



Bulletin



June 2021

SEDXC OFFICERS

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SEDXC Bulletin Editor

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Webmaster

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This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday June 17th @ 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Telemeeting

Info: www.sedxc.org

Topic: What's Up??

Speaker: All of Us

From the Prez



Dick K5TF

A BIG ROUND OF THANKS to the membership of the Southeast DX Club for your support during the past three years that I have served as President of the club. I also give special thanks to those Board members who have faithfully served with me, a number of whom who have thrown their hats in the ring for service to the new club administration. It has been a good experience that I have enjoyed very much.

I look forward to our on-line meeting this coming Thursday, June 17th. The Zoom session will start at 7:00PM. In addition to the annual election of club officers, the evening will be light. Everyone will have a chance to talk about what they have been up to, or what they have been refurbishing, or where they might be going on their next DXpedition. See you Thursday. 73 es gud DX,

Dick K5TF

Treasurer's Journal

Jeff K1ZN



Checkbook balance as of June 7th = \$11,254.29

PayPal account balance of \$356.20

Payments out during May 2021:

1. Donation to the Intrepid Group for 3Y0J DXpedition in early 2023 as approved at last meeting was \$3350 that is 2/3 of the \$5K approved. Balance to be sent to them 6 months prior to January 2023 departure to the "rock." **NOTE:** The DXpedition has been cancelled and we expect a refund.
2. Club Log donation of \$355.
3. Zoom fee of \$25.09

Now is the time to get your renewal payments into us. The balance on hand as of July 1st determines the amount we can give to DXpeditions (one half balance on hand).

Jeff K1ZN ♦

Nominating Committee Report

Bob K4UEE

Here are the nominees for the SEDXC slate of officers for 2021-2022 to be voted upon by the Membership at the June meeting.

President: Chuck, AE4CW

VP/Program Chm.: Clark, WU4B

Treasurer: Jeff, K1ZN

Secretary: Paul, W4KLY

Activities Mgr.: Norm, WA4ZXV

Newsletter Editor: Bob, NF7D

Nominations Committee: K4UEE (Chm.), K4PI, K4NHW, WA4ZXV

Deadline for additional nominations: June 15

Around the Shack

de N4GG

db or Not db—That is the Question!



There is a QST article I recommend you read. It was written by Dean Straw, N6BV, and is titled: *Antenna Ads in ARRL Publications*. The subtitle tells the story: "After more than 35 years, antenna manufacturers may once again advertise performance figures in League publications. Why this changed and what should the astute amateur consumer be looking for in an antenna ad

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(or product brochure)?” The article can be found in the QST on-line archives. Though published in April 1998, it’s as relevant today as the day it was written.

I like seeing the word “astute” in the sub-title. In my humble opinion only astute hams who were in the hobby around 1963 noticed antenna performance metrics disappear from antenna ads in ARRL publications. Most notably, QST antenna ads no longer contained claims for forward gain, front to back ratio, etc. This was the result of a “horsepower race” among manufacturers where their performance claims started to strain credibility in an effort to outdo each other. The League banned the claims; there was no way to check them. This was a two edged sword however. To the extent some performance claims were legitimate, not having them put the buyer at a disadvantage. It made comparing one antenna to another difficult. On the other hand, false claims did what they were intended to do - lead buyers to poor decisions.

With performance metrics removed from the ads from 1963 to 1998, advertisers became creative with their verbal claims. If you were a ham then you remember ads like: “I worked the world with my Gotham vertical.”

The advent of computers, followed by the advent of antenna modeling software changed things. With good models in hand, the ARRL was finally in a position to check advertisers’ claims and in 1998 changed its “Advertising Acceptance Policy” to once again allow antenna performance claims in ads. Wisely, the ARRL put stringent stipulations in place before an advertiser could make specific claims about performance. The stipulations included requiring advertisers to provide the ARRL with a model of the antenna(s) in question - models the ARRL could use to independently check claims. Also, advertisers were required to include free-space performance numbers in ads, as a precursor to further claims. The thought was one antenna *could* be compared to another if the playing field was level and the best way to do that was to start in free space.

Which brings me to the point of this article. When it comes to antenna ads it is still “buyer beware.” From a philosophical standpoint it’s nice to know that manufacturers are no longer publishing incorrect claims, but from a practical standpoint buyers can still become misled, frequently by misleading themselves.

The root of the problem in attempting to compare one antenna to another is there are too many variables and the variables interact. To arrive at a fair comparison the variables must be treated parametrically, and the data needed to do that isn’t in antenna ads. Here are four key variables usually not addressed in the ads:

- Height above ground. The free-space performance of an antenna is helpful to seasoned antenna designers, but that’s darned few of us. Moving from free-space performance to performance in one’s back yard is an extrapolation most of us can’t make. Meanwhile, height above ground has a huge effect on antenna performance and the effect is not uniform from one antenna design to another. Two antennas may have identical performance one half-wavelength above the ground, but differ substantially one quarter-wavelength above the ground. If you are comparing the antennas in two ads, are the performance numbers provided as a graph of performance parameters vs. height? It would be rare to see that in a pair of ads, yet it’s something we need for an informed decision.

- What ground? A lucky few of us operate over salt water. At the other end of possibilities is operating in a desert. Performance vs. ground description is never advertised, yet we need that information to be a wise consumer. As with height, two antennas may appear the same for one ground type, e.g. over salt water, and be different from each other over the ground in your back yard.

- Bandwidth. Antennas can be designed to maximize performance over narrow bandwidths (high Q) at the expense of performance over a wide range of frequency, or, vice versa. If you can find ads for two “comparable” Yagi antennas, with each listing performance at 50.3 MHz, the broadband antenna will have lower forward gain than the narrow band antenna. If you are only interested in six meter DX, FT8 and weak signal work (all of which resides in the bottom 400 KHz of the band) the higher Q antenna is probably the one for you. But what if you are interested in both weak signal work at the bottom of the band and six meter repeaters at the top? The lower gain antenna is your best choice. Is the data needed to guide you through your decision provided? It rarely is. As an aside, the high Q antenna will be more affected by the weather (read: rain). Is this of concern? It won’t be mentioned in the ads.

- Pattern. Some Yagis have “clean” patterns with good forward gain, good front-to-back ratio and well-controlled side-lobes. Others don’t. The forward gain of two Yagis may be the same at the same frequency, at the same height,

above the same ground, but the patterns may be different and ads won't provide you the insight you need to know which antenna best meets your needs.

You get the picture. The ads cannot be descriptive enough to support fully informed purchase decisions.

In my experience performance-based antenna decisions are made in one of several ways. These include:

- Subjectively. The newest or most exotic antenna may "look" best.
- Anecdotally. Listening on the air, talking to friends and reading informal reviews (eHam) is a better way forward than simply choosing the next shiny thing.
- Analytically. Review the technical details in the brochures (not the ads). Read the technical reviews in QST and the discussion of general antenna types in the ARRL Antenna Book. Model the antenna(s) if you can. If you can't, ask someone to do some modeling for you.

The final point I'd like to make is about perspective. How deep an understanding of antenna performance do we need? How accurate an understanding is possible? What do we need (not want) to make a purchase decision? If you want to work Japan on 160 meters, every dB counts. If you want to chat with your pals on 75 SSB, fretting about 1 or 2 dB is a waste of time.

It's important to remember that the best models we have are still only approximations, and initial conditions such as ground conductivity might only be known to one significant digit for a given location. It is easy to fall into the trap of mistaking precision for accuracy.

When deciding "dB or not dB" I think the ARRL got it right. Before modeling, what was being presented as useful data simply wasn't. The ARRL shut that down. When data could be checked by modeling, it was once again allowed in the ads. As long as one understands that the data in ads is insufficient to make fully informed decisions, the ARRL decision to allow the data back into the publications seems just right.

Good luck with your next antenna purchase!

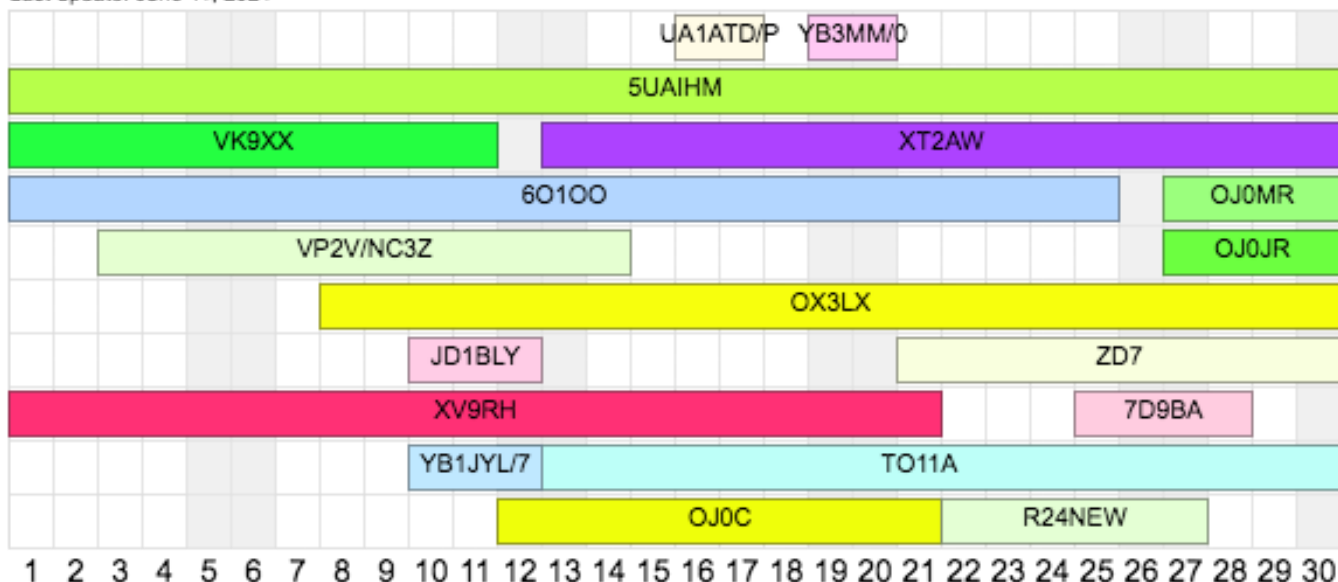
Hal N4GG ❖

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DX WORLD.net

FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: June 11, 2021



Edited by MM0NDX

JUNE

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Major International DX Contests

- July** IARU HF Word Championship; info: www.arrl.org
- September** CQ WW RTTY; info: https://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/
- October** CQ WW SSB; info: https://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/
- November** CQ WW CW; info: https://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/

There are many regional contests that offer opportunities to work DX. Check out WA7BNM Contest Calendar <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

January 22, 1997—160 Meters—A Night To Remember

Excerpt from Heard Island VKØIR Log of Bob Allphin, K4UEE

The night started off well. I had a wonderful opening to Japan and managed 25 QSO's with the deserving. Then Europe began to come through very loud and I worked into the second and third layer of Europeans. Many call signs I'd never heard before and dozens of Germans. I'd always heard that they and the Ukrainians had hundreds of stations on 160, now I began to believe it. Of course, some of the European big guns flexed their muscles and called in to get into the log once more. ON4UN checked in to say Hi! It was obvious that this was a special night on the low bands.



Then K1BW broke through the Europeans and I knew it wouldn't be long now. I debated whether to stop the European pileup and listen exclusively for North America, because I knew that once I began running the US stations, I'd lose all interest in the EU boys. I asked Europe to stand by and they did, knowing full well that their shot at a QSO was probably over for the night. They were very patient and only a very small number continued to call. I must say that the European 160 gang was very considerate and knew full well that the band was open to North America and that now NA became the priority. I worked the pile-up for a while and took all comers. I was trying to listen beyond the East Coast wall into the Midwest and the South. The East Coast had already had several shots on previous nights and tonight, I was determined others were going to get their chance.

The Propagation Gods were smiling. After some 8's, 9's, 4's and even a couple of 0's got through I knew this could be the best 160m opening of our stay on Heard Island. I began to ask for call areas. Not in the classic sense, the truth is I ignored 1's, 2's, and 3's and asked for 8, 9, 4 and 0. My objective was to work the heartland and South. I recognized a lot of calls and it gave me great pleasure to log some friends from 11,000 miles away. Unfortunately, there was no opening to the Atlanta area, so I missed my hometown buddies. The closest I got was a QSO with Jack, N4JJ (now SK) in SC. I wanted badly to work the Battle Creek, Michigan guys, the ones who built a special heavy-duty edition of the Battle Creek special for our expedition. Without their help, I wouldn't be having all this fun. So, I called W8UVZ in the blind, hoping he was one of those hundreds calling, nothing heard. I tried several more times, again no answer.

I went back to the pile-up. I found that the really good operators who had perfected the art of tail-ending had an advantage. They dropped in their call and—bingo! I knew they were on frequency. Sometimes I'd come back right away to them, other times it would be a minute or so, but I knew they were on frequency because they were skillful, not necessarily loud. It was really interesting to note signal strengths. I knew many of the guys calling and I know how strong they are stateside, but over this distance their signals seemed equalized. In my mind, I pictured people calling with signals 1/4 inch tall and others calling with signals 3/16 inch tall and the weak ones were 1/8 inch tall. The point is I could hear them all and the signal strengths were all very close so that skill and timing were the more important factors.



Picture of VKØIR 1997: courtesy DX-World.net.

Finally, WØCD broke the pile. I gave him a report and I immediately called George, W8UVZ – he came back. Two out of three! I called George, K8GG, and there he was. In a matter of 45 seconds, I'd worked and logged the three architects of the Battle Creek Special. My heart was pounding, what a thrill! Back to the pile. All in all, the stateside opening lasted almost two hours and I put 54 North Americans in the log. One last interesting observation - as the sun rose over Heard Island the pile-up disappeared. Still, a very few strong signals were coming through. I don't understand how or why these particular stations still heard me or me them. Maybe somebody smarter than I can explain it. I have been operating on Top Band for 21 years. I've run pile-ups into North America on 160 from the Caribbean, South America, the Pacific, Africa, and now Antarctica. Tonight was by far the most fantastic Top Band adventure of my life! The sun is up, it's time to rest, but I'm too excited to sleep. What a night! This makes it ALL worthwhile!

Bob K4UEE ❖

Editor's Note: VKØIR was voted by the readers of DX-World to be the Best DXpedition of the Past 30 Years. Bob KK6EK, the owner of Cordell Expeditions that implemented the DXpedition, has provided links to 6 hours of video recently found about all aspects of the project. He has also added his own comments about the accomplishments. The above picture is in the article. Check it out at <https://www.dx-world.net/news-about-vkoir-heard-island-1997/>



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

June 1996

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, June 18th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President

ZS8IR was barely discernible on long path. He'd moved from 30m to 20m earlier, now was weak on 20 SSB long path. He'd been loud on 30m, but I was too late and I still needed him for a new one. I strained to hear his weak signal through the QRN...I heard beeping. My DXBase alarm going off. I check the screen, it's Brunei! I do a panic QSY, ZS8 will be on Marion for awhile yet, and he appears to be getting more active.

I tune to the spot frequency; it's Bernie, V85BG, and solid copy! I listen briefly to Bob and Dick, two of the local big guns on 20, compare signal reports with the V85. I send Bob a note, thanking him for the post and he kindly mentions my call to Bernie. They wrap it up and Bernie calls QRZed. This is going to be tough. Bernie, the V85, has a fine signal and Bob and Dick's long QSO attracted a lot of attention. Besides, Bernie's a bit slow with the exchange, and a full one at that. Most of the stations that get through appear to have just arrived and require frequent repeats of the address for QSLs.

I call, and call again. The pileup has grown, but it's still manageable. "George, there seems to be some DX station on here, and quite a few people calling, but I'm gonna go ahead and start the net." What? Somebody's about to start a net on 14.234 in the middle of a pileup? Sure enough, a W8 calls his buddies and tries to organize a roundtable. He meets with an angry buzz from frustrated DXers who can no longer hear the V85. Tempers flare, and die, the net goes away and so has Brunei. I search for him in vain.

Then Dave, a friend in the pileup, sends a talk message that the V85 is on 14.250. I find him, and call a few times.

Suddenly, a 2 megawatt spanish-speaking station cranks up right on top of the V85. I call him, "The frequency's in use, OM, we were here first." He says, "Can you prove it? If you can't prove it, shut up." I recognize the futility of arguing with 2 megawatts and I take his advice. So, apparently, has Bernie, for he's gone. I search some more.

Tuning across 14.226, I find him again. A DX net is trying to recruit him, take a list. I call, along with others; some work him. The net gives up, and Bernie keeps plodding, terribly slowly. He's fading now, and I'm faced with the realization that I won't work him this day. Reluctantly, I go to work. For the low end of the sunspot cycle, times aren't all bad.

In the last two weeks, I've heard nine countries I need for new ones: 8Q, KC6, VK9C, VK0M, ZS8, KH3, 8Q, EK and V8. As of this writing, I've worked three of them (KC6, KH3 and EK). Though I haven't heard them, I also know of three more that are currently active: VK9W, JX and FT5W. If reaching the honor roll was easy, I suppose we'd all have it, and it wouldn't be prestigious. Still, I wish sometimes I was operating from a contest superstation. The close calls are starting to fray my nerves.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

73, Steve, KR4DL

FROM THE VP

-Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP

About a year and a half ago, I bought a Moseley PRO-67B and had no idea how to install it properly. My wife was no help as she didn't want it up at all.

I obtained the services of Neal Sultmeyer, AE6E, along with help from some of our other club members. The antenna is up now and performing flawlessly.

Neal did such a fine job I thought it would be interesting to have him speak to the club at the meeting next Tuesday. The subject will be *(continued p2)*

(continued from p1) tower erection techniques and related material.

Elections will be soon. If anyone is interested in running for one of the many positions on the board, please let us know.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

**ELECTIONS WILL BE IN JULY
IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
ANY SEDXC OFFICER**

SEDXC MEETING 5/21/96

-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL

Buddy couldn't make the meeting, so I have to fill in with my inadequate prose. Hope you'll forgive me. KR4DL passed sign-up sheet, took a show of hands on those working ZL8RI. Entertained motion to accept minutes from 4/16 meeting as capably recorded by K2UFT, Secretary Pro Tem. Motion was seconded and passed.

KR4UJ announced the membership list was out, asked for comments if you didn't receive one or noted errors. NK4U updated the membership on collection for ZL8RI (\$110 with matching). KR4DL polled the members (26 on sign-up sheet) and decided to postpone the vote on Constitution and Bylaws revisions until next month. Suggest you show up for the vote or lose your right to complain.

KR4DL forwarded announcement by South Sandwich Group of their proposed trip to Bouvet in Dec. '97, Jan. '98, and forwarded announcement by K4MZW that ACOG has bowed to the fact that they desperately need help.

Contact K4MZW or N4UCK if you're inclined to provide assistance for the Olympics. KR4UJ announced 5A1A cards were handed out, personally, by Toly at Dayton.

After a break with door prizes, Keith Hylton, KE4TEG, provided a very interesting program on interference, the ARRL and the FCC. If you weren't there, you missed a very informative session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

KR4DL, Secretary Amateur Tem

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Another year, another Atlanta HamFestival. This year's event was rather strange in that we had at least two DX superstars in attendance (WA3YVN and K4UEE), both giving seminars thanks to the efforts of our own Delayne, KM4FV, we had one controversial character (W2NSD/1) - in other words, we had drawing power and yet the attendance at all but Wayne Green's seminar was pauly!

We didn't have a DX Banquet (no interest at the meeting in which I introduced the idea), in fact we didn't even have a Southeastern DX Booth! What's going on? The sunspots can't be blamed for all of it! The hamfest had an attendance around 2600 or so paid ticket holders a couple hundred less than last year, but its a new location. Most of the comments I got were generally positive, so it looks like they'll do it again next year in the same place but not running opposite Dallas!

Your comments will be more than welcome by the Atlanta Radio Club members - send them to me if you like.

73 for now Dick, K2UFT

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

There's no Treasurer's Report this month... but don't worry, I haven't taken the money and run to a rare DX location. It's because I wrote a check at Dayton for the hospitality suite and now can't find the receipt so I'll have to wait until the check clears to find the exact amount. But, have no fear, there will be a 'catch-up' report later.

Dues have been coming in and it's important for everyone to fill out the form completely because Paul's putting together a new database.. so don't just assume we have all your information.

A check for \$110 has been forwarded for the Kermadex DX position. Now all we have to do is wait for those cards to arrive.

See you at the meeting.

73, Nancy (Alias Treasurer) NK4U

DX TIDBITS

-Rick, N4XXM

Well, I tried out one of the new summer game calls during CQ WPX CW contest. I figured N400XXM would really haul them in. A big mistake. Most EU didn't believe me. A few hung in there, but gave up after a try or two. Couldn't even nail many on 20M. So much for the low bands...

Took my cards to the ARC Hamfest. Got them checked right away by Bob Varone. What amazed me was that they could check any card EXCEPT the 160M cards. So my 3V and XZ1A cards went right through but the G and SM on 160 had to be taken back to HQ! We live in interesting times...

-CU in the pileups...

Rick, N400XXM

FROM THE INTERNET

From: K7LXC@aol.com
Reply-To: K7LXC@aol.com
To: cq-contest@tgv.com,
topband@animas.frontier.net, dx@ve7tcp.ampr.org
Subject: New Tower Reflector

Greetings, one and all --

This post is to announce a new reflector, Towertalk, devoted to tower, antenna and system concerns, issues and questions. There's a lot of tower building mistakes being made out there so if you have any questions, or have some of the answers, please subscribe. It really pays to do things right. There is a wide range of subscribers from first tower builders to tower riggers and PE's so lots of valuable information is available.

To subscribe send a message to towertalk-request@akorn.net with the word "subscribe" in the message. You'll get registered automatically. Hope to see you there!

73, Steve K7LXC

PS -- This group is available to EVERYONE. Please spread the word and tell anyone else that may be interested to join. No question is too dumb -- we all had to start somewhere.

ARLD028 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with info provided by Mauro, I1JQJ, Jean Michel, F6AJA, Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club PacketCluster network and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

SRI LANKA, 4S. 4S7EA was active on 80, 20 and 15 meter SSB over the weekend. On 15, try 21250 kHz around 1130z, on 20 try 14190 at 1515 and 0140, and on 80 try 3799 at 1920. QSL 4S7EA. Mario, HB9BRM, will sign 4S7BRG June 7 to September 2. He will operate between 14270 and 14320 kHz on 20, and between 21210 and 21260 kHz on 15, both bands around 1300z. On 40, try between 7045 and 7070 kHz, and 80 between 3790 and 3800 kHz from 1900 to 2100z. QSL via HB9BRM.

ZAMBIA, 9J. Hans, KN6DI, will be active for one to three months, probably as 9J2DI. He will operate SSB only. QSL via AA6BB.

MALTA, 9H. Listen for Heinz, DL6MDG, June 7 to 20 as 9H3SS, mainly on SSB. QSL via DL6MDG. From July 22 to August 9 listen for 9H3UD by DL8OBC and 9H3UF by DL4OCL operating from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023. They will operate mostly CW on 80 through 10 meters. QSL home calls.

NEPAL, 9N. Brad, KV5V, will be in Nepal June 23 to 30 and try to get on the air from 9N1ARB and 9N1RHM. 9N1RHM is frequently found around 14200 kHz between 0100 and 0230z. QSL via KV5V. Kyoko, 9N1KY, will be active until July.

CYPRUS, 5B. Michael, DL5MX, will sign 5B4/DL5MX July 18 to August 1 160 through 10 meters.

BURUNDI, 9U. Peter, ON6TT, has been on the air operating 9U5CW. He was primarily on 160 and 80 meter CW between 2230 and 0300z. Also check 20 and 17 meters CW, SSB and RTTY.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Prefix hunters take note. Nodir, EY8MM, is planning to be on the air as CLIPPERTON ISLAND, FO. DXpedition organizer Jay, WA2FIJ, continues efforts to secure one or more boats for transportation to and from Clipperton during the February/March 1997 operation. Commitments for transportation are needed before vessel approval, landing permission and a license can be obtained.