

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

Volume 7, Issue 10

October 2019

President's Corner

It is really hard to believe that we are into the “ber” months already. Where has this year gone?

Next meeting is October 19th at the usual place in Chestertown. Time is still Noon.

We have a guest speaker coming again to talk about their experiment last month.

Hope you have a great month.

73
John W3ML
Good DXing!

NWI DX Club Website

<http://nwidclub.weebly.com/>



Don't forget Steve is out new QSL Card Checker.

DXCC Card Checking is available by appointment and may be available at meetings. E-Mail kd9hl@arrl.net for an appointment or to make other arrangements.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Speaks
- 2- Member News/DX News

Reminder, the NWIDX Club has a club call W9NWI.

The call is available to members for use during contests, special events, Field Day, etc. To schedule dates for its use, contact the trustee, Steve Mollman – KD9HL. kd9hl@arrl.net

QSL cards are available.

Notice:

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DX FOR OCTOBER 2019

25-Sep	2019 Oct11	Tokelau	ZK3A	2019 Oct05	2019 Oct12	Belize	V31CC
2019 Sep27	2019 Oct03	Vietnam	3W9KJ	2019 Oct05	2019 Oct12	Belize	V31JW
2019 Sep29	2019 Oct05	Tanzania	5H3MB	2019 Oct05	2019 Oct12	Market Reef	OJ0W
2019 Sep29	2019 Oct05	Tanzania	5H3	2019 Oct07	2019 Oct11	Belize	V31
2019 Sep29	2019 Oct06	Malta	9H3GK	2019 Oct07	2019 Oct23	West Kiribati	T30GC
2019 Sep29	2019 Oct13	Cape Verde Is	D44TWO	2019 Oct08	2019 Nov04	Norfolk I	VK9N
2019 Sep30	2019 Oct11	Liberia	A82X	2019 Oct12	2019 Oct15	Bermuda	VP9
2019 Oct01	2019 Oct19	Lesotho	7P8AO	2019 Oct15	2019 Oct30	San Andres & Providencia	5K0K
2019 Oct01	2019 Oct11	Canary Is	EA8	2019 Oct15	2019 Nov03	Mayotte	FH
2019 Oct01	2019 Dec15	Gabon	TR8CR	2019 Oct17	2019 Oct31	Aruba	P4
2019 Oct02	2019 Oct09	Vietnam	XV9DXB	2019 Oct18	2019 Oct22	Malta	9H3YY
2019 Oct02	2019 Oct14	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO80SP	2019 Oct18	2019 Oct26	Vietnam	3W9KW
				2019 Oct18	2019 Nov01	Pitcairn I	VP6R
2019 Oct03	2019 Oct10	Vanuatu	YJ0BCP	2019 Oct19	2019 Oct31	Lakshadweep Is	VU7RI
2019 Oct03	2019 Oct13	Cyprus	5B	2019 Oct20	2019 Nov01	Comoros	D68CCC
2019 Oct04	2019 Oct13	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	2019 Oct23	2019 Nov01	Vietnam	3W9QR

Handy Hint

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Check Your Ground Clamps

Good grounds are required by equipment manufacturers and the National Electrical Code (NEC). How often do you physically check the integrity of your ground system?

While doing preventive maintenance on a tower it was noticed that one of the ground clamps was cracked and another loose.



Cracked Yoke Type Ground Clamp Attached to Tower Leg



The Clamp Broke on Removal

All three tower leg ground clamps were made of a Zinc alloy. While corrosion resistant this alloy is apparently not as strong as other types such as the Bronze Horse Collar type ground clamps.



Horse Collar Type Ground Clamps with Stainless Steel Bolts

Since this failure was discovered all of the offending type clamps have been replaced with bronze Horse Collar type Ground Clamps using stainless steel bolts for corrosion protection.

◀73's and good DX ▶

Do you have a Handy Hint that you would like to share? Contact Steve Mollman at KD9HL@ARRL.net

Links sent in by members and others.

[HF SIGNALS – The Home of BITX transceivers](#)

<http://www.on4ww.be/emi-rfi.html> Interesting site on EMI/RFI

Not really ham radio, but some funny stuff.

This is a neat story in a five minute video, very funny even if you are not a plane nut.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lq73GKm7Ggl&feature=youtu.be>

Secretive Diego Garcia air base that US was told to vacate. No wonder there is not much activity from VQ9!

<https://www.insider.com/photos-diego-garcia-air-base-indian-ocean-2019-8>

Contesting with FT8

By Al Dewey-KØAD

On Field Day this year, I had the opportunity to see what contesting with digital modes like FT8 might look like. I was both excited and concerned at the same time. As we have done in the past, Ron (NØAT), Kirk (NØKK), Bill (WØOR), Chris (KØWAG), and I set up for Field Day up near Dorset, Minn. Prior to FD weekend, Ron did some experimenting with FT8 to see what level of automation might be possible. He ended up with a software configuration that included a program called DigiRite, and the WriteLog contest logging program. DigiRite provided the user interface to make FT8 QSOs.

Originally, we were going to use FT8 primarily on six meters. With virtually no six meter propagation all weekend, we moved up to the HF bands and were amazed at the amount of FT8 Field Day activity we found. DigiRite allowed us to select the Field Day contest exchange rather than the standard Grid Square exchange normally used on FT8. Most of the stations we heard were aware of this and had their stations configured for the Field Day Exchange. Ron gave us a quick tutorial on how to use DigiRite and we all had a go at it. The detailed description of how to use the program is beyond the scope of this col-umn. However, basically all you had to do in DigiRite for Search and Pounce CQs was to click on the stations calling CQ FD as they scrolled by. The program took care of the rest of it even including logging the QSO in WriteLog. Calling CQ was even easier. You just started the program calling CQ and sat back and watched it making QSOs. At one point, Ron started DigiRite calling CQ and sat back watching the program make CQs. One time, he left for a while to get something to eat and DigiRite continued to make QSOs. I happened to be on the CW station at the time and watched completed FT8 QSOs scroll by close to the rate I was making QSOs on CW! It was also possible to CQ with two “streams” although doing this meant that one half the power was used on each



Kirk, NØKK and Ron, NØAT are riveted with excitement as they watch FT8 QSOs being made on Field Day

Although, technically, we were monitoring the operation of the “FT8 QSO Machine” while operating the CW station, it is not clear to me whether this type of operation is allowed during Field Day. I could not find anything in the Field Day rules about it. FT8 was also allowed in the ARRL RTTY Round Up this year but the revised rules said that automated QSOs were not allowed. Neither was the Fox and Hound mode that has been used recently by DXpeditions. I suspect there is going to be some pretty heated discussions about whether this type of automation should be legal in contests. Over a third of our 1289 Field Day QSOs were made on FT8 this year. What I described above got us to thinking about what future Field Days might look like. We asked ourselves whether we would be motivated to go to all the work of putting up a Field Day station with all the antennas and then just sit and watch our radios and computers make QSOs with minimum inter-action from us. For the most part, I think we agreed the answer was “no.” Although FT8 operation was fun to watch for a while, I know I would tire of it pretty quickly. Years ago, we used to talk about someone building an automated contest station that would be able to make QSOs on CW without any interaction by the operator. We would joke about being able to go out to dinner or drink beer someplace while your station operated the contest for you. I think there were even some halfway successful attempts at doing this. It is clear that with FT8 (and now FT4), the technology to do this has arrived. The question for me is not only whether such operation will be allowed in contests going forward but, if it is, how enjoyable would it really be.

The FT8 Roundup and ARRL RTTY Roundup

A couple major contests using FT8 have taken place over the last year. One was the FT8 Roundup last December sponsored by WØYK and AA5AU. I did not operate it but, from what I can see in the contest results, it was fairly successful. The top single op station made almost 700 FT8 QSOs in a 24 hour period. FT8 was also allowed in the ARRL RTTY Roundup for the first time this year. The final results are not out yet but the preliminary results show that, although FT8 was present and a lot of guys used it, RTTY was still the preferred mode. According to the preliminary results, approximately 10% of the QSOs made in the RTTY Round Up were made on FT8. Several of the top guns said that the QSO rate on RTTY was still faster. Of course, with the faster FT4 now available, things may be different next year. I should point out that unattended operation (like I describe above in our Field Day discussion) was not allowed in either of these contests. Nor was Fox and Hound mode.

Final Thoughts

So, where does that leave us? Clearly modes like FT8 and now FT4 are here to stay. They are immensely popular in the general amateur radio community. As a younger generation of tech savvy new-comers enter our hobby, I can see that digital mode contests could become very popular. Nothing wrong with that. However, I hope that digital mode contests do not become replacement for existing contests. For those who have grown up with CW, SSB, and RTTY contesting, there is something still “magical” about being personally involved with each QSO made as opposed to watching two computers talk to each other in modes such as FT4 and FT8. The FT8 only contests that have taken part so far have been rea-sonably successful. I do plan on trying these in the next contest season. I do think that adding digital modes like FT4 and FT8 to the ARRL RTTY Roundup is a mistake. RTTY and FT4/FT8 are two different animals in my opinion and should not be lumped together just be-cause they are both “digital “
See you in the pileups (including a few digital ones) !

Last Minute Update

After completing this column, I received information that the ARRL has made a decision to disallow fully automated contacts for its contest and awards including the DXCC program. What this means is that, when calling CQ, the operator must be involved in initiating the next CQ after completing a QSO. Automatically sequencing through a QSO will still be allowed but the operator must intervene to initiate the next CQ or S&P QSO. This seems to make sense and will alleviate some of my concerns about “automated CQ machines”. Still, I simply do not find these types of QSOs as interesting and fun as those in which the operator is fully involved in making the entire QSO information that the ARRL has made a decision to disallow fully automated contacts for its contest and awards including the DXCC program. What this means is that, when calling CQ, the operator must be involved in initiating the next CQ af-ter completing a QSO. Automatically sequencing through a QSO will still be al-lowed but the operator must intervene to initiate the next CQ or S&P QSO. This seems to make sense and will alleviate some of my concerns about “automated CQ machines”. Still, I simply do not find these types of QSOs as interesting and fun as those in which the operator is fully involved in making the entire QSO.

This article is from the “Gray Line Report” – the newsletter of the Twin Cities DX association. Al Dewey- KØAD, as a teenager, was first licensed in 1961 in Munster, Indiana with the call KN9DHN. He later moved to Minnesota. He is the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Chairman and the former editor of the National Contest Journal. His station is a FLEX 6600M, Force 12 C4SXL 4 Band Yagi at 50 feet (with INRAD Triplexer), 80 Meter Inverted V and a 160 Meter Inverted L. He resides in Plymouth, MN.

SAFETY FIRST

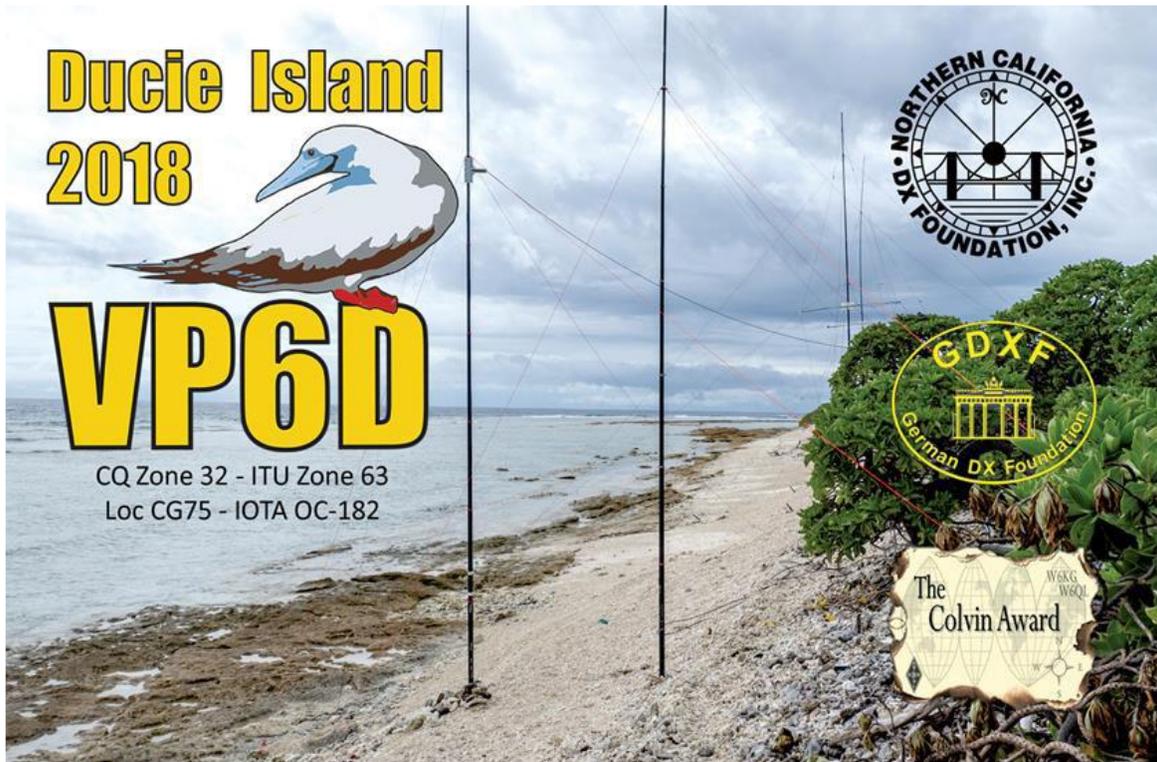
A few weeks ago, one of our members (who prefers to remain anonymous) was working on his tower doing minor maintenance when he experienced a “medical emergency” and lost consciousness while forty feet in the air. Fortunately, he was doing things “by the book” and was using the proper safety equipment and had a spotter on the ground who was carrying a cell phone. The local fire department and EMT squad was on the scene within minutes and were able to get him down without further injury. After three days in hospital he has recovered nicely and is back on the air.

We caution all of our members to be safety aware and use caution when dealing with potentially dangerous situations. Towers and high voltages are two things that come to the forefront. Things happen that we do not anticipate-be prepared!

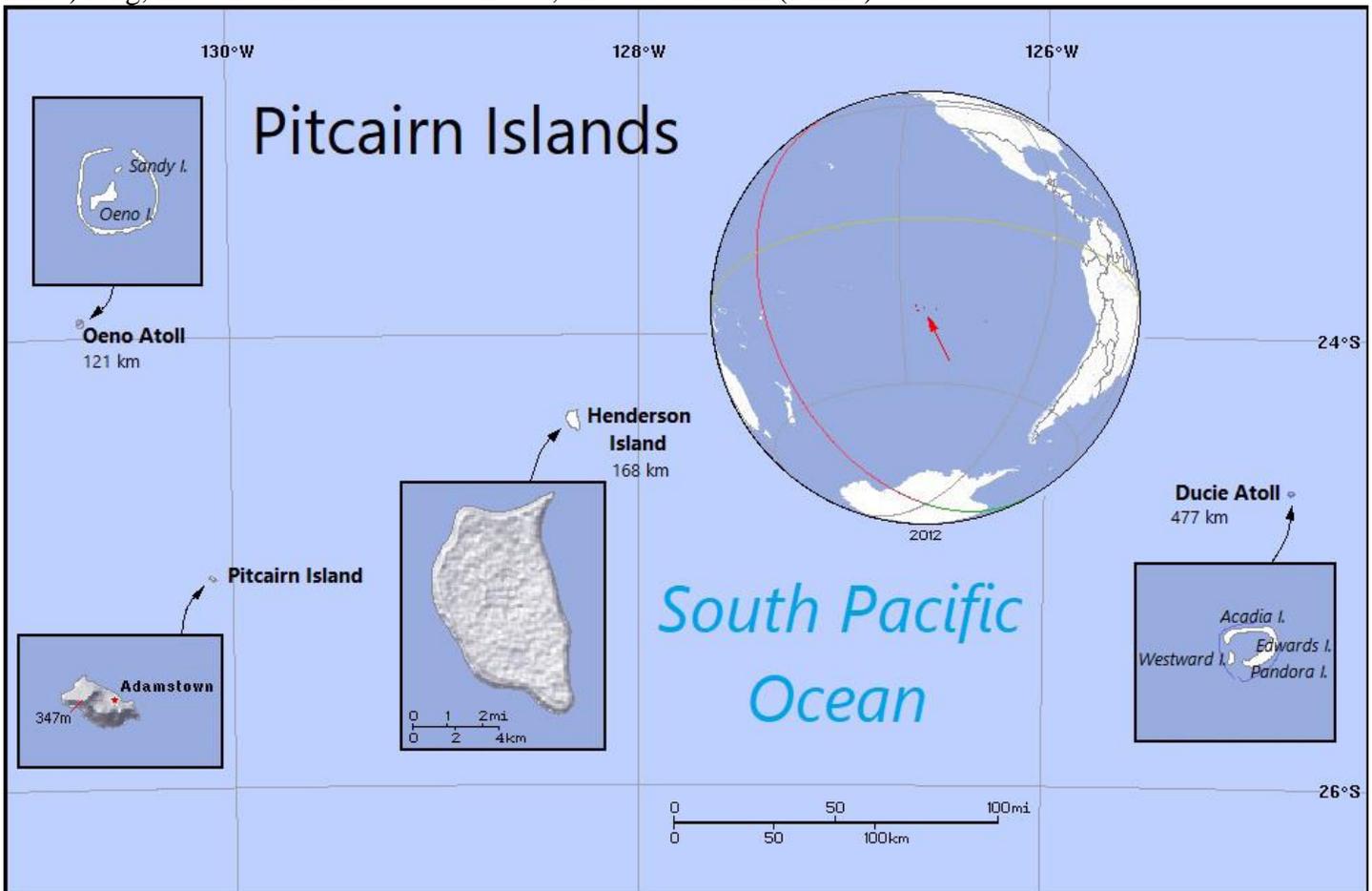
Numerous articles have been published in this newsletter and other amateur radio journals on this subject. Follow their advice and live to call CQ tomorrow!

VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DXpedition

Dave Lloyd, K3EL & Gene Spinelli, K5GS



Ducie Island is an uninhabited atoll in the Pitcairn Island group located in the center of the southern Pacific Ocean approximately equidistant from Chile and New Zealand, both several thousand kilometers away. It lies 535km (332 miles) east of Pitcairn Island, and over 1,000km west of Easter Island. The atoll is 2.4km (1.5 miles) long, measured northeast to southwest, and about 1.6km (1 mile) wide.



We landed on the crescent-shaped main island of Acadia, on the north and east side of the atoll, which is several hundred meters long and mostly covered in low trees. There are three additional small islets — Pandora, Westward and Edwards — on the southern side of the atoll. Due to its inaccessibility and landing permit requirements, Ducie is rarely visited today.

Amongst the Pitcairn group, Henderson Island is most famous for its birds, but Ducie is also a significant breeding ground for a number of species. Over 90% of the world's population of Murphy's petrel nest on Ducie (an estimated 250,000 birds); nesting red-tailed tropicbirds and fairy terns number about 1% of the world's population for each species.

Ducie became a DXCC entity on 16 November 2001 after the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (PIARA) was accepted as an International Amateur Radio Union member-society. The first expedition was led by Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, in March 2002 using the call sign VP6DI. A year later, in March 2003, Ducie was on the air again with VP6DIA, and it was last activated in February 2008 as VP6DX by an international team of 13 operators, who made over 180,000 contacts in 16 days of operation. After 10 years of no Amateur Radio activity, Ducie had climbed up the most-wanted lists and was ranked as ClubLog's #19 before VP6D's activation.

Planning & preparation

At the 2017 International DX Convention at Visalia, California, members of the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG) discussed several potential DXpedition opportunities, and we quickly decided upon Ducie as our next target. It was clear that there would be plenty of interest since the island had not been activated for a decade, so anyone licensed or taking up DXing since 2008 would not have had a chance to work Ducie. Also, because the island is well positioned for propagation to all major centers of Amateur Radio activity, we expected to be able to work even modestly equipped stations. The potential to make a large number of contacts drove the design of our expedition.

Ducie proved to be a popular choice and the operating team was quickly filled, and included Dave Lloyd, K3EL; Les Kalmus, W2LK, and Gene Spinelli, K5GS, as team leader and team co-leaders, respectively; plus Heye Harms, DJ9RR; Mike Shapiro, WA6O; Vadym Ivliev, UT6UD; Steve Dyer, W1SRD; Walt Wilson, N6XG; Laci Radocz, HAØNAR; Jacky Calvo, ZL3CW; Chris Tate, N6WM; Arnie Shatz, N6HC; Rob Fantant, N7QT, and Ricardo Rodrigues, PY2PT.

Many of the team members knew one another from previous PDXG or other DXpeditions, or had met at ham radio events. We held several pre-expedition teleconferences to help the team gel, dealing with topics such as antenna planning, operator scheduling, travel planning, and the 1,001 other details that must be decided before a team sets out. The detailed plans were documented in the VP6D Operations Manual, which was shared with everyone prior to departure.

Landing on Ducie Island for a DXpedition and overnight stays requires a landing permit — issued by the Police and Immigration Office on Pitcairn Island — a travel visa and a VP6/D radio license. Shortly after the April 2017 DX convention we applied for the landing permit, including with the application our plan for 14 operators, tents, generators, radio stations and various antenna types. We received the permit in July 2017 and immediately thereafter applied for the VP6D call sign and travel visas.

We selected the expedition ship *Braveheart* from Tauranga, New Zealand, whose owner, Nigel Jolly, K6NRJ, has had a long history of providing outstanding support to the DXpedition community. Nigel's son, Matt, was the skipper for this project, and his younger son, Dan, was a crewmember.

Travel and set up

During the weekend of 13 Oct 18 the radio operators met in Papeete, Tahiti. From Papeete we flew to Mangareva, the easternmost major island in French Polynesia where the *Braveheart* was waiting, our equipment having previously been loaded aboard in New Zealand. Mangareva is a no-frills stop in French Polynesia with just a few cafés and several small shops set up in residents' homes to sell supplies to the locals and the yachting community, but their primary source of income is farming black pearls.

We departed Mangareva on 16 Oct for the journey to Ducie and, utilizing social media and a Garmin personal locator, our friends and families were able to follow our progress across the Pacific.

Thanks to calm seas and favorable winds, we arrived at Ducie 12 hours ahead of schedule and began transferring equipment on Friday morning, 19 October, using the *Braveheart's* rigid inflatable boats. *Braveheart's* crew, with assistance from the radio operators, established campsites including a kitchen and a covered eating area, plus several large rectangular tents for the radio stations and sleeping accommodations. Each sleeping tent housed three people complete with individual camp cots.

Much of Ducie was heavily wooded, so the tents were put up in between or underneath the trees, which also provided excellent shelter from the strong winds insuring that we wouldn't have to worry about tents being blown down.

Braveheart crewmembers, who stayed ashore with the radio team, prepared three meals a day for us, replenishing their food stocks from *Braveheart* as required. A camp toilet was dug and a camp shower constructed with each team member being allocated enough fresh water for a daily shower, plus all the drinking water they required.

We established two camps, the SSB/headquarters/main sleeping and eating area on the eastern side of the island and, on Ducie's north coast, the CW camp, about a kilometer away. Because a fringing reef surrounds most of the shore, there were only a few possible landing sites, and that determined the location of the two camps.

The 1km separation was adequate to eliminate radio interference between the two camps, but the distance did present some challenges. The shoreline was made of coral rubble and was tiring to walk on, and the dense brush made walking directly between the camps impossible, so the preferred route was to cut across the island from the ocean to the lagoon, then walk along the lagoon's shoreline before crossing to the CW operating site. Even that route was rough, traversing sharp coral shelves and boulders that were, at times, submerged by the tide, but it was preferable to the alternatives. Once people got to know the route, it took about 15 minutes to go from one camp to the other.

We were well supported by various manufacturers and distributors of radio equipment, including Elecraft which loaned us eight K3S transceivers, KPA-500 amplifiers and P3 panadapters; DX Engineering provided coax, connectors, tools, antenna parts and miscellaneous items; SteppIR provided the two-element Yagis; Rig Expert with two AA-55 Zoom antenna analyzers, and Arlan Communications provided us RadioSport headsets. In addition, Spiderbeam provided a substantial discount on fiberglass masts, which were used to build many of the antennas. We had several SPE and OM Power amplifiers loaned by team members, and computers for logging were loaned by Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, and a fellow team member. Many of the Pelican and other shipping cases were provided to us by Paul Ewing, N6PSE (Intrepid DX Group); Bob, KK6EK, and Jim Sansoterra, K8JRK.

Much of Acadia Island sits about 10 feet above sea level, and has a steep drop-off to the shore. The take-off is over water in the direction of NA and EU. For JA the take-off was along the shoreline from the SSB camp but there was a clear shot across the water from the CW camp on the northern shore. Because of the layout of the island, Ducie was an ideal location to use vertical antennas, located just at the edge of the drop off to the sea. Our antenna complement included homemade two-element vertical dipole arrays (VDAs) for the high bands at

both sites, four-squares on 40 at the CW and SSB camps, a 30-meter four-square at the CW camp and a single 30-meter vertical for digital operations at the SSB location.

For 80M we had a quarter-wave vertical and for 160M, an inverted-L vertical. A Beverage antenna improved low-band reception. Also at the SSB camp was a two-element SteppIR horizontal Yagi. A 6-meter EME Yagi antenna loaned by Lance Collister, W7GJ, was located near the water's edge along with the VDAs near the SSB camp. The headquarters tent contained two BGAN satellite terminals used for uploading logs, DXA feed and receiving pilot reports. A WiFi link connected the CW camp to the headquarters tent.



The Path to the CW Station

VDA's on Shore

Radio operations

Radio operations started during the night of 20 October at 0416 UTC with a couple of stations on the air. The following morning, the entire team returned to work, completing the antennas and camps before full operation started the next day from both camps.

We were delighted to find excellent propagation and strong signals worldwide. During the DXpedition, conditions dropped off a little but, overall, we had few complaints about propagation. During periods of good propagation, all eight stations were in action and, as propagation waned during the night, some of the SSB operations would shift to FT8, where a single operator could handle two or three FT8 stations simultaneously, then, as sunrise approached, the bands would become active again.

One important element of planning for VP6D was scheduling, and we used an approach that had been successful on Heard Island VKØEK: we scheduled operators for four or five stations, depending on expected band activity, while the remaining stations were open for any other team member to use. The scheduled ops worked with designated team leaders to decide which bands/modes to use, and had priority during their operating shift. Operators coming to any of the remaining free stations could choose to do whatever they wanted, so long as the band/mode was not already occupied by a scheduled operator. This design ensured that all ops had a significant base amount of operating time, while providing an opportunity for extra time on the air for those who wanted.

Each morning, we'd look at the N1MM+ graphs and see that we were making ~10,000 QSOs a day. Signals from all over the world were strong. Pilot reports and over-the-air reports told us we were being heard without much difficulty on most bands, with numbers that FT8 was our primary digital mode.

We had advertised the WSJT-X software version (1.9.1) and the fox/hound operating style we would employ and, for the most part, callers followed the instructions on our website. However, a fair number didn't get the message straight away and were calling below 1000 Hz. This seemed to improve as time went on, as more people got the hang of fox/hound operation. It was interesting to see the popularity of FT8, not just amongst the callers, but also the DXpedition operators. Perhaps the chance to remove the headphones and relax a bit was an occasional welcome break from the adrenaline rush of working a pileup on the other modes.

At the bottom of the solar cycle, only a few bands would be open at any one time, so we planned to set up two camps (one with a CW focus, the other primarily SSB, although we operated digital modes from both locations) distant from each other to allow two stations to operate simultaneously on a band when it was open, with a complete set of antennas at each camp to provide maximum operating flexibility.

Firsts from Ducie Island were 28 6M EME contacts and 24,400 FT8 contacts. A couple team members were enthusiastic RTTY operators so we made nearly 6,000 contacts by this mode. Still, it was clear from the numbers that FT8 was our primary digital mode.

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The EME operation was an interesting venture for us, since there was almost no EME experience within the team. However, we were given guidance by Lance, W7GJ, and by using his loaned EME antenna and "expedition procedure" we were able to make several QSOs on most nights. EME activity was limited to moonrise only because of the location of the antenna, and other competing operating activities. the exception of 10/12 which were closed most of the time.

Despite the low sunspot number, VP6D logged over 112,000 QSOs with just under 25,000 unique call signs: 53% NA, 26.6% EU and 15.8% AS.

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We used DXA to provide real-time acknowledgement of contacts made, and QSOs were also uploaded to the PDXG online log, which was the basis for our OQRS system. These operations were not as smooth as we had hoped, due to challenges of building a robust network across the island — eventually achieved after a couple of days experimentation — and some incompatibilities between N1MM+ and WSJT-X, resulting in some contacts not making it to the N1MM+ log while on island and requiring resolution after the DXpedition.

Departure

On 30 October, the skipper informed us of worsening sea conditions with increasing onshore winds and a significant swell building from a storm system that had passed to the south. Since Ducie has no natural harbor, we were very dependent on favorable tide and sea conditions to safely leave the island, so we began removing non-essential equipment a couple of days before our planned departure.

The extraction process was exciting for all involved. Team members, assisted by the boat crew, walked two at a time through the surf on a slippery coral base to the edge of the reef where the zodiac could meet us. The skipper brought the zodiac in and people were “helped” aboard the zodiac, one at a time as it came in on a wave, then the skipper quickly leaned on the throttle to get away from the coral, before maneuvering back for the next passenger. It was an exciting exit, but the next morning’s activities were even livelier when four team members returned to the island to help the crew recover the remaining equipment. By that time the wind had picked up significantly and the exhilarating experience of landing, loading and returning was one that we will remember for a long time.

After everyone — and everything — was safely aboard *Braveheart*, we began the 36-hour journey to Pitcairn where we were met by islanders who then transferred us from *Braveheart* to a longboat for a wet 30-minute ride to Bounty Bay to meet Pitcairn Island Police and Immigration officials who processed our arrival and stamped our passports. While there, the team had an opportunity to have a look around and meet some locals, several of whom had Amateur Radio licenses, before we needed to return to the *Braveheart* and continue our journey to Mangareva.

Reflections

Once we were back in Tahiti, we had some time to relax and look back over the past three weeks. The consensus was that VP6D had been a great DXpedition for the team. We enjoyed hearing from people who contacted us, be they mega-stations looking for a full house, or a temporary QRP setup on a beach looking for one QSO. A consistent theme from many who wrote to us was they had “fun” working VP6D.

Wrap up

We would like to acknowledge the help and support of many groups and individuals who contributed to Ducie 2018. Major early sponsorship from organizations like the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) and the German DX Foundation (GDXF) was important to kick-start our fundraising, and many other clubs and foundations also supported us. (A full list of corporate and club/foundation sponsors is available at VP6D.com.)

Over 1,500 individual donors contributed via the VP6D website, and an additional 1,700 have contributed since the DXpedition. As listed earlier, Amateur Radio manufacturers generously donated or loaned equipment. Many individuals supported the on-island team and, in particular, we want to recognize our Chief Pilot, Glenn Petri, KE4KY, and his team of pilots; Pista Gaspar, HA5AO, who supports the PDXG

websites and the QRS/QSL system, and of course, Tim Beaumont, MØURX, who processes and mails your QSL cards and uploads your LoTW confirmations.

Among the highlights of the project were giving many DXers an ATNO and/or band fills, putting people on the Honor Roll, logging the first EME and FT8 contacts from Ducie Island, and working with a fantastic team of radio operators. We must also recognize Matt Jolly and his *Braveheart* crew who were as much a part of the project's success as the radio team.



Until the next time, thank you for your interest in VP6D Ducie Island 2018.

This article is courtesy of the Northern California DX Foundation. The NCDXF relies heavily upon the generosity of its contributors to fund various projects, including this DXpedition. We ask you to consider making an annual contribution of US-\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency. If \$50 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, they welcome contributions in excess of \$50! NCDXF is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. Send your contribution to: NCDXF, P.O. Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via their secure server, visit www.ncdxf.org/donate

Metal Roofs

I am wondering if any of our members have Metal Roofs on their houses?

If so, does it affect your dipoles and other antennas?

We need a new roof and everything I heard about these metal roofs sounds interesting. Just worried about how it will affect wire antennas.

Please email me at w3ml.john@gmail.com or just reply to this newsletter email. Thanks, John



ICOM 7610

Faint signals are no longer a challenge for DXers and Contesters around the world, with the new IC-7610. The difference between putting the QSO in the log or trying another time is the capability of your receiver. The high performance RMDR in the IC-7610 has the ability to pick out the faintest of signals even in the presence of stronger, adjacent signals. The IC-7610 introduces dual RF direct sampling receivers. Achieving 100dB RMDR, these receivers rival that of other top-of-the-line transceivers. The IC-7610 also comes with a high-speed, high-resolution, real-time spectrum scope on a 7-inch color display.

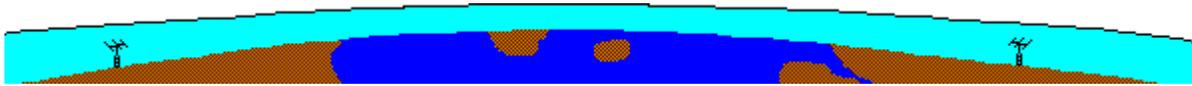
<https://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/hf/7610/default.aspx>

This radio is from the K9QA SK Sale. It is For Sale for \$2400.00

Rich used it about 8 times as he never had time to play radio and his beam did not work. All original accessories come with plus a Radio Cover and the book "The Radio Today Guide to the ICOM 7610", which has all kinds of tips about the features of this radio.

We have some new items for sale of Rich's K9QA and others on the Starke County Club For Sale page at <http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

I want to thank those that have been sending in articles for the newsletter. All items are appreciated.



Until Next Time,
73

John
W3ML

<http://nwidclub.weebly.com/>



DX

