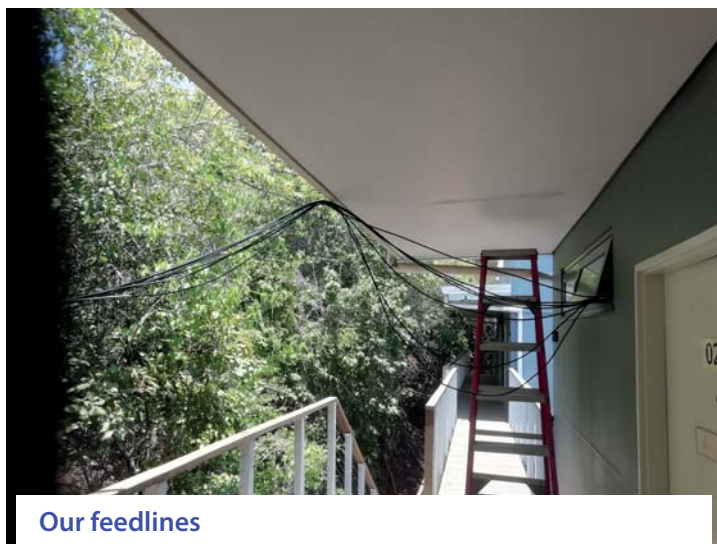
If somebody would have asked us before how the conditions on 15 m to 10 m would be in October nobody would have

forecasted big pileups on these bands. Surprise for all of us : more than 40 % of our contacts were made on 10/12/15 m. Super-pileups with Japan, Europe and even North-America as the continent with the greatest distance to us. „P29ROcks the shortwaves....“ was one of the comments I read in an e-mail from Japan. A little bit overdone, perhaps...

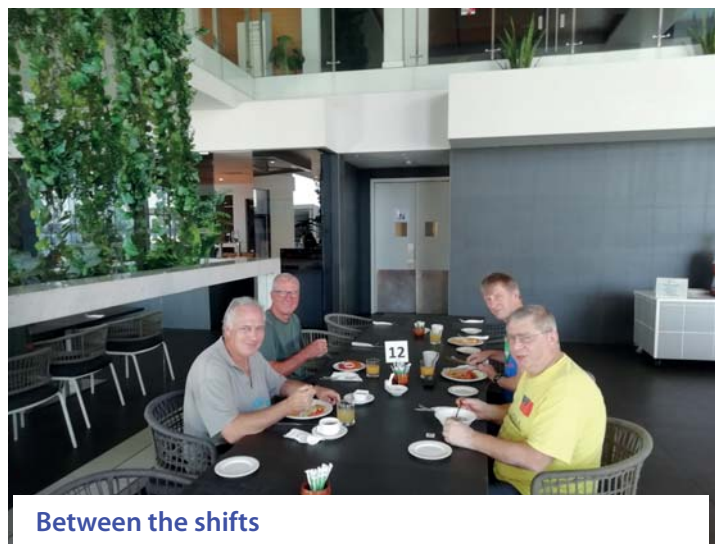
Almost 45,000 QSOs with Europe, 31,000 with Asia (mainly Japan) and 14,000 with North America were a hard piece of work and stressed us almost throughout every shift. On the other hand boring hours with no takers were rare.

40 meters with a single radial was quite ok with more than 9,000 QSOs into all continents. Here we had to cope with heavy QRM from fisherboats (?). Very disappointing were 80 m and 160 m. Without special receiving antennas we had an up-hill battle against an extreme high atmospheric noise level and commercial QRM. We are very sorry about our unsatisfactory results on these bands as we know that the amateur-radio community was expecting more from us.

And 6-meters? With a loop antenna, fed with 65 m coax-cable we had a few good openings into Japan operating in FT-8 -mode (650 QSOs). The K3 was often



Our feedlines



Between the shifts

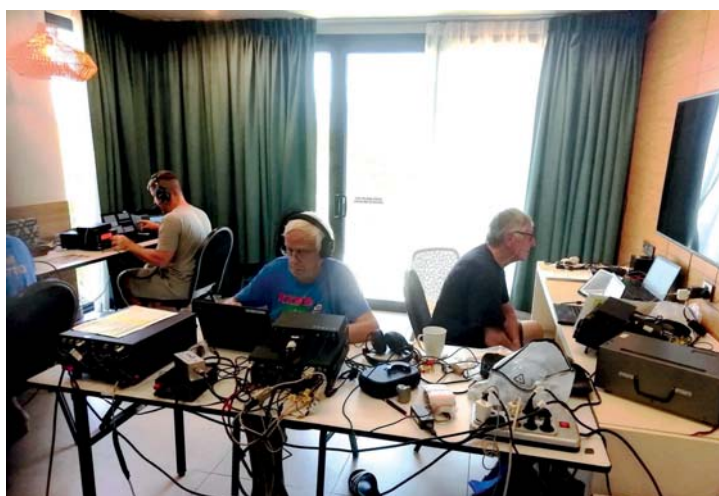




Operators in action DL1KWK



Operators in action DL7VEE



Operators in action



Filterbanks and Pentaplexer



from left to right: DJ9RR Heye; DG2RON Ronny; DL4SVA Georg; DL1KWK Frank; DL7JOM Olaf; DJ7TO Olaf; DL2RNS Norbert; DK3CG Rudolf; DJ9KH Werner; DL7VEE Rolf; DL6KAC Christian

## P29R0 – Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	FT4	Total	Total %
160	1	535	0	0	0	536	0.6 %
80	697	2,806	17	34	0	3,554	3.8 %
60	0	622	0	0	0	622	0.7 %
40	3,391	4,137	1,736	238	0	9,502	10.1 %
30	4,266	4,081	0	594	0	8,941	9.5 %
20	5,217	4,938	3,348	935	26	14,464	15.4 %
17	4,974	4,704	2,668	605	0	12,951	13.8 %
15	6,236	4,289	5,903	1,086	0	17,514	18.7 %
12	5,189	4,675	2,280	821	0	12,965	13.8 %
10	4,250	4,254	2,717	827	0	12,048	12.9 %
6	0	654	0	0	0	654	0.7 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>35,695</b>	<b>18,669</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>93,751</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

## P29R0 – Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	CW	RTTY	FT8	FT4	Total	Total %
AFRICA	109	129	21	147	0	406	0.4 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	6,392	9,788	2,201	12,487	19	30,887	32.9 %
EUROPE	8,066	17,835	2,379	16,270	6	44,556	47.5 %
NORTH AMERIKA	2,809	5,624	407	5,044	0	13,884	14.8 %
OCEANIA	1,152	667	118	1,295	1	3,233	3.4 %
SOUTH AMERICA	141	178	14	452	0	785	0.8 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>18,669</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>35,695</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>93,751</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>19.9 %</b>	<b>36.5 %</b>	<b>5.5 %</b>	<b>38.1 %</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

## P29R0 – DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	FT4	Total
160	1	24	0	0	0	24
80	46	70	4	14	0	73
60	0	48	0	0	0	48
40	85	87	81	38	0	110
30	92	95	0	52	0	109
20	104	113	116	61	8	143
17	97	103	86	43	0	122
15	100	108	125	61	0	141
12	98	99	75	53	0	120
10	90	103	94	54	0	121
6	0	3	0	0	0	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>172</b>

## P29R0 – Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Total %
AFRICA	0	6	5	54	63	95	46	53	46	38	0	406	0.4 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	432	1,293	29	2,663	2,286	4,083	4,473	5,898	4,576	4,540	614	30,887	32.9 %
EUROPE	46	1,792	410	5,373	4,961	7,941	6,182	7,364	5,422	5,065	0	44,556	47.5 %
NORTH AMERIKA	24	335	147	1,015	1,418	1,576	1,797	3,206	2,482	1,884	0	13,884	14.8 %
OCEANIA	34	126	31	363	156	552	346	824	339	423	39	3,233	3.4 %
SOUTH AMERICA	0	2	0	34	57	217	107	169	100	98	1	785	0.8 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>9,502</b>	<b>8,941</b>	<b>14,464</b>	<b>12,951</b>	<b>17,514</b>	<b>12,965</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>93,751</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>0.6 %</b>	<b>3.8 %</b>	<b>0.7 %</b>	<b>10.1 %</b>	<b>9.5 %</b>	<b>15.4 %</b>	<b>13.8 %</b>	<b>18.7 %</b>	<b>13.8 %</b>	<b>12.9 %</b>	<b>0.7 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	





Farewell-party

used there as a beacon-station, to show, that we were there.

We lived quite isolated on the small island Loloata. By boat it took us 30 minutes to reach the main-island. From there it was another 30 minutes by bus to Port Moresby. With Ronny DG2RON I did the tour two times. We had a few hours tour through Port Moresby and another into the National Park where we got an idea of what it means to be in a tropical rain forest.

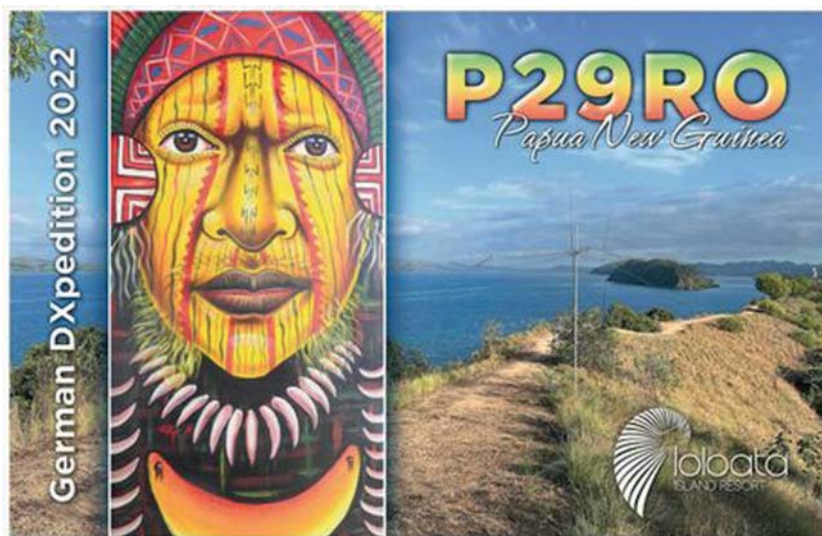
We knew it before, being on that island gives us only a little chance to learn about the country, the people and their culture. I am feeling sorry about that, but our mission had other advantages.

At November 9<sup>th</sup> all our antennas were dismantled. The equipment was packed and we were ready for the flight back to Germany. We all returned home exhausted but happy. Happy not only to have this mission completed without any big problems exceeding all our expectations, but happy also about the positive feedbacks we received from all over the world.

We are deeply grateful for all the support we received from our sponsors, organisations and individuals. The thousands of QSL-requests we received just a few days after finishing this expedition and more than 90,000 QSOs shows us, that Papua New Guinea was a good choice. In the meantime the promised uploads into the LoTW-system are completed, the paper-QSLs are printed.

See You all from our next destination, whenever that might be.

Werner DJ9KH



## Gustave DXpedition 9U4WX and 9U5R Burundi 2023

BY VLADIMIR "VLAD" ZENCAK, OK2WX



Burundi, or the Republic of Burundi, is a country in central Africa bordering Rwanda to the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west and Tanzania to the east and south. In 1890, Burundi was colonised by Germany (under the name "Urun-di") and became part of German East Africa (1890–1919) together with Rwanda ("Ruanda"). Then it became a Belgian colony and in 1962 gained independence. The official language is French, but people mainly speak Kirundi and Swahili.



### How it all began

Getting to Burundi is neither easy nor cheap. But trying to obtain a licence and bringing amateur radio equipment there makes everything much more difficult. After all, the country's 64<sup>th</sup> place in the "Most Wanted" list on Clublog is no accident. But let's start from the beginning.

After returning from the 8Q7WX and 8Q7WM expedition in March 2022, in which Karel OK2WM and I mainly focused on the lower bands 160-80-40 m, I was looking for a way to contact the proper authorities in Burundi. I tried to write to the e-mail address I had from Shabu 9U4RI from the UK several times,



but never received a response. So I had no choice but to try to send my application by mail. In Africa, this means DHL or Fedex, because documents sent by regular post rarely reach the recipient. For the service of delivering a letter of ten A4 pages, the Czech DHL branch charged me EUR 196, but gave me a guarantee that it would be delivered directly to the right official.

I waited for a month, but received no response. So I contacted Antonio IZ8CCW from the last known expedition to Burundi, 9U4M from 2017. He gave me the e-mail address of another official at the ARCT (the telecommunications authority) whom I also tried to contact on social media, which ultimately worked.

Even though I established my first contact, the matter was far from over. After dozens of e-mails in the span of 7 months and after I paid a fee of USD 330, I received a completely useless licence 9U4WX for 1.815–1.848 and 28.500–29.066 CW and SSB. I never understood the idea behind this (maybe they were inspired by the former youth OL licences from the Czechoslovakia many years ago hi).

This meant that the November date for our expedition was off the table, so I had to try once again. It's not just about the licence; you can only import amateur radio equipment to Burundi with a special permit from the ARCT and the OBR, which is a customs authority. To receive your licence, you also need to have a fixed QTH, plane tickets and visas. I received the visa from the Embassy of Burundi in Berlin in three weeks for USD 200. This in itself was a risk, because if they did not grant me the licence or granted it too late, and/or if I did not receive my import permit, the approved (and paid) QTH would be forfeit, and so would be the visa and part of the plane tickets. You basically need to follow a very strict sequence of steps.

Dozens of messages followed with ample help from Antonio, who did as much as he could. After many urgings and after several more fees, the licence was finally issued in early December 2022, valid for 2 months. Now it was time for the second round of applications for the import permit. To obtain that, you need to submit a detailed description of the imported material and its value. On Antonio's advice, I tried to get the value as low as possible, but still the customs officials calculated the customs duty to be USD 2,000. After several weeks of explanations, we eventually brought it down to USD 900 and USD 400 in processing fees. I added shots against typhoid and cholera to my yel-

low fever vaccination from last year and waited for my permit, which still wasn't signed and valid.

In the meantime, I received a message that the well-known African traveller, radio amateur and humanitarian worker Elvira IV3FSG had also applied for a licence, 9U5R, and wanted to go to Burundi in January. She contacted me to ask for help with her import permits, but it was clear that we wouldn't be able to get it done by January. So I offered Elvira that if she gets her 9U5R licence in time, she can come with me and we can transport the equipment on my permit. The documents finally arrived and two weeks before our departure, the antennas were transported by Lufthansa Cargo to Bujumbura.

For expeditions with eight, twelve or more members, transporting equipment is a fairly simple affair. Even though airlines differentiate between "overweight" and "oversized" luggage travelling as "carry on", i.e. on board, with so many people it's fairly easy to distribute the weight of individual pieces and ensure you can fit into the corresponding tables.

The situation with a one-member expedition is quite different and resembles a solo ascent of Mt. Everest without the help of Sherpas. In this case, you're responsible for absolutely everything from transport and the raising of the antennas to the radio activity itself, and anything that you don't do by yourself simply won't be done. This also means that carrying 140 kg of equipment with you is out of the question. In the end, there were two two-metre crates with a total weight of 66 kg that travelled before me as cargo, and my two suitcases weighing 30 kg each that came with me. Because sponsors demand everything in an expedition to have backups, I needed two transceivers, two power sources, two keys, two Spiderbeams, 250 m of coaxial cables, 500 m of radial wires and lots of other equipment.

Elvira, who speaks French and has already worked from 12 African countries, thought the situation wouldn't be as tough as it seemed, and packed one more IC7300 and a Skypper antenna for 10 and 6 metres in her bags.

I landed at Bujumbura airport on 1 February; Elvira was supposed to arrive the next day from Rome. The expedition was officially scheduled to start on 4 February, so you'd think there was a lot of time. The next few hours showed it wouldn't be so easy. My cargo agent was waiting at the airport to arrange all the formalities concerning the cargo; the antennas were already in our QTH. I had the original cop-



Cargo antennas



Vienna night check in trunk

ies of the ARCT permits to import the equipment, another permit for release to circulation and a permit from OBR. But officials are all the same wherever you go. Even though I had all the valid permits, I spent several hours at the airport, and despite patient explanations from my agent and ARCT officials, the local customs officers refused to release my suitcases. So I left for the hotel with my hand luggage and malaria medication to spend the night.





Before departure



Unpacking material after arrival

The negotiations continued the next day, but were made more complicated by the fact that the registration system was down. Elvira arrived in the afternoon. Her suitcases were also immediately confiscated by the customs officials and after a difficult day, we met in the evening at the hotel. We had antennas, but no radios or coax cables.

On Friday afternoon, 3 February, one day before the expedition was to start, I finally received my suitcases back after many urgings and we could start setting up the antennas. By the evening, we only managed to put up a dipole for 30 m. It was not advisable to go out after dark because of mosquitoes carrying the malaria

parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*. On Saturday 4 February, instead of launching the expedition, we started setting up our 5 Band Spiderbeam and the verticals for 40 and 80 m. We managed to tune the verticals correctly on the first attempt, but the Spiderbeam turned out to be trickier. It behaved strangely and its PSV values were curiously high. But dusk fell again, so we had to retreat behind our mosquito nets.



Preparing 5 Band Spiderbeam.



Balun Spiderbeam



Tensioning the Spiderbeam structure



Spiderbeam preparation



View of Spiderbeam



Our mosquito nets





Dipole 30 m



Preparing Skypper 10 and 6 m



Folded dipole



Fault finding



Vertical 40 m



Checking the element



Vertical 80 m

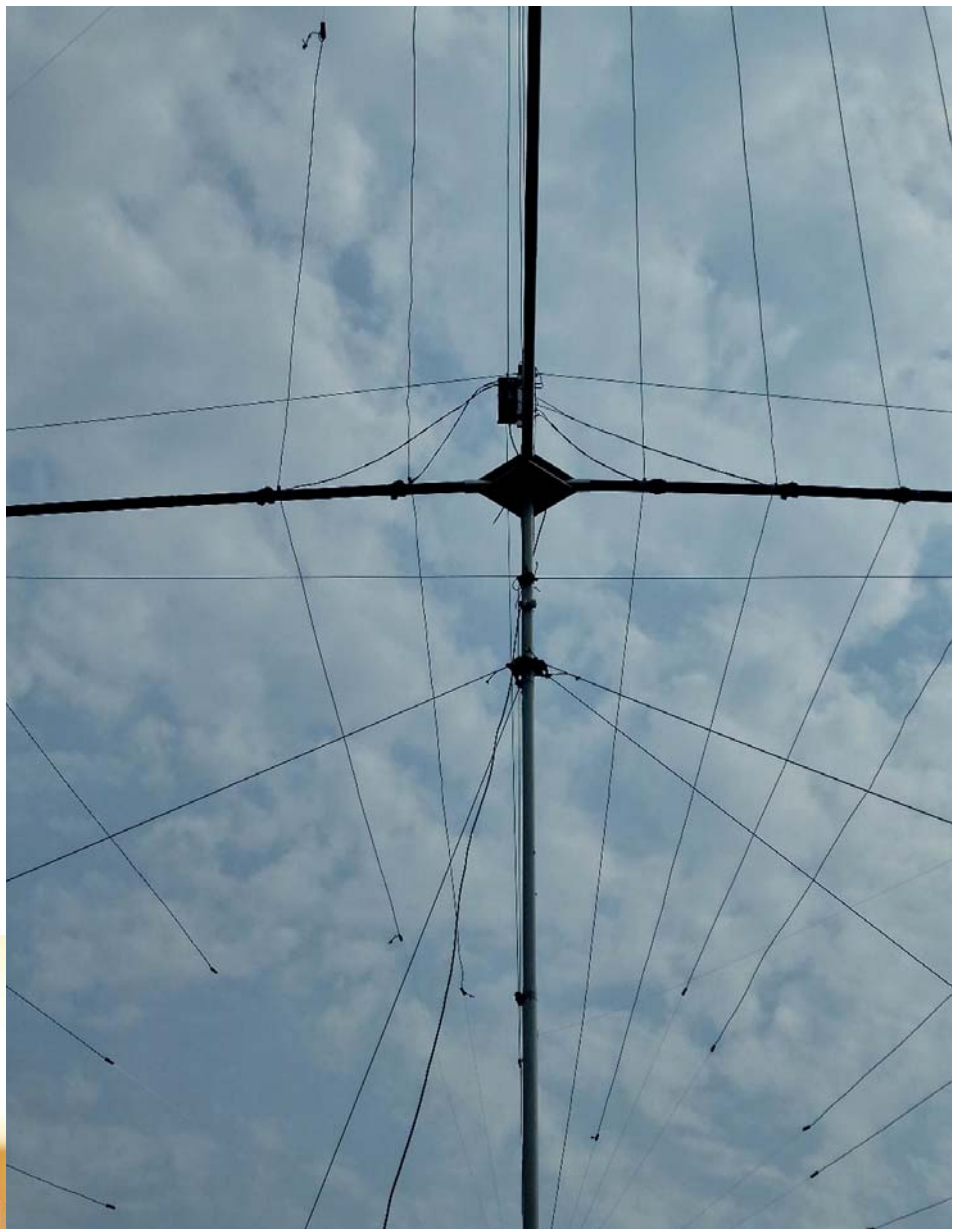


Antennas second ham shack 9U5R

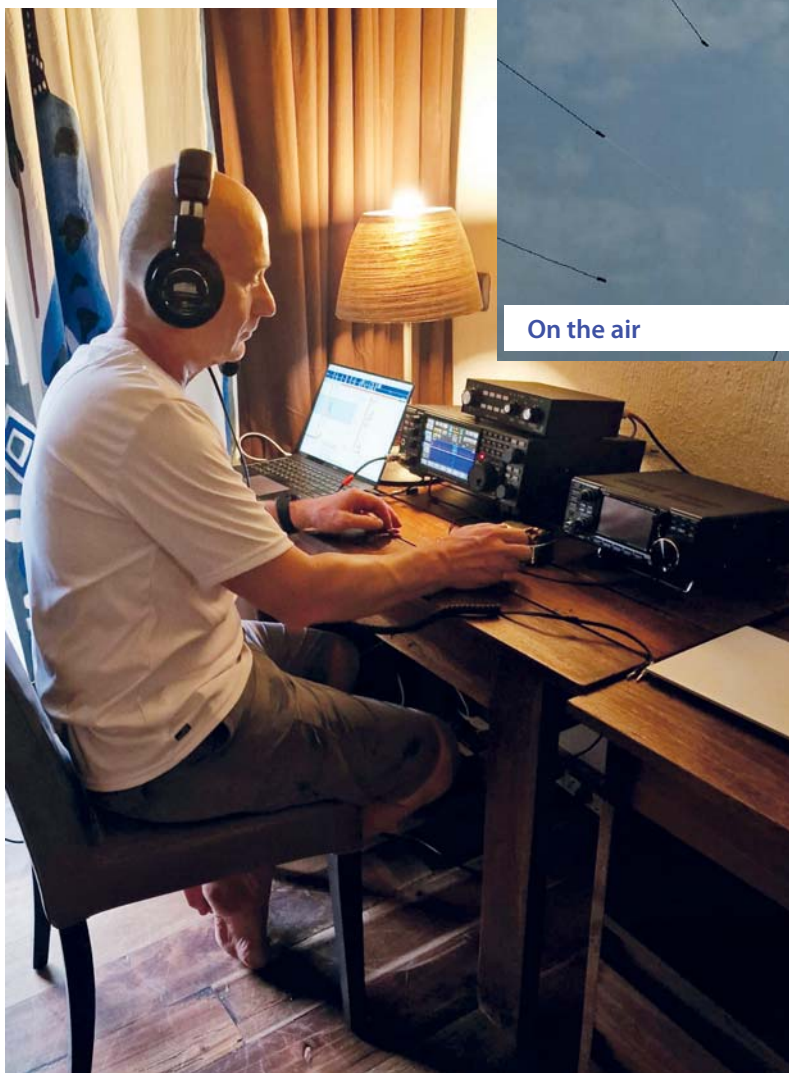


At night, I contacted Rick DJØIP from Spiderbeam Germany and sent him data from the analyser in .asd format. We were both racking our brains to figure out what was going on, but the answer was ultimately very simple. Our local “engineers” who helped us set up all the parts of the Spiderbeam decided to make their job of stretching the wires easier by simply shortening the resonant lengths of emitters. But because it was already dark when we were assembling the antenna, no one noticed. So we had to take it down, fix everything and put it back up again.

In the meantime, Elvira applied to the ARCT and OBR for her equipment import permit. Fortunately, we now had two transceivers and two power sources and could start working under our callsigns. It turned out that the 40 m vertical can be very well tuned to the 15 m band, but without filters on the upper bands, we interfered with each other. So we started to rotate in 3-hour cycles. After dark, we could simultaneously operate on 20, 30 and 40 metres without interference. On the 80, we were still unable to get our



On the air



Ham shack 9U4WX



Vertikal radialy



"Beverage on ground" running, and it was also set up in an inconvenient direction.

Another complication was caused by the hippos who live in Lake Tanganyika and who are very dangerous. They can reach speeds of up to 45 km/h and are one of Africa's biggest killers. When I mentioned to ZS1HF that there was a hippo at our antennas, he was horrified and recommended we do not leave the ham shack.

The local security team always placed red flags in the sand and we had to patiently wait for the hippo to walk back into the water so we can work on our antennas. I was afraid of crocodiles, in particular the legendary Gustave after whom we named our expedition, but the hippo is by far the most feared.

On Monday 6 February, we're finally active on all bands except for the 80 where the Beverage is still acting up. We experience a massive pile-up and many stations, in particular from southern Europe and Russia, turned out to have an atrocious discipline. Sometimes I pig-headedly insisted on contacting a station that had been patiently calling at any cost. This is of course counterproductive and a big waste of time, so I soon stopped. I repeated a single station sign ten times over to make a QSO. This is while many "big guns" keep calling and snuffing out everything around, making all filters completely useless. When I feel I have had just about enough, I turn on FT8 and open a bottle of wine. Despite the poverty, you can find some excellent imported wines from France and South Africa in Burundi.

A tropical storm came on Tuesday 7 February, and I was really worried. I sent a video to Cole from dx-world, which also appears on FB. The storm and downpour last until the morning. As soon as I woke up, Elvira started reporting the damage. Everything survived. Our 18-metre vertical for 80 was bent, but thankfully did not break. We repaired the antenna and send out regards to the engineers of Spiderbeam Germany for using such good material.

Because Elvira has some contacts in Bujumbura, we are invited for lunch with Raymondo and Irene, an Italian couple who used to live in Congo, but have been living in Burundi for the last 30 years. Raymondo has two restaurants and a ranch, and gives us a quick tour of the city's surroundings. Above us there are majestic mountains; the highest peak of Mt. Heha, 2,684 m, is some 20 km away. Everywhere you see begging children, often orphans, who are trying to get mon-



No entry



Tensioning the Spiderbeam structure

ey or at least some food at crossroads. Soldiers are also a constant sight, sitting on the backs of lorries with loaded weapons. Sometimes you see a white UN jeep with exhaust sticking over the roof. Our guides tells us that the country is peaceful now, but no one knows for how long. Proximity to the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo means that there are constant attacks of armed Red Tabas, who in September 2019 attacked a plane taking off from Bujumbura airport with grenade launchers. Fortunately, our hotel is surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by soldiers.

Thanks to extensive help from Jan OK2ZAW, we finally manage to get a new "Beverage on ground" up and run-

ning a bit further away from our ham shack and all the radials, which means 50 more metres of coaxial cable. In the evening, we get our first Japanese callers, one after another on 100 W. That was an amazing feeling. We spend the next few days trying FT8 on the 80, the first time since 2017, and the interest is enormous. DS5TOS writes us to say that South Korea does not allow the use of frequencies 3567 and 3573, but only up to 3550, so we're running our FT8 on South Korean QRG 3547 kHz.

VK4DX somewhat angrily reminds us that there's not just Europe and that we're ignoring VK in the narrow window on the ten. So in the morning between 05:00–07:00 UTC, when I would normally



be asleep, I set up my alarm after a long night and still in my pyjamas went to turn the antenna to the Pacific. FK8CP and a few other stations appear. The heading goes directly towards the mountains, but hopefully it will pass through somehow. After breakfast, I turned the antenna back to the EU and the regular morning pile-up on 10 and 12 metres begins.

On Thursday 16 February, after 2 weeks, Elvira finally gets her bags back. To prevent interference, she relocates to the bungalow some 200 metres away. No more handing over antenna connectors to each other. We set up a Skypper antenna for 10 and 6 metres and the folded multiband dipole. We're monitoring the opening of 50 MHz with ample help from Steve HAØDU who keeps bombarding us with messages while Elvira makes the first contacts with Europe. Bernie VK4KX writes to say that there are many stations from VK on 50.313 asking for skeds. But we do not manage to connect with Australia on 6 metres.

An inspection from the ARCT Frequency Spectrum Department is announced for Friday 17 February. They want to see our operation and equipment. When they arrive, it becomes quite clear they don't know very much about the field, but are keenly interested. As usual in Africa, they let themselves be invited to dinner and drink many bottles of local beer.

We have major issues with pirates who are working under the 9U4WX callsign on the frequencies where I'm not. They even use the QO-100 satellite for which we do not have the equipment. I get various messages from HAMs with printscreens of the cluster, which are quite incredible. Antonio immediately publishes everything on our website, and so do dx-world and dxnews. Many stations contact me to say they called, but were not in the log. We remind everyone that the only relevant log is the one on our website and later on LoTw. If they're not there, they were unfortunately work-

ing with a pirate.

The weather deteriorates dramatically after 20 February. It's overcast, raining all the time, and there are frequent thunderstorms, day and night. The rainy season in Burundi usually starts in March, but this time it apparently arrived earlier. The lower bands are unusable for CW and SSB; listening is very difficult to impossible because of strong atmospheric QRN. Because the rains "retune" the vertical upward, I take advantage of the opportunity to make my last QSO on the 80 on SSB. With 100 W, this is quite a challenge, but I do manage to make a few connections with JA and EU.

The mosquitoes are also thriving. After the rains, they hatch like crazy and leaving the door to the ham shack open in the evening is a terrible idea. Because we're slowly running out of repellent, we

permit to get my equipment back to Europe. I also need similar documents from ARCT and OBR, this time for export, not import. I never figured out why they require these permits and I don't like it, but there's nothing I can do about it. I'm starting to worry about the Elecraft K4, because it's quite an expensive radio compared to the IC7300. Even Elvira is worried, and she's not one to get upset easily. I'm glad we don't have the PA Expert 1.3 with us, because in that case I probably wouldn't be able to sleep.

I also don't know if we'll be able to get our cargo back to Europe and if we get our deposit back. On Friday 24 February, we received both permits to export our ham radio equipment from the ARCT. Now it's time for the customs officials. For the last three days, we work as much as we can. In the meantime, we start look-

ing into our options for shipping the antennas back, but the cost of air freight together with the unreturned deposit are more than USD 2,000, which is more than the value of all the antennas combined. Antonio gets in touch with his powerful compatriot Alfredo who tries to find a cheaper way to send the antennas to Italy on a container ship.

On Monday 27 February, we make our decision. The antennas will be taken down the next day and will stay in Burundi. I spend all of Tuesday taking down and packing the antennas, which is a lot of work for one person. In the meantime, Elvira keeps working on 10 and 6 metres. She decided to stay for another week in Burundi because of all the time spent negotiating with authorities.

On Wednesday morning, 1 March, the situation is critical. The OBR still hasn't issued the permit to export the radio equipment. The plane leaves in the evening and I need to leave for the airport around 16:00 UTC. Our almost friends from the ARCT, including their boss, accompany me to the airport, expecting trouble.



With Elvira and Czech flag

switch to day mode with FT8 overnight. The room has special dimmed lights in the blue spectrum, but we still need to leave the door slightly open for the co-axial cables for the antennas.

My cargo agent reminds me that I need to submit my application for a re-export



### 9U4WX – Band/Mode breakdown

Band	FT8	CW	SSB	Total	Total %
80	324	290	4	618	2.2 %
40	1,421	560	19	2,000	7.2 %
30	4,397	605	0	5,002	18.0 %
20	4,398	1,022	426	5,846	21.0 %
17	585	917	128	1,630	5.9 %
15	2,155	822	217	3,194	11.5 %
12	1,273	1,224	754	3,251	11.7 %
10	2,404	2,528	1,356	6,288	22.6 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,957</b>	<b>7,968</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>27,829</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### 9U4WX – DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	FT8	CW	SSB	Total
80	53	38	4	59
40	67	46	7	73
30	95	51	0	99
20	104	60	63	115
17	55	72	26	80
15	82	61	33	92
12	64	72	68	95
10	74	87	75	107
<b>Totals</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>147</b>

### 9U4WX – Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	CW	FT8	Total	Total %
AFRICA	30	47	96	173	0.6 %
ASIA	321	1,357	4,221	5,899	21.2 %
EUROPE	2,463	6,099	9,489	18,051	64.9 %
NORTH AMERIKA	10	329	2,411	2,750	9.9 %
OCEANIA	55	86	354	495	1.8 %
SOUTH AMERICA	23	47	380	450	1.6 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>7,965</b>	<b>16,951</b>	<b>27,818</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>10.4 %</b>	<b>28.6 %</b>	<b>60.9 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

### 9U4WX – Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AFRICA	5	20	38	31	13	17	17	32	173	0.6 %
ASIA	143	423	1,127	1,790	96	390	589	1,341	5,899	21.2 %
EUROPE	406	1,234	2,878	2,643	1,301	2,448	2,498	4,643	18,051	64.9 %
NORTH AMERIKA	50	163	792	1,173	189	188	95	100	2,750	9.9 %
OCEANIA	5	50	69	99	18	87	31	136	495	1.8 %
SOUTH AMERICA	9	110	97	109	11	63	18	33	450	1.6 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>5,845</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>3,248</b>	<b>6,285</b>	<b>27,818</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>2.2 %</b>	<b>7.2 %</b>	<b>18.0 %</b>	<b>21.0 %</b>	<b>5.9 %</b>	<b>11.5 %</b>	<b>11.7 %</b>	<b>22.6 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	



### 9U5R – Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	FT4	Total	Total %
80	28	394	0	0	422	1.3 %
60	0	37	0	0	37	0.1 %
40	2	1,735	0	0	1,737	5.4 %
30	255	4,471	0	0	4,726	14.6 %
20	255	3,415	104	1,069	4,843	14.9 %
17	557	4,412	18	15	5,002	15.4 %
15	291	3,912	123	0	4,326	13.3 %
12	443	2,029	485	203	3,160	9.7 %
10	1,295	4,122	1,409	1,327	8,153	25.1 %
6	0	23	0	0	23	0.1 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,126</b>	<b>24,550</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>32,429</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### 9U5R – DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	FT4	Total
80	15	40	0	0	43
60	0	12	0	0	12
40	2	71	0	0	71
30	36	108	0	0	109
20	32	99	33	67	106
17	30	105	13	6	106
15	45	95	31	0	98
12	39	88	58	32	93
10	68	100	80	71	116
6	0	9	0	0	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>151</b>

### 9U5R – Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	CW	FT8	FT4	Total	Total %
AFRICA	37	23	239	28	327	1.0 %
ASIA	134	583	4,918	337	5,972	18.4 %
EUROPE	1,929	1,711	14,250	1,575	19,465	60.0 %
NORTH AMERIKA	5	706	3,613	485	4,809	14.8 %
OCEANIA	18	12	633	32	695	2.1 %
SOUTH AMERICA	16	91	897	157	1,161	3.6 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>3,126</b>	<b>24,550</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>32,429</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>6.6 %</b>	<b>9.6 %</b>	<b>75.7 %</b>	<b>8.1 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

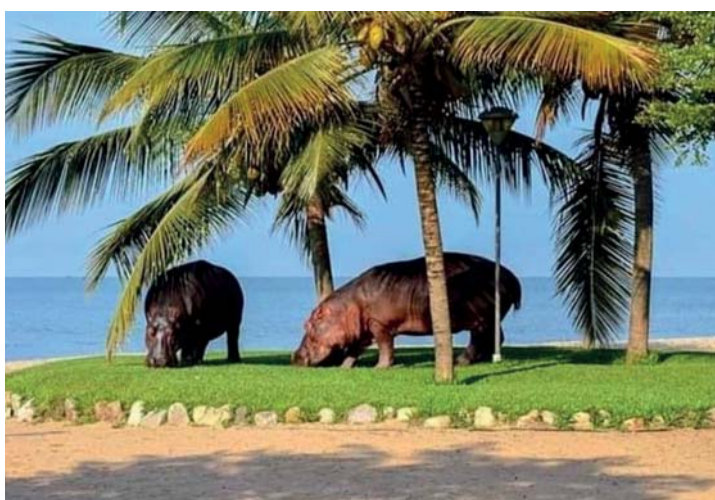
### 9U5R – Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Total %
AFRICA	5	3	14	51	44	44	38	27	101	0	327	1.0 %
ASIA	105	1	623	1,029	1,224	1,282	740	253	714	1	5,972	18.4 %
EUROPE	296	32	808	2,537	2,489	2,494	2,897	2,111	5,780	21	19,465	60.0 %
NORTH AMERIKA	9	0	149	872	731	1,008	425	614	1,001	0	4,809	14.8 %
OCEANIA	5	1	37	81	158	49	127	50	186	1	695	2.1 %
SOUTH AMERICA	2	0	106	156	197	125	99	105	371	0	1,161	3.6 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>5,002</b>	<b>4,326</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>8,153</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32,429</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>1.3 %</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>	<b>5.4 %</b>	<b>14.6 %</b>	<b>14.9 %</b>	<b>15.4 %</b>	<b>13.3 %</b>	<b>9.7 %</b>	<b>25.1 %</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	





Attention hippos



Hippos on land



Restoration



Evening at Lake Tangayika



Lake Tangayika possible introductory photo



My cargo agent promises that the permit should arrive any minute. After several document inspections, I make it to the first security check. The suitcases go into the X-ray tunnel. The official points his finger at one of them that he wants to see opened. He sees a bunch of coaxial cables and wires. He looks into the papers and motions for me to close the suitcase. The OBR permit arrives in time, and also makes it to my WhatsApp at this moment.

At the check-in desk, I run into trouble because my suitcases are too heavy, so I need to pay USD 280 extra. Thankfully, they didn't think to weigh my hand luggage, which is at least two times heavier than the allowed 8 kg.

Then I simply wait in the departure lounge for my plane to Entebbe, Uganda. Before midnight, I leave from Uganda to Brussels, and the next morning by the first Austrian Airlines flight to Vienna. XYL was waiting for me at the airport and happily took me home.

The adventure was over. At the time of writing, I already know that Elvira also made it safely back to Italy, so I can publish the final results of our joint expedition.

Over 20 days, we two operators made a total of 60,000 QSOs, of which 16,000 were CW and SSB. There were more than 1,000 QSOs on the 80, of which more than 300 on CW and SSB. Everything without PAs, only bare transceivers and 100 W out.

At this point, I must thank everyone who participated in the expedition and without whom it would not have been possible. These are in particular:

Jean-Marie and Florentin from ARCT for the licence, Arsene Cargo Agency for all the import and export permits, hotel managers Rodriguez and Exode who were extremely helpful, Alfredo the hotel owner who has been living in Burundi for over 30 years, knows the local conditions and provided us with valuable support, my QSL manager Antonio IZ8CCW, president of the Mediterraneo DX-Club and an experienced DXman, with whom I was in daily contact, Francesco IKØXB for technical assistance with FT8, Claudio IW1QLG for his efforts in making sure data was correctly transferred to the online log, Marco IZ2GNQ and Rick DJØIP from Spiderbeam, Dario IZ4UEZ and OK2ZAW for help with Beverage antennas, Steve HAØDU for online monitoring of the conditions on 6 metres and lots of useful information, Ivor OK2VWX for preparing the coaxial cables and radial wires, Bob OK2BS for making the holders

for radials and baluns, Mirek OK2BUH for valuable technical advice, Michal Novák from ACW Air Cargo Worldwide s.r.o. for transporting the antennas to Burundi, Prof. Rastislav Maďar Head of Department of Epidemiology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ostrava for consultations concerning malaria prophylaxis in Burundi and of course my wife Pavla for her unending support.

We also wish to thank all our sponsors: Mastrant, Spiderbeam, Mediterraneo DX Club, German DX Foundation, Swiss DX Foundation, European DX Foundation, DX-World, DX-news and Hotel Club du Lac Tangayika

From individuals, we thank

4X6FB – AB3CV – AD3C – AD8FD – BD4VGZ – DL1ATZ – EA3Y – HA0DU – HB9EXQ – HL4GAV – K0AIZ – K1CP – K1JX – K5WRE – DL1ATZ – LA5LJA – JA1AGG – JA8UIV – JK1HIY – JR1CAD – M0DAZ – NH6T – NW7US – OE6IFG – OE7DMT – OH1JP – ON8AH – OZ1KZX – SP5XMU – W0PSY – W2ODH – W3XY – W5HVV – W7IB – W9AJ – WD0FYV – WE2DX – VK5PN

Technical equipment of the expedition  
**TRX:**

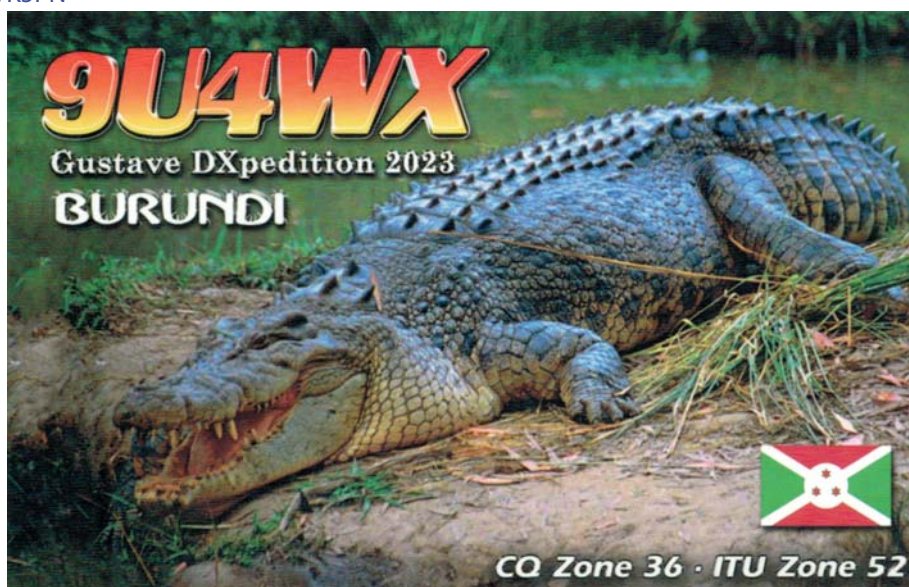
1 × Elecraft K4  
2 × ICOM 7300

**Antennas:**

80 m quarter-wave vertical  
+ 16 radials 20 m  
40 m quarter-wave vertical  
+ 16 radials 10 m  
30 m dipole 2 × 7.5 m  
TF2FD – wideband folded dipole  
Spiderbeam 5 band 20-17-15-12-10m  
ALU mast 10 m  
Skypper 10 – 6 m  
Fiberglass pole 7 m  
RX antennas:  
1 × Beverage on ground  
(BOG) 80 m EU/NA/VK  
7 ANT switch with OK2ZAW  
preamplifier  
1 × loop K9AY

**Summary:**

Total number in the log is 60,148  
QSO in 3 weeks with 2 operators  
without PA





# The EUDXF Activity Month in the month of November

We can call it a tradition; the EUDXF Activity Month in the month of November.

Members are invited to join this activity by activating Special Event Stations in the various countries.

We would like to invite our members you to join this EUDXF Activity Month to bring as much as possible EUDXF activity from as many as possible countries. A special callsign featuring 37EUDXF will bring a clear label and link to the EUDXF Activity Month.

Like in the previous years we are also going to link a nice award to the activity, details will follow as soon as we have a clear picture of countries participating.

Any initiative is welcome, but please let us know so we can combine publicity for the EUDXF Activity Month.

The EUDXF supports where necessary with, for example, authorization fees, printing of QSL cards or QSL management.

Please do not hesitate to contact undersigned when you have any questions.

On behalf of the EUDXF Board,

73

Alex PA1AW

pa1aw@eudxf.eu

EUDXF Office Manager.



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X

You can find detailed statistics for 9U4WX on the website  
<https://www.mdxsupport.org/charts/?c=9U5R#r>

95UR is at  
<https://clublog.org/charts/?c=9U5R#r>

QSL manager IK2DUW  
The full QSL policy for 9U4WX is available at  
<https://www.mdxsupport.org/charts/?c=9U5R#r>

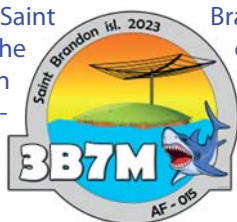
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# 3B7M – DXpedition STORY – Saint Brandon 2023

BY LUBO MARTISKA, OM5ZW

The idea to visit St. Brandon started sometimes in May 2022 before Sylvia OM4AYL and me visited 3B8 and I was trying to get a license for a 3B8 holiday DXpedition. I did not get the licence as I applied for it late and so there was nothing to do but take a holiday. At that time, I had already arranged some appointments in Port Louis regarding the activation of Saint Brandon 3B7 and the organization of the DXpedition. Saint Brandon was time most wanted DXCC in the chart very highly at #54 and in NA somewhere around #30. Many things had to be arranged from licensing, logistics, transportation, entry permits as well as putting a team together. The initial idea was to do a Czech-Slovak DXpedition with maximum six people due to capacity. So, I approached David OK6DJ and a few people from CDXP because they have the best experiences in organizing DXpeditions. The problem was that even they had never been on the DXpedition of this type before, as it was a desert island in the Indian Ocean with no water, food, electricity, the Internet, etc. A new experience or a challenge? Yes, for all team members. It was necessary to have a person in Mauritius/3B8 to help us with that. And that was Mathieu from Raphael Fishing who helped us with getting all the necessary permits as well as organizing. It was necessary to arrange transport, permits, power generators, power cables, food, drink, fuel, etc. Especially the license



left to right: Ruda OK2ZA • David OK6DJ • Joe OM4MW • Sylvia OM4AYL  
Miro OM5RW • Lubo OM5ZW • Martin OM4MM • Rudy OM3PC

which was not easy to get. We obtained it after several urgencies sometime in October. As we were still in the pandemic period there was a threat that we would spend a week in state quarantine and this project would flop. In the meantime, negotiations were going on between Mathieu and the Ministry to cancel the mandatory quarantine. Fortunately, after many sessions, they succeeded and our goal was a bit closer. The team gradually formed and the final line-up was known in December as OK2ZA, OK6DJ, OM3PC, OM4AYL, OM4MM, OM4MW, OM5RW and OM5ZW. OK friends were still waiting for the DXpedition to Congo TN8K and our Slovak part of the crew started with preparations of equipment and other things. Satellite Internet was the alpha omega of our DXpedition. Luckily,

I managed to contact WRX Slovakia who helped us with satellite internet as well as satellite transmitters. We were limited by data but it should be enough to update the logs and send some photos. We still had to get access to the island from OI DC (Outer Island Development Corporation). This was the responsibility of our agent Mathieu, who told us every day that we still did not get it. We had 10 days to go. Fortunately, it was done on time and all the documents from our side were processed. However, we did not know what was coming in that area.



Cargados Carajos Shoals (Saint Brandon)



Satellite transmitters ...



The summer season is considered the cyclone season. This year there was no difference. We watched Cyclone Fred die anxiously and the predictions were not the best. It was supposed to sweep through 1 day before our arrival somewhere between 3B8 and 3B7. Even at that time, we knew we were going to have a problem. In the meantime, Mathieu had already called me that because of the cyclone they had to evacuate the people who were on the south island of St. Brandon and were evacuated to the North Island about 50 km away. On 21. February we set off towards Vienna airport. The Czech part of the team OK6DJ, OK2ZA leaves from Ruda OK2ZA a bit earlier. We meet at the airport full of expectations how it will turn out. At the airport, Austrian Airlines charged us for oversized luggage. A bad beginning, hopefully a good ending. In the morning, we land in Port Louis. Mathieu and his companions eagerly await us with two big taxis. We go to his company called Raphael, where we put our things away and head out to the shops to do some shopping. Our main food supplies are with them but we buy things for the supply and things we do not have included. We are adjusting to the African way of life and we are waiting 1.5 hours for food. Everything is somehow going slower even our pace and thoughts. In the meantime, Mathieu arranges for the power generators and we meet again at their company. We load the main luggage the day before. In the evening, we have a hotel booked in Chinatown for some members it was an inferior place, but they did not know what is waiting for us at Brandon hi. The Ministry for a blue economy will not grant us an ocean sailing permit after 6 hours of waiting in port. How does it go on? If we want to broadcast from the island for at least 9 days, and assuming that we get the permit the next day, there is nothing to do but rebook the tickets. This costs us a considerable financial expense, but unfortunately, the train is already running. After 6 hours of waiting at the port, we go back to the hotel, fortunately at Raphael's expense. We head into town to get to know a bit about the indigenous life. We have had enough of that and the hardest part of the trip is waiting for us - the ship.

In the morning, we go to the port again where this time we are greeted by smiling faces. I guess we have permission to sail. The cyclone is heading south and it is far enough away to threaten us. Well, we have the green light and it looks hopeful that we will set sail today.

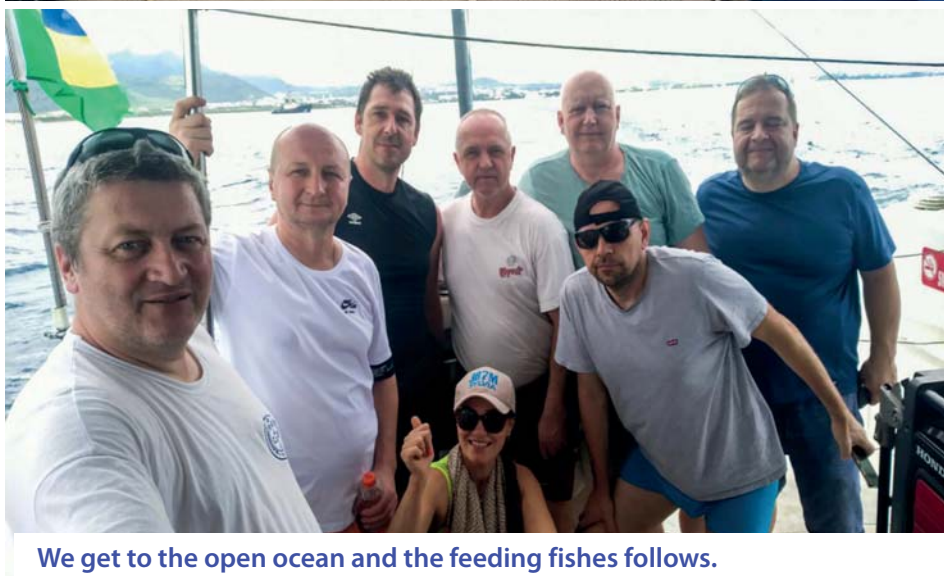


After 6 hours of waiting at the port, we go back to the hotel



We load the main luggage the day before



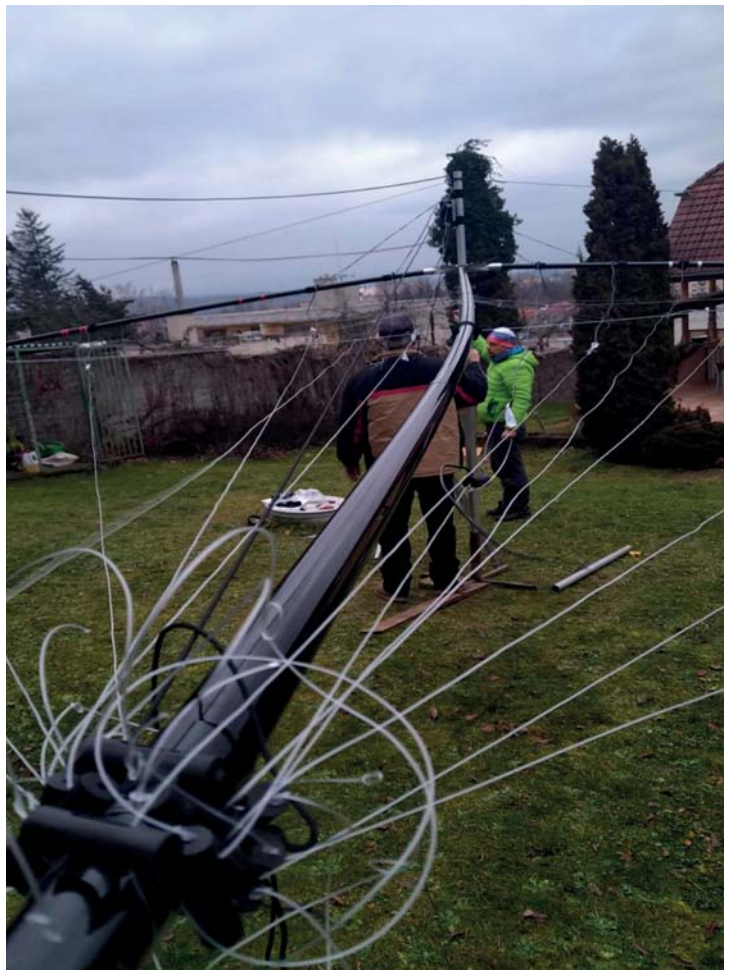


We get to the open ocean and the feeding fishes follows.

On 24. February at 10:30 we are leaving towards 3B7. In the meantime, however, we are going to refuel for 1.5 hours, as the boats that are anchoring in the harbour, must have almost empty tanks had. The fun starts an hour later after leaving the port. We get to the open ocean and the feeding fishes follows. Some members of the team have managed to take pills called kinedryl and they are in a sleeping mode now. Nobody wants to go to the cabin, everyone feels dizzy. It is ideal to watch the ocean surface. OM5RW is the best of us as a former sailor and he has a smile on his face. We sail at 8-10 knots an hour, but we are very heavy so the trip drags on. Moreover, we have to go to the north island to pick up the evacuated crew which will make our trip a minimum of another 6 hours longer. We are trying to sleep but it is a torture. Sysa's tablets kinedryl saves us. After 29 hours, we arrive at the north island in the dark and load the evacuated crew together with the transport boat. After boarding, we head to the south island and arrive at our destination around midnight of the local time. The problem is to find a buoy at all in the dark and to anchor. We have to be careful not to catch the underside of the boat and we walk carefully slowly to the shore. At night, disembarking is a big problem. We only take the essentials and one radio plus PA and an antenna at 30 m to start operating at night.

After the arrival, we are horrified. Cyclone Freddie has left a distinctive trail. The rooms were full of sand, dirt. Ruda and David are building a 30 m tall antenna at night. We unpack one radio and start operating. First QSO on 30 m DM4AO. By the morning, we alternate with OM4MW and have about 800 CW QSOs in the log. In the morning, we start to build antennas. 1x Spiderbeam, 2x VDA on 10 and 12 m, and Vertical on 40 and 80 m. It is very hot and humid on the island. A few members did not use the sunscreen and after 2 hours, they were sunburnt. At the same time, we are ramping up operations on the upper bands of 10 and 12 m. The pipettes on SSB are also 50 kHz and on CW 20 kHz. Condx are very good on the upper bands and we are mostly targeting 10 and 12 m where for most stations we are also new one. We have 4 stations in operation and try to work mainly CW, SSB. At the same time, we are starting 1xT-S480HX where we have FT8 operation running. By the way, FT8 was launched from the island for the first time ever. The upper bands are open until 02:00 local time about 8 hours after sunset.





Assembly of all antennas





Assembly of all antennas



We are trying to give QSOs to as many stations as possible while giving priority to NA since 3B7 is very high in the rankings. On SSB we have Ruda OK2ZA, Sylvia OM4AYL and Martin OM4MM. CW is mostly Joe OM4MW, Rudy OM3PC, David OK6DJ, Miro OM5RW and Lubo OM5ZW.

After the first day, the diesel generator that Raphael uses to power the house fails us. But the problem was probably not in the control panel but in the supply cable which was 3x1,5 mm 2. Fortunately, we had spare supply cables ready as well as spare central units. One was a 6.5 KVA Honda EU 65 and the other was a 3 KVA Honda EU 30 which we rented on 3B8. We also brought about 700 litres of petrol and 700 litres of diesel to the island. We were really thoroughly ready for this scenario because we could not have done it without electricity.

The next day we start building more antennas: Spiderbeam 2, Vertical on 160 m and Beverage and EWE antennas on RX. The crossing of the island is literally like a Hitchcock movie, with birds swooping in to defend their nests. At night, we start operating on 160 m and suspect that with reception on the island it will not be so easy. Beverage antenna is not listening, as there's no proper ground on the island. In addition, interference from power stations causes us a lot of problems. Miro OM5RW has built the EWE antenna which can be partially listened to, but it's not the same. Nevertheless, we are making some QSOs.

In the morning, we are trying to get the satellite internet up and running and update the logs. We are communicating with our pilot Peter, OK1FCJ who is giving us all the necessary info on mail. Since we have limited data, it is necessary to keep communication with the outside world to a minimum. We will make a short call home via INMARSAT satellite network to let them know we are OK. David OK6DJ is starting QO-100 operation. The contacts are gradually coming in and we are trying to work mainly CW, SSB modes. After 4 days of operation, we reach the first 50,000 QSOs. 2x FTDX10, 3x SUNSDR, 1x TS480, 1x IC705, 2x PA Expert 1 K3 and 2x PA JUMA1000. Bandpass filters, microphone, and about 8 laptops.

The kitchen is simple, and getting even simpler as time goes on. OM4MW is starting to feel as hungry as a wolf, and the word fish sounds more like a swear word than food to some members of the DXpedition. There are some members who still enjoy it and looking at the amount of fresh lobster, makes it look like a Sunday lunch for them,

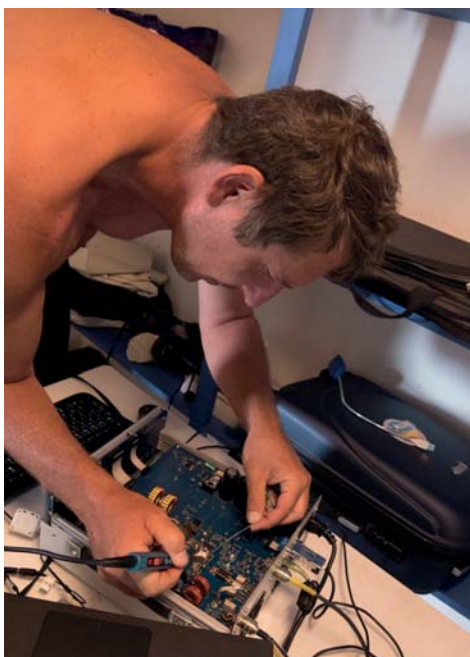


3B7M Team on the air





The local people give us a tour of the nearby islands and take us fishing



Equipment repair

except a few individuals. Breakfast is already in the style of toast bread with peanut butter and jam. Luckily, there is plenty of beer since we have lots of teetotalers on the team... hi and so toast bread with beer is a good combination for breakfast as well. We are definitely not starving, as we do not really like the high temperatures.

Gradually, the fatigue is getting to us and it is obvious. It is the time to relax, so Sysa, Lubo and David decide to accept Mathieu's offer and go on a fishing trip. The local people give us a tour of the nearby islands and take us fishing. David OK6DJ catches a nice catch and the dinner is certain. In addition, we swim in the beautiful water of the Indian Ocean with-

out the crowds of tourists and crowded beaches. After a 3-hour trip and being on the sun, we are completely exhausted, so we must necessarily rest in the bed. Meanwhile, the rest of the team maintains the pile-up and Rudo, OM3PC together with Jozo OM4MW perform a meritorious activity. We have about 80,000 QSOs in the log and we have 4 days left until the end of the DXpedition. We know for sure that if nothing extraordinary happens the second magical 100,000 QSOs will be a reality. However, as the days went by, we had more and more frequent storms which caused us quite a few problems. After one such storm, both Spiderbeam and the 80 m vertical are blown away. At night, it was almost impossible to work due to the strong QRN. We are crossing the magical 100,000 QSO mark and we have more than 2 days left until the end of the DXpedition. Slowly but it is necessary to pack up and so we are putting down the lower bands and RX antennas and gradually everything else. There is a lot to do so one group is transmitting and the other is packing antennas, cables, etc. In the morning of our departure, we pack the last setup and David OK6DJ makes the last QSO.

The ALBATROS boat is ready to leave and so we gradually carry all the stuff with the help of small boats. Finally, the power packs are left. We end with the number 123,000 contacts. A long boat trip to Mauritius awaits us. Most of us will sleep the whole way, because of fatigue. The boat is full of fish and we are looking forward to a classic hamburger and fries or a simple pizza. After 24 hours, we sail to the port in St. Louis and Raphael Fishing arranged a ride to our hotel near the airport. Finally, there is a normal shower and draft beer. We have dinner together and we evaluate. Thanks to the CDXP guys for their help and we hope this was not the last mutual CDXP and OM7M DXpedition. The next day we have a flight to Europe. In any case, despite all the problems, we rate our DXpedition as a success and we are happy to have made connections to 25,000 unique stations possible. Thanks to all OK/OM stations for calling in as well as to the many OK/OM sponsors listed on our website [www.3b7m.com](http://www.3b7m.com).





### 3B7M – Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	MFSK	FT4	Total	Total %
160	126	1,024	0	0	0	0	1,150	0.9 %
80	896	4,016	0	0	0	0	4,912	3.8 %
40	3,850	5,164	852	0	0	0	9,866	7.7 %
30	3,075	8,721	0	0	0	0	11,796	9.2 %
20	2,198	8,562	1,292	0	0	0	12,052	9.4 %
17	3,799	9,121	2,111	0	0	0	15,031	11.7 %
15	6,484	12,458	3,386	0	0	0	22,328	17.4 %
12	4,335	12,254	4,974	530	0	0	22,093	17.3 %
10	8,391	12,306	6,645	0	0	0	27,342	21.4 %
13	217	526	550	0	1	93	1,387	1.1 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33,371</b>	<b>74,152</b>	<b>19,810</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>127,957</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### 3B7M – DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	Total
160	28	52	0	0	53
80	56	69	0	0	73
40	96	90	70	0	111
30	84	113	0	0	116
20	78	120	71	0	127
17	85	124	75	0	135
15	107	119	99	0	136
12	92	119	97	47	137
10	111	122	101	0	144
<b>Totals</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>179</b>

### 3B7M – Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	CW	RTTY	FT8	FT4	MFSK	Total	Total %
AFRICA	276	170	4	487	2	0	939	0.7 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	1,058	5,271	89	17,294	3	0	23,715	18.5 %
EUROPE	13,964	19,717	400	35,503	88	1	69,673	54.5 %
NORTH AMERIKA	4,165	7,545	34	17,690	0	0	29,434	23.0 %
OCEANIA	180	340	3	1,654	0	0	2,177	1.7 %
SOUTH AMERICA	167	328	0	1,524	0	0	2,019	1.6 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>19,810</b>	<b>33,371</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>74,152</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127,957</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>15.5 %</b>	<b>26.1 %</b>	<b>0.4 %</b>	<b>58.0 %</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

### 3B7M – Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	13	Total	Total %
AFRICA	16	32	48	54	106	136	153	178	194	22	939	0.7 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	127	997	1,806	2,383	2,259	2,676	4,207	4,157	5,070	33	23,715	18.5 %
EUROPE	881	2,417	4,457	5,454	5,689	8,498	12,964	13,290	14,720	1,303	69,673	54.5 %
NORTH AMERIKA	121	1,286	2,875	3,485	3,427	3,347	4,262	3,993	6,638	0	29,434	23.0 %
OCEANIA	4	82	222	177	302	244	490	257	397	2	2,177	1.7 %
SOUTH AMERICA	1	98	458	243	269	130	252	218	323	27	2,019	1.6 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>4,912</b>	<b>9,866</b>	<b>11,796</b>	<b>12,052</b>	<b>15,031</b>	<b>22,328</b>	<b>22,093</b>	<b>27,342</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>127,957</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>0.9 %</b>	<b>3.8 %</b>	<b>7.7 %</b>	<b>9.2 %</b>	<b>9.4 %</b>	<b>11.7 %</b>	<b>17.4 %</b>	<b>17.3 %</b>	<b>21.4 %</b>	<b>1.1 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	







# 3D2LYC – Re-activates the Ringgold Island group, OC-189

BY CEZAR TRIFU, VE3LYC

I arrived in Suva on Friday, Apr 28, and spent the weekend in the company of Antoine, 3D2AG. This offered me a chance to visit parts of the city, including his institute, help him to put up on a mast some sea & air monitoring equipment, take time to do grocery shopping, and purchase some electrical components I needed for my operation from Yanuca. I flew to Taveuni Island on the early morning of May 1. Upon arrival, I went to the local administration office in Somosomo, a few kilometers south of the airport. I had already been in touch with the assistant to the Chief of Taveuni, who helped me to make proper arrangements in Yanuca. He contacted in advance the Chief of Yanuca and obtained his permission for me to visit the island. Henry Bukarau, headman and one the sons of their previous Chief, came over that morning to drive me to their small island by motor canoe.



The only present tourist accommodation was built in 2017 at the south-east edge of Yanuca village



Local school on the north shore of the island





Transporting all luggage to the school grounds



Landing on the beautiful north beach close to the school



Multi-band vertical antenna installed in front of my temporary residence.

Yanuca, pronounced in Fijian Yanuda, since "c" always reads as "d" in that language, is located about 25 km from Taveuni and it took us about one and a half hour to get there under a 20-knot wind. Despite wearing a waterproof jacket, I was completely soaked by the time we reach the little village. Meanwhile, each component of my luggage was well protected by double plastic bags. Once arrived, I was taken in care by Willy, Henry's brother, a bright and enterpenorial individual, as well as an excellent communicator. The island is the only inhabited island of the ten that form the Ringgold group. The village of 22 households and no more than 100 people is located on the east side of the island, close to its southern edge. It offers the best location against the cyclones, which typically hit from the north. Unfortunately, the 110-120 m high hills which offer that protection obstruct the short path radio propagation to Europe and most of Asia, and so it is not a good place to install an antenna for HF communication. Furthermore, the little cabin that Willy and his wife Betty prepared for me didn't have sufficient flat land around it to allow me to install the multi-band vertical with its radials that I brought for this operation.

In view of the above, while trying to avoid being impolite, I immediately started to negotiate with Willy for another location. I knew from Antoine that the village school is on the north side of the island, offering clear paths to the distant continents of Europe, Asia, and North America. Consequently, I targeted that location by explaining to Willy in great detail why I must get there. However, with the sunset approaching fast, there was nothing we could do that night, which is why I had to settle in and postpone finding a solution next morning. After a good night sleep, I first had to follow in the local tradition and meet Chief Isoa for the sevusevu welcoming ceremony. I was introduced to him by Willy, and I had a very nice chat with the Chief. Following this, I spoke with the school manager about my intention, who was very receptive, indicating through that it will be up to the teachers to allow me to setup the radio station on their premises. Thus, Willy and I went to the school, located about 1 km away.



The Qiri primary school ("q" is pronounced "ng" in Fijian) enrolls 18 students as well as a few pre-schoolers. There, we had a short meeting with the teachers, during which I explained to them the scope of my project and why locating the antenna and the radio station on their school grounds is of such importance for it. A little later, following their own meeting on this topic, the teachers announced us their agreement to allow me to set up things there. The Head Teacher, Mrs. Teresia Qiri, who lived nearby with her husband Tomasi, offered me to install the radio station in our of their two rooms, while Betty Bukarau, Willy's wife, provided me in the afternoon with a mat to sleep on, as well as a few other things needed for my stay.

We had to wait for the high tide in the afternoon in order to bring my luggages from the village, but once the equipment was in I installed it very quickly. It was on May 2 and I operated virtually the entire night. Propagation was great, with lots of EU stations logged on 20 m CW, in addition to AS, NA, OC, and SA stations. Next day I fell sick with a gastro-enteritis. It was pretty painful, with some fever and often toilet runs. I operated from time to time, but I couldn't stay on for long, as I had to take frequent bathroom breaks and sometimes to lay down on the mat for a while. I didn't feel good at all, and this lasted about 30 hours, during which I didn't eat anything. After a good night sleep though, I felt so much better and ready for action on the air.

During each of the following days I operated most of the nighttime on 15 m, then 17 m, and then back to 15 m, with lots of EU stations logged. Those from JA and NA were also logged, but mostly outside of the EU times. Since 3D2 is ranked in Europe #58 on the Most Wanted DXCC list in SSB, I operated long hours in this mode, with excellent propagation to EU and good signals both ways. Many stations indicated that I was either their first 3D2 in SSB or offered them a new band.



Radio station with the folded sleeping mat on the right



Holding the EUDXF logo

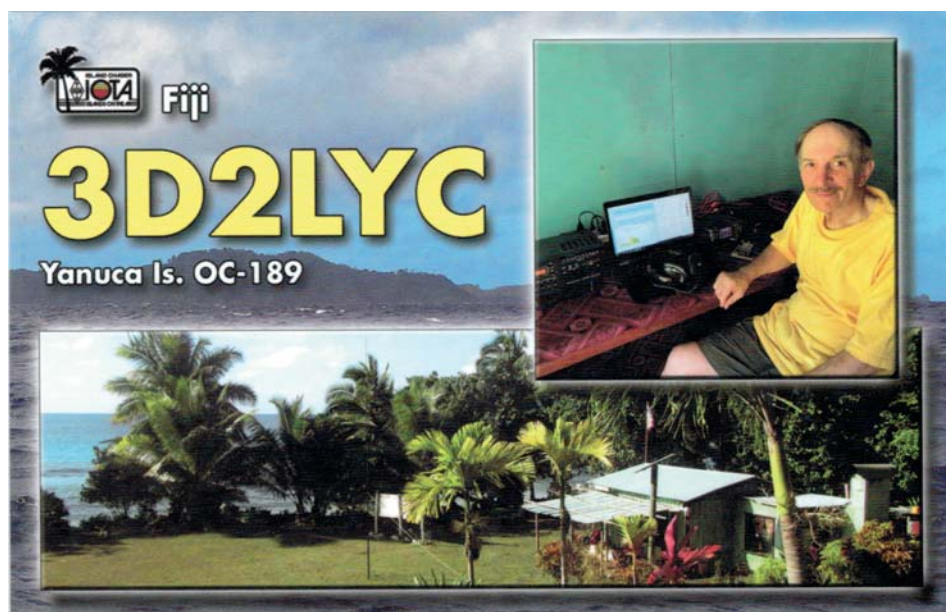
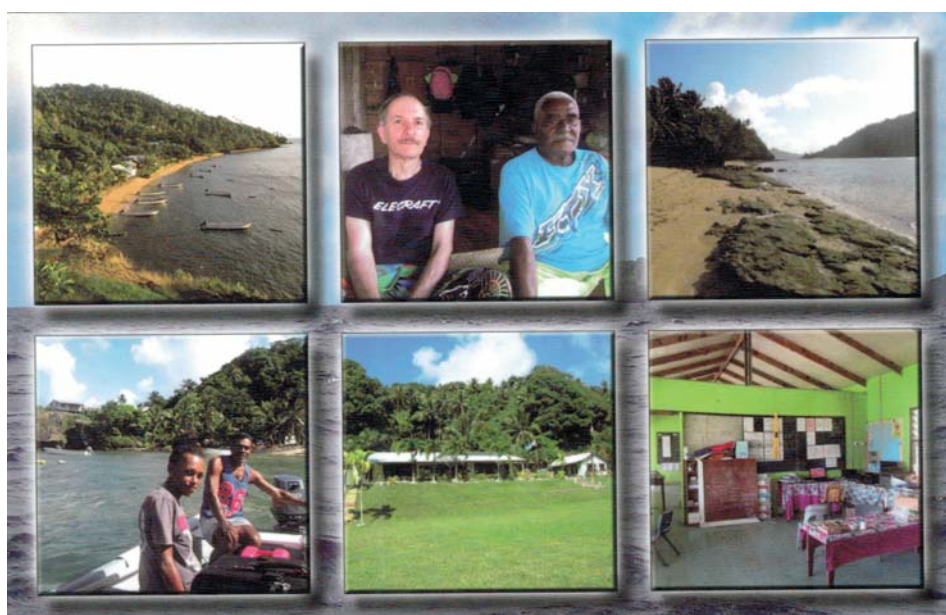


The 3.8 kW generator





Flying the IOTA flag



I rented a 3.8 kW gas generator from Willy, which gave me some headaches at start. As such, I preferred to use from time to time the school solar power system. However, the latter would not allow me to operate with an amplifier during the entire night as the school had some serious consumers, including a large commercial fridge. Consequently, starting on the third day, we did some work on the generator following which it run smoothly and – expect for the intended down times – for the rest of my operation.

I cannot underline enough my huge appreciation for my hosts, in the village and near the school, for their incredible hospitality and cooperation. I don't recall to have ever bothered the locals as much as I did in this trip. On the school premises, I occupied an adjacent room to that of my hosts, in the same teacher residence. In order ensure constant ventilation, there was no ceiling separating those rooms. Not only that I had to keep the light on for most of the night, but my operation was largely in SSB! Despite this, my hosts' demeanor remained the same at all times: genuinely helpful and understanding. Meanwhile, Willy and his wife Betty frequently checked to see that I was well and things were progressing with my operation as I wanted, genuinely interested in making sure that it was successful.

The weather was pretty calm when I left the island. As such, the drive to Taveuni took just one hour, under very little wind. Between May 2 and 7 I made 5,122 QSOs on 12, 15, 17, and 20 m, about 55 % of them in CW and 45 % in SSB. A total of 3,338 unique stations were logged from 80 DXCCs on 6 continents. About 59 % of these were from EU, 24.2 % from AS, 14.7 % from NA, 1.6 % from OC, and <1% from AF and SA combined.

I would like to thank RSGB, IREF, GDXF, SDXF, Clipperton DX Club, EUDXF, and DX News for their sponsorship of this project. I am also grateful to Bob/KD1CT for his exceptional support, as well as to the top donors - K9RR, OE3SGA, VE7DP; large donors – HB9JOE, JF7RJM, K1HT, N4WW, N6NO, OE3EVA, OE3KKA, OE3RPB, OE3WWB, ON4IZ, W1NG, W5PF, WB2YQH; and many others for their generous support.

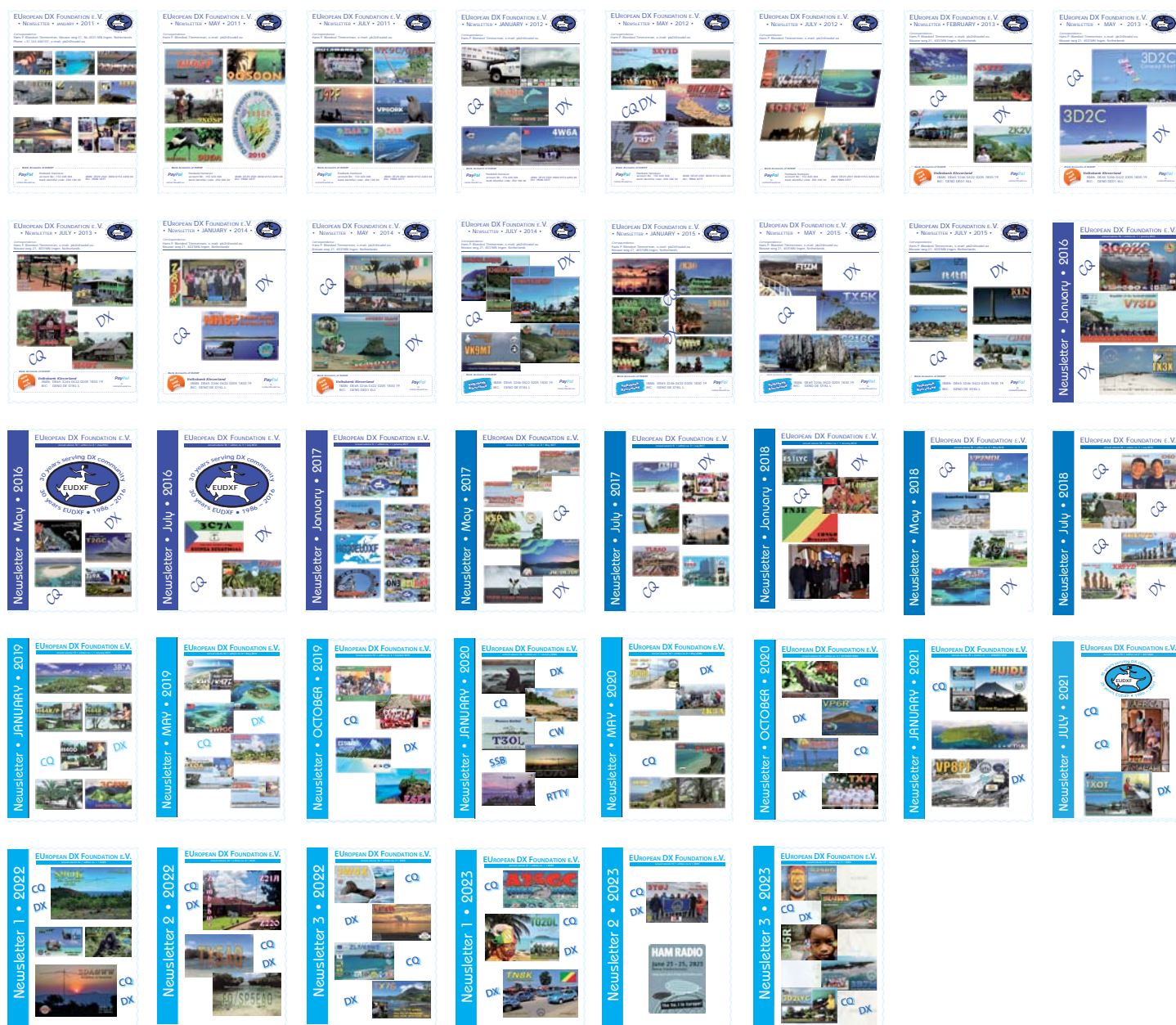
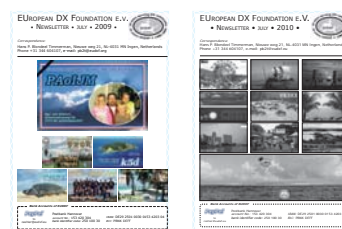




# EUDXF NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

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

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



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





# EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V.

## Data Protection Declaration (Members)

### Section 1

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

### Section 2

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

### Section 3

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

### Section 4

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

### Section 5

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





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

Method of payment:

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

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

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

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

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

*Please mail this application to:*

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

*You can e-mail your application to:*

eudxf@eudxf.eu

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