LSDXA News
September 2011

Meeting

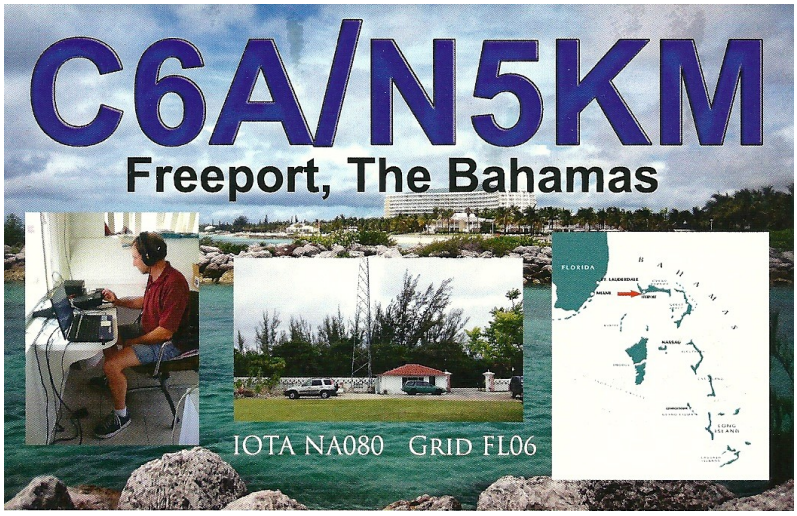
September 17, 2011
Lunch: 1130, Meeting: Noon

Spring Creek BBQ

3514 West Airport Freeway
(at Belt Line)
Irving, TX 75062-5922
Phone (972) 313-0987

PROGRAM

Contest Dxpedition to the Bahamas
By Kris Mraz, N5KM



The President's Letter
de W0VX

Please join us on September 17 for the quarterly LSDXA meeting at Spring Creek BBQ in Irving. The program will be presented by Kris Mraz, N5KM telling us about his gentleman's DXpedition to the Bahamas. Most of us are not inclined to go to some frozen rock or desert island to pitch a tent and operate. This type of activity is more attractive as a practical adventure. This was his first DXpedition attempt and he has some interesting tales to tell.

In addition to the C6A/N5KM program and some great BBQ we will have DXCC card checking, card shipping to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, and a $25 ARRL Bookstore gift certificate door prize donated by N0RB. The latest meeting info will be posted on our reflector at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lsdxa/.

By all measures the W5DXCC activity at Ham-Com was a big success. We received many compliments on the DX dinner location, meal, and program. We also received a few complaints about things and those will be rectified for 2012. Overall we ended up well in the black financially in part due to Ham-Com being the ARRL National Convention this year. All funds in excess of W5DXCC costs go directly to support DXpeditions. Thanks to all the speakers, card checkers, booth volunteers, and behind the scenes workers who helped make the event a success.

Elections were held at the brief LSDXA meeting at Ham-Com on Saturday. Dan, W5DNT did not run for reelection. We thank Dan for his past service to LSDXA and look forward to having him as a valued advisor to the board. The new elected officers are:

W0VX, Dave Jaksa - President
N5PG, Paul Godwin - Information Director
N0RB, Rick Barnett – Activities Director
N5TY, Ken Knudson – Secretary Treasurer

In addition the following Vice-Directors have been reappointed by the board:

K9MK, Mike Krzystyniak – DXCC Card Checker
K5AC, Tim Pearson – Reflector Vice-Director
N5KD, Pete Hicks – WWW Vice-Director

The Hamfest Vice-Director position remains open and we are looking for a volunteer. Contact one of the directors if you can help with this. Minutes of the meeting are elsewhere in this newsletter.

On the DX front, the Republic of South Sudan ST0R DXpedition is now over. As an all time new one for everybody the pileups were pretty tough to crack at times. They did an excellent job with over 120,000 QSO in the log at the end of the operation. LSDXA is a sponsor of ST0R and hopefully everybody worked a new one.

LSDXA is also a sponsor of the upcoming January 2012 HK0NA DXpedition to Malpelo Island. From time to time the question of how the board decides which DXpeditions to support comes up. It is never easy to decide where to donate your dues money and it is not a decision that is taken lightly. We do our best to be responsible with your money and donate to DXpeditions that will directly benefit our members. The LSDXA criteria for DXpedition sponsorship and the rationale for funding or not funding recent requests are included in this issue.

As previously announced, LSDXA will be participating in the club score competitions for major DX and WPX contests. If you participate in these contests please indicate "Lone Star DX Assn" as the club on your contest submission Cabrillo file. It is important that the club name be exactly as shown for the ARRL contests or the contest robot will reject your entry. We are still working with CQ to officially recognize the same shortened name. Please also send a summary of your score to N0RB so he can tally and submit the LSDXA total.

73,
Dave, W0VX

RTTY DXCC Award Now Known as Digital DXCC Award

At the 2011 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors, the Board voted to change the name of the RTTY DXCC Award to the Digital DXCC Award. In changing the name, the Board took into account that Amateur Radio technology has advanced to include many variations of digital communications. On July 25, the word "Digital" began replacing "RTTY on these DXCC certificates.

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau

Beginning with the September 17, 2011 meeting, LSDXA will collect and ship QSL cards to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. You are still responsible for paying the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service fee but LSDXA will ship all collected cards to ARRL HQ. This is a trial program with the specific intent of providing a club service and getting higher attendance at our meetings.

In order to participate in this program you must:

- Be a current paid member of LSDXA
- Be in attendance at the quarterly meeting
- Wrap together with a rubber band:
  - Your properly sorted QSL cards
  - Your proof of ARRL Membership
  - Your check for the proper amount made out to ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

See http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service for ARRL Outgoing QSL Service details.

Minutes of the LSDXA June 11, 2011 Meeting At Ham-Com

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by President Dan White, W5DNT.

Minutes of the April meeting as published on the web site were approved.

A brief financial report was presented by Secretary Treasurer W0VX. It was reported that we were in the black on Ham-Com and the DX Dinner.

Elections were held and the following were elected:

President – Dave Jaksa, W0VX
Information director – Paul Godwin, N5PG
Activities Director – Rick Barnett, N0RB
Secretary/Treasurer – Ken Knudson, N5TY

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Jaksa, W0VX
Secretary/Treasurer

Lone Star DX Association DXpedition Funding Criteria (Revised)

Lone Star DX Association (LSDXA) periodically makes financial grants to DXpeditions that will benefit the amateur radio DXing community. LSDXA is interested in funding high profile DXpeditions, preferably to remote, rare locations. General guidelines for LSDXA funding are as follows.

Consideration for support is normally restricted to expeditions that generate world-wide interest by going to locations high on the North America Central US Time Zone top 100 needed list. DXCC top 100 needed lists are available in various publications such as The DX Magazine. A small amount of support is on rare occasions awarded to other expeditions and projects at the discretion of the LSDXA Directors.

We are primarily interested in supporting DXpeditions to DXCC entities. Expeditions to locations as defined by the Islands on the Air (IOTA) program, Grid Square awards and for participation in various radio contests are not supported unless the support can be justified without reference to these activities.

The number of operators and experience of the team members will be considered. Preference will be given to teams that include members with a history of successful DXpeditions. A valid license and any necessary landing permits should be in your possession when funding is requested.

Operations restricted to specific communication modes such as RTTY, Satellite, EME, VHF and UHF are not supported. However, supported HF CW and SSB operations are encouraged to use these modes as an enhancement.

We require that you:

- QSL all requests 100%.
- Promptly answer all cards received direct with sufficient return postage via direct mail.
- Answered all other cards in a timely fashion via the bureau.
- Upload of all QSO data to the ARRL Logbook of the World within 12 months of completion of the operation..
- Put the LSDXA logo on your QSL cards, web site and any videos or CDs that are made of your trip.

Applications are accepted by email and should be made prior to the DXpedition. Information provided in the application will be used only to evaluate your grant. All applications will be forwarded to the board members for their review.

We will consider funding groups who meet our criteria. We expect that your DXpedition will proceed with or without our support. The decision to fund or not fund as well as the financial level of support is at the sole discretion of the Lone Star DX Association.

Funded DXpeditions

Since the last meeting we have received 4 requests for DXpedition funding. The board members use the LSDXA DXpedition Funding Criteria (found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website) in evaluating all requests. The following actions have been taken.

ST0R, Republic of South Sudan
The original request for funding for the DXpedition to the anticipated new country of the Republic of South Sudan came shortly after Ham-Com. At that time we told the DXpedition organizers that we would consider funding

after South Sudan was recognized as a country by the UN and the ARRL DXCC Desk. That all happened in mid-July. At that time we pledged $1,000 to the effort for what was #1 most needed on everybody's list. Because of what was perceived as a high risk DXpedition, we said $500 would be sent when they got on the air and the second $500 when the logs were uploaded to LoTW. The first $500 has been sent and you will see our LSDXA logo on their website, http://www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/ under the sponsors tab.

HK0NA, Malpelo

This DXpedition to the #29 on the North America Central Time Zone most wanted list was recently announced. This will be a major operation with a team of 16 experienced operators including LSDXA friends K4UEE and K5YY. The board voted to donate $500 to this effort. The LSDXA logo appears on their website, http://hk0na.com/ under sponsors.

C21AA, Nauru

We received a request from VK4FW for funding for the upcoming November/December C21AA operation. C2 is #45 most wanted worldwide, #32 in Europe, but only #96 on the North America Central Time Zone most wanted list. Given that C2 is not that rare from here and the fact that we do not have unlimited resources, the board voted not to fund this effort.

VP6T, Pitcairn

We received a request from F6BEE for funding in support of the VP6T DXpedition to Pitcairn Island in January 2012. While VP6 is #54 on the worldwide most wanted list it does not appear on the Central NA list. The board voted not to fund this effort because it is not rare in our membership area.

While we were not able to support C21AA and VP6T as a club, the board encourages you to provide individual support for these DXpeditions, as well as the ones we funded, when you request your QSL cards.

On the subject of expeditions, there are many videos posted to various websites, one great example is one of last March's operation from Cameroun **TJ9PF**.

Their video is here.

The DX World website, as one example has many others as well as a trove of dxpedition information.

LSDXA Reflector
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lsdxa

Lone Star DX Association

Lone Star DX Association

Treasurer's Report, August 1, 2011

Beginning Bank Balance July 1, 2011			**$6,423.24**
INCOME			
Dues*	$36.84		
W5DXCC Dinner	$0.00		
Other Income	$0.00		
Total Income			**$36.84**
EXPENSE			
South Sudan 2011 Dxpedition Funding initial payment		($500.00)	
W5DXCC Diner		$0.00	
Other Expense (Registration State of TX)		($5.00)	
Total Expense			**($505.00)**
Ending Bank Balance August 1, 2011			**$5,955.08**
Reserve for South Sudan2011 final payment			**($500.00)**
Reserve for Prepaid Dues 2012 and Later **			**($1,170.00)**
Available Funds			**$4,285.08**

Respectfully submitted 8-1-2011
Ken Knudson N5TY

NOTES

* Includes PayPal transfers to checking Less PayPal fees
** Future year dues paid but shown in the current balance

Ham Com and W5DXCC 2011

All photos by Jerry KD5OM

Friday Booth Duty
W0VX, N0RB, K9MK with N5TY supervising.

Dan, W5DNT presents speaker Don N1DG with souvenir LSDXA mug after Don's VP8ORK presentation at the W5DXCC dinner.

LSDXA Board at changeover after elections at Hamcom.

N5TY, N0RB, W0VX, W5DNT, N5PG

What a crew !

Ham Com and W5DXCC 2011

Photos by Jerry KD5OM

Saturday morning speakers N0TG, K5AC, K5NA. Thanks guys.

ARRL President Kay Cragie N3KN

DXCC stand down conducted by Herb K5AT

(Occasionally those who have received LSDXA contributions send us an account of their trip. Below is the S9DX story, tnx to Joe for writing and sending it.)

S9DX – A German DXpedition to São Tomé in February 2011

Joe, DF1AL

At the beginning of July 2010 I did not have any plan to visit São Tomé whatsoever. However, a few days later, after an email from Hartmut (DM5TI), this had changed. He invited me to join his team for a DXpedition to São Tomé in February 2011. I happily agreed immediately! This completed a team of eight radio amateurs and one YL ranging from 21 to 71 in age, from rookie to top DXer, of various walks of life and from different places in Germany. Initially some but not all knew one another in person. There is currently no active resident radio amateur in São Tomé. S9 was within the top 100 on most wanted lists in RTTY only. We reckoned 30,000 QSOs might be an attainable goal for our expedition. Only little more than half a year was left for all preparations. All of you who ever engaged in preparing a dx-expedition knows there is in fact quite a lot to do.

With nine passengers, our weight limit for the air travel with the portuguese airline TAP was 180 kgs. Not much for three complete shortwave stations with amplifiers, mast, antennas, cables and so on. TAP charges 55 € per kilo and direction for overweight luggage! To avoid such extra costs we had sent an advance package of 20 kg to our hotel. It contained cable and other heavy material that we could have replaced and added to our luggage if the package had gone lost. Luckily the hotel confirmed the arrival of the package a month after it had been sent and few days before our departure. Even if part of our checked baggage would have gone lost had we still been able to become qrv one way or another.At Munich airport we met and convened from four different regions in Germany and everybody brought the equipment they had prepared for the expedition. Here we split up all material into hand luggage and suitcases so that for example cables were spread over suitcases to minimize the consequences of a potential loss of a suitcase. Hartmut had urged everybody to carry as little personal luggage as possible as most of the weight limit was dedicated to our hobby's paraphernalia. Even cameras were 'restricted'. We took all three K3s and amplifiers into the cabin as our hand luggage.

A night flight via Portugal's capital Lisboa took us to São Tomé and we arrived eleven hours after departure from Munich early at the next morning, 05:35z.

São Tomé and Príncipe is a Portuguese-speaking island nation in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. It consists of two is-

lands: São Tomé and Príncipe, located about 140 km apart and about 250 km off the northwestern coast of Gabon. Both islands are part of an extinct volcanic mountain range. At sea level, the climate is tropical – hot and humid with average yearly temperatures of about 27 °C and little variation. Our visit coincided with the rainy season that runs from October to May. Rainforest covers about 74 % of the country. Other habitats include savanna and mangroves. Sao Tome and Principe are oceanic islands which have always been separate from mainland West Africa and so there is a relatively low diversity of species, restricted to those that have managed to cross the sea to the islands. However the level of endemism is high with many species occurring nowhere else in the world. São Tomé and Príncipe has little more than 200,000 inhabitants and is the second smallest country in Africa. It was released into independence from Portugal in 1975. There is a multiparty system since 1990, however governments have been instable. Sao Tome is amongst the countries with the lowest gross domestic products worldwide. 93 % of their exports are cacao.

At 8'o clock, three hours after landing we had passed immigration control. Travellers need to proof yellow fever vaccination. Malaria is also present in the country. Eventually we were ready for the trip with the hotel bus to the south tip of the main island of São Tomé. The driver and the staff loading our equipment did not comment but their faces left no doubt the amount and weight of luggage was totally different to the usual tourists.

The trip ahead was roughly 60 km. 'No matter' you might believe thinking of the roads back home in your country. The road we were to take actually was the main road on the island. It meanders along the eastern coastline. Some of the bridges over the rivers that flow into the sea, however, were broken. No one cared and they were already overgrown by vegetation. Apparently, the local approach is not to repair the bridges but to use narrow fords instead besides. The driver carefully maneuvered the bus across.

The small boat from Porto Allegre at the south end of São Tomé needs little more than ten minutes to our final destination, the little island of Rolas. But everybody was required to use life jackets because we sailed on the Atlantic ocean. The island of Rolas is a volcanic rock and extends for no more than three kilometers in any direction.

On arrival the hotel manager welcomed us with coconuts. Its milk is delicious, yet not too sweet and refreshing. The little island is used mainly by the hotel resort. The reception in this building is opposite the pier and provides WLAN internet access. Hotel guests are accommodated in semidetached bungalows. For the nine of us, we had three bungalows for living and one separate bungalow

solely for use as shack. The shack was in the front line of bungalows facing the shore and offered enough space to set up our antennas. Most tourists choose these bungalows for the nice view and access to the beach while we accepted the extra cost because it offered more and better options for our antenna setup.

Though exhausted from the night flight and travelling, we immediately started erecting the first antennas. Everything had been configured and planned in detail to facilitate and speed up antenna work on site. Antennas were the responsibility of the Berlin members of the team, Siggi (DM2AYO), Rolf (DL7VEE) and the author. All antennas had been thoroughly pre-tested back home in the garden of our mastermind Siggi. Our SteppIR 2ele Yagi was the first antenna ready for operation.

At 15:28z the team leader Hartmut completed the first QSO of S9DX. He and Ulli (DD2ML) – the Bavarians – took care of the station setup including logging software, WLAN network, filters and cables. We had three identical stations to enable an operator to take over from another operator seamlessly or to change from one position to another. The stations consist of Elecraft K3s, Tokyo Hi Power HL-550 amplifiers and microHAM's micro Keyer II. Logging was done with F5MZN's Win-Test and all three notebooks were linked by a WLAN network perfectly configured and maintained by Ulli.

Tokyo Hi Power had promised Hartmut, to sell us the first two units of their brand new HL-550 amplifiers off the production line. Together with Hartmut's HL -1.1kfx, the predecessor to the HL-550, we had three solid state Tokyo Hi Power amplifiers for our three stations. In addition, the HL-550 now also covers 6m. When our two amplifiers with serial numbers 1 and 2 arrived in January, Hartmut shocked me with reports of his testing them: He disconnected the antenna at full output power. Transmitted into short circuit and high SWR. Nothing happened to the amplifiers. His rude operation of the amplifiers simply activated the safety circuits. When the red LED is lit just switch the amplifier off for reset and continue operation. Hartmut insisted an amplifier would only qualify for DXpedition use if it put away such rough handling. Quite right: Not a single problem with the three amplifiers throughout the complete 13 days of the expedition, even not during the RTTY contest.

Immediately after the initial QSO an incredible pileup had broken forth. It is amazing to see the effect of DX-clusters at the other side of the pileup. During the first days the pileup was so huge that we couldn't help it spread more than usual. We realized the scope covered to grow up to more than 10 or 15kcs, sometimes even 20kcs. However the only way forward to operate at a reasonable rate was to spread up callers by changing the receiving frequency for every

qso.

Everybody not busy operating the station helped to complete more antennas. At the equator dawn is very sharp, it takes just a quarter of an hour from bright daylight to darkness. We knew we had little time left to erect verticals for the lower bands, at least for 40m. Our SteppIR BigIR covers 40m to 6m. In the housing is a motor driven beryllium band that runs within the vertical tube to adjust the antenna to any frequency between 40m to 6m for a perfect match. The SteppIR vertical – and the 160m vertical that we setup on the next day – both stood on the beach. Perfect position for low angle dx radiation. To speed up work we erected the first verticals a little further behind the beach in temporary installation. The manager agreed with all our plans for further antenna construction over the following days but asked us to keep clear from the beach the next two days. There was a speedboat event on Saturday and these boats would land right at the stretch of beach next to our shack bungalow. On Sunday we moved the vertical to their final position. We refrained from the water no further than necessary to make sure the flood at night would not reach the feeding point and cables. The 160m vertical was a L-shaped vertical using an 18m glass fiber mast by Spiderbeam. Some of the radials even ran into the sea.

But at 4:00z S9DX was on the band again. Rolf was one assiduous operator in the night shift crew. 160m and 80m were a hard job. In the first place because of the strong tropical QRN usually around s9. In other words: Callers with signal strengths below s9 had little or no chance to get through most of the time. Only two nights made a difference: With much less QRN a good number of qsos made their way into our log. Rolf was always busy long after midnight and Ulli served the night shift until early in the morning to make S9DX available during greyline openings. Unfortunately there was not enough space for a beverage antenna to improve lowband reception. This is also because we had to keep the walkways free of crossing cable or other obstacles that would have created a risk for other hotel guests or their children to trip over.

The holiday resort is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy life. There is a real big seawater pool – the management claim it is the largest in Africa – and invites guests for a relaxing swim. There is life besides amateur radio – even on a DXpedition!

A 10-minute walk is part of our daily routine: Breakfast and dinner are served at the north-east tip of the little island on a wooden canopied terrace with a marvellous view over the sea and across to the main island. Meals were provided as a buffet with lots of local fish and fruit. The way leads past warnings, "Beware of falling coconuts." Though: What can I do to "beware"? Should I walk constantly

looking up to the treetop? Obviously, getting hit by a coconut could have serious consequences. There lay many coconuts on the ground but we never actually saw or heard one falling.

Klaus (DK1AX) is an enthusiastic CW operator. But whoever sees and hears him working SSB pileups realizes that he developed a new passion. Also, he was one of our photographers – on his walks he always had the eye for the perfect shot. Robin (DO2XX) works sideband pileups in such an experienced and calm manner that you would never have guessed he was the youngest operator in the team. Probably a bit misleading to call him a rookie. Being the son of René (DL2JRM) great talent has undoubtedly been passed on to him. He is the one with next to no accent in his English. René does all his QSOs by hand – no "keystroke qsos" as he derogatorily calls it recalling preset memories. CW is his life. I don't recall him doing many qsos in other modes. His experience of numerous activities from various other spots worldwide was invaluable to the team. Just remember his sucessfull activity as VU3RYO in New Delhi in April this year.

In the hotel resort we lived on the bright side of life. This came clear to us when we walked past the resident's housing area. They live in simple wooden shelters without electricity or water taps. The little church, probably build by the Portuguese while São Tomé was their colony, is the only concrete building beyond the hotel resort. 80% of the Sao Tome citizens are Catholic. The hotel operates a powerful generator for their own power supply. During our stay electricity was interrupted only once and for a short moment. But we may have been lucky: One guest reported the generator had broken down the week before and all guests had been evacuated to a hotel on the main island for the weekend while the generator was replaced with a new one. In contrast to the shelters, our hotel accommodation was pleasant and clean. Also, there was air conditioning available.

In preparing the expedition Rolf and Hartmut had contacted the teams of VP8ORK and TJ9PF to coordinate our preferred working frequencies. This kept pileups apart from one another and to avoid confusion on the bands. It also helped callers to find the expeditions on the band when waiting for potential band openings.

The west coast of Africa is an excellent place for a DXpedition because of its similar distance to Europe, North and South America. When bands are equally open to North America and Europe at the same time, the pileup actually becomes twice as strong and demanding to handle. Our antennas on the beach had an excellent free take-off for North and South America, Europe and also Asia. But the hill behind (south of the antennas) meant a big obstacle for con-

tacts to Australia, New Zealand and Oceania. Given the topography 64 VKs and 15 ZLs is still a good result.

I remember my shift on 40m cw at Valentine's Day from 22:00z with strong signals, most s9+ from Europe and Stateside. Stations were calling in a spectrum of 10+ kcs. The pileup was so dense that it was real hard to pick up individual calls, or sometimes even meaningful fragments. The only way forward was to sharply concentrate and focus on one caller. I tried to return with full callsigns whenever feasible. And I was glad to even pull out a couple of JAs who were calling below the loud majority of callers. A demanding shift but also an outstanding experience.

The island of Rolas provides two touristic highlights.

One is the landmark marking the crossing of the Equator with the Prime Meridian. It is within walking distance uphill from the hotel compound. The tiles on the ground around the column illustrate the continents, the Equator and the Prime Meridian. However, Hartmut's GARMIN desecrates the landmark: though the Equator in fact runs across the island of Rolas, the Prime Meridian intersects somewhere in the open Atlantic. Anyway, we are pretty close to the virtual "center" of the world – and at its landmark on shore. It feels great to put one of your feet on the north and the other on the south hemisphere.

The other "must see"-excursion is the so called "blowing hole" at the opposite coast of the island. A guide leads us through the tropical forest across the island. The shoreline here consists of black vulcanic rock. The "blowing hole" is a hole in the vulcanic rock linked with an extended system of connected caves. When the waves of the upcoming tide crash against the shore, water vapor is blown up.

During our stay the temperature was in the high-20°Cs most of the time. But there are clouds at times and the sun does not shine always. On two days there were sudden rainfalls. They did not last too long but were heavy. After the rain humidity increased and there was fog of damp. This is typical for the rainy season. Positive aspect: During the nights after rainfalls there is less QRN.

A closer look at our antennas: The SteppIR BigIR vertical and the 160m L-antenna stood on the beach in the best place available. Reports and feedback received indicate that they worked as perfect as you would expect from a vertical with ground water right below the surface. Behind them you can see the 80m vertical. It is fixed to a 18m Spiderbeam glass fiber mast as is the 160m L-antenna. Effective and easy to build. Lightweight and ideal for a dx-expedition

with a transportation length of only 1,70m (abt 5 ft). To the 80m vertical we added a radiator for 40m. This allowed us to work on 40m while the SteppIR vertical was in use for other bands.

More flexibility was gained by triple leg antennas for 17m and 30m and a vertical dipole for 10m. These antennas were particularly useful during the weekend of the WPX RTTY contest when one antenna was reserved for RTTY and thus unavailable for the WARC bands. Siggi and Hartmut contributed strongly to the over 9,000 RTTY QSOs (2,000+ during the wpx) of S9DX. This offered a fair chance to everybody to work S9DX on RTTY.

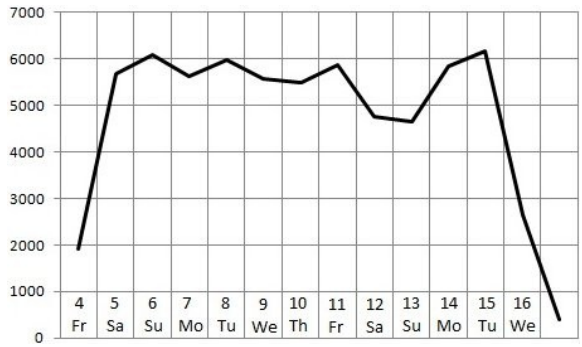
Ulli's versatile coverage of all modes and bands contributed to our desire to offer chances for contacts in as many bandslots as possible. With the slightly increasing solar flux we checked for band openings on the higher bands and tried to also pave Asian callers their way into our log. We thank the audience in Europe and also America for their patience while we listened for JA and others whose band openings were short. Regrettably it only takes one impatient loud caller to destroy a QSO or to lengthen it to the detriment of everybody waiting. Lowbands were difficult because of the QRN level and the lack of space for beverage antennas.

We appreciate the big and favourable feedback from radio amateurs all over the world via the guestbook on our website http://s9dx.hkmann.de. There were far more than 5,000 entries on the cluster. It was part of our daily routine to read and consider your comments and your feedback on our website. In our team meetings we discussed suggestions received, our experiences and strategy. But there was no internet access in the shack. Operators could not react on online requests for instant band changes. The reach of the hotel's WLAN network was limited to the reception and foyer about 300m away from the shack. The foyer at the reception had soon become a popular meeting point. Particularly Ulli could be seen there frequently when he uploaded the log to www.clublog.org. This procedure sometimes took an hour or even longer due to the very slow internet access. Regrettably, clublog does not allow differential uploads limited to new QSOs since the last upload, but rather requires the log always to be uploaded completely. clublog.org requires the whole log with each upload - differential adding of new qsos only is not possible. The more qsos the longer it takes and the likelier that the connection breaks down in the middle of uploading. Sometimes, in particular at the weekend, internet access was disturbed and remained temporarily unavailable. It is for that reason that some of our daily uploads were delayed.

Everybody of the whole team enjoyed the DXpedition very much. In the first

place because of the positive atmosphere and friendship between all participants. Essential to the success of the DXpedition are of course the contacts you made with us and we would like to thank all callers for their patience and cooperation. Thanks to all of you who made our DXpedition a success and we apologize for those who did not make it into the log.

On the 17th of February the boat brought us back to the main island. On our way back we visited VOA - Voice of America in the outskirts of São Tomé. On request of Harmut the management had invited us for a visit. São Tomé is the home of their relay station for Africa. What we call coax cable in amateur radio at VOA is a tube as thick as a sewage pipe. Different league of dimension! Finally Hartmut had arranged for a guided tour that took us to a cacao plantation. Cacao is yellow – as a fruit! It was the first time for me to taste a piece of fresh cacao fruit. We learned how much effort and time it takes to produce the sweet chocolate of it that we know and enjoy. 93 % of São Tomé's export is cacao.



Overall 66,697 contacts were completed within 13 days of operation. That is more than twice the number we had set as our goal before the expedition. Between the first and the very last QSO the average rate is 3.7 QSOs/minute. This includes streches of slow operation like lowbands at night or temporary interruptions during antenna works, team meetings or for other reason. The average number of QSOs per day was around 5,500. It dropped slightly during the RTTY contest at the weekend of 12th/13th February.

The top 10 DXCCs worked by S9DX reflect the excellent takeoff to America and Europe.

DXCC	QSOs
K	16,254
DL	8,258
I	4,963
UA	3,209
JA	2,998
SP	2,778
EA	2,613
UR	2,579
F	2,405
ROW	11,607

With more than 9,000 RTTY-QSOs – they amount to 14 % of all qsos (CW: 55 %, SSB: 31 %) – S9 should have made room for another country to move up into the TOP100 most wanted DXCCs on RTTY.

The number of QSOs on 20m was only slightly ahead of other bands because we tried to focus on the high oder low bands whenever they were open. Our efforts on 10m and 12m were supported by a slightly increasing flux towards the end of our stay. In total, almost 10 % of all qsos were done on these two bands. There were no workable openings on 6m and the outcome on this band was limited to few contacts to the Canary Islands. 160m was difficult because of the usually strong QRN and the lack of beverage antennas. With a view to these circumstances 763 QSOs – all in CW – are a reasonable figure.

band	QSOs
6m	4
10m	1,280
12m	4,776
15m	12,509
17m	12,042
20m	15,090
30m	8,227
40m	7,731
80m	4,280
160m	763

We are overwhelmed by the positive feedback received on our website and in comments on the DX-cluster. There were 5,266 entrys at the OH8X dx-cluster. We are particularly grateful the Chiltern DX Club CDXC for its donation towards the costs of the expedition.

We printed two versions of our QSL-card. There are many hams who worked us on more bandslots than can be printed on one card. They receive two cards with different photos. QSL-manager is Heiko (DL1RTL), also the manager of VK9XX, VK9XW and HS0ZII.

Islands of São Tomé and Rolas

S9DX Team

René DL2JRM, Joe DF1AL, Hartmut DM5TI, Robin DO2XX, Ulli DD2ML, Rolf DL7VEE, Klaus DK1AX, Siggi DM2AYO

S9DX Antennas

The Shack

Beach bungalow

0 degrees North x 0 degrees East

W5DXCC Prize Winners

Once again W5DXCC and Ham-Com have come and gone for another year.

Below are the winners of the door prizes at the W5DXCC Dinner Friday June 10, 2011:

KC5DJI, Amy Daze, Houston TX — **Yaesu FT-2000** transceiver

AE5OM, Sallie Howard, Austin TX — **Alpha model 4510** power meter)

N5ET, Bob Walworth, Spring TX — **Force12 antenna** model Delta240

W5HFF, E. Russ Lawler, Richmond TX — **Array Solutions** AA54 ant. analyzer

KE5HMI Jana Brooke, Allen TX — **Begali** Graciela Junior paddles

A great year for the YLs.

Dues are Due

Please submit the form with your check and **note your callsign on the check**. Ken thanks you !

The Renewal/Application Form can be found at: http://www.dxer.org/paypal.html

PayPal or US Mail OK.

LSDXA Officers

Elected Officers

President - Dave Jaksa, W0VX
Information Director - Paul Godwin, N5PG
Activities Director - Rick Barnett, NØRB
Secretary/Treasurer - Ken Knudson, N5TY

Appointed Officers

DXCC Card Checker -Mike Krzystyniak, K9MK
Hamfest Vice-Director - vacant
Reflector Vice-Director - Tim Pearson, K5AC
WWW Vice-Director - Pete Hicks, N5KD
LSDXA Net Manager - Victor Paul, WBØTEV

http://www.lsdxa.org