

THE DX'ER



-THE RADIO AMATEUR'S PLAYGROUND-

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T19MHB

John attended our last club meeting of March 10th and gave a very interesting description of his Cocos Island Expedition. For the benefit of those who were not at the meeting here are a few notes to give you a small idea of John' trip:

The expedition sailed out of Los Angeles right on schedule, 11:30 a.m. 8th January, on the Isle of Capri. Radio gear was set up in a room and 21 mc. M/M was used all the way. John says he didn't get seasick, but some of the crew were seasick all the time, both going and coming.

On arrival in Costa Rica the Revolution was going full blast, however this small matter didn't slow the treasure hunters down one bit! All the police force were up north taking care of the Rebels and the Boy Scouts were handling things at home! Fighters who distinguished themselves against the Rebels were given first opportunity to go on the treasure hunt as a reward!

The Isle of Capri arrived at Chatham Bay, Cocos Island at 4 A.M. The navigator hit it right on the nose. The seas were very calm. A person could see the bottom of the bay in 40 feet of water, it was so clear. The beach was only visible at low tide and that was the only time that the small boats could be landed with the supplies. High tide came clear up to the jungle. The high tide would wash over the first 7mc. longwire antenna.

At first the generator was only about 150 feet from the soldiers tents and after the second day John had to get off the air as the soldiers complained about the noise. However, moving the power plant across a creek to a safer distance took care of that situation.

The humidity was terrific, inside of the tent there was a continual fine spray. The equipment was dripping with water and even things covered had droplets of water on the inside. In spite of the moisture there was very little trouble, a burnt strap on the antenna roller coil and one rusted generator brush holder was the only items to conk out.

Best antenna results were with 7 & 14 mc. ground planes and a longwire for 80 & 160 meters did the trick on the lower frequencies.

(continued next page)

T H E D X ' E R

At first all John could work was East Coast, on 14mc he could QSO them all day long. The W6s had to peak before he could work them really consistently but then they would take over. Before they peaked up their sigs had a very bad flutter and were hard to copy. On 7mc fone W5s & W9s came in all day, it was just alive with them. A few W6s would come through now and then. The fone bands were just one big heterodyne. The real big sigs were the high angle ones whereas the low angle boys were poor. Europeans on 80 sounded just like Ws and the same on 40 & 20.

160 meters was tried and after several CQs, Bob of WØNWX/FOBAJ answered W6KIP was the only W6 QSO'd on this band.

Asians were very difficult to QSO as the path is right over the Pole.

Europeans were the worst offenders for calling right on the frequency and John said he could have worked many more if they had spread out and answered 20 up as per instructions. The VFO had to be left on at all times and it put out an S9 sig, that's why he couldn't QSO close to his frequency and many missed a QSO for this reason.

John just didn't hear any Africans in the southern part of the continent, EL2X was the furthestest south that he managed to work.

About T19Br: John says that they operated from aboard ship at all time and he has a signed statement from one of the crew members to that effect

T19MHB made 2042 QSOs and on arriving back at Costa Rica John took sick and had to fly back home, he had lost over 50 lbs.

After the second day it was very apparent that the \$60,000,000 treasure hunt was doomed, but in spite of this they stayed and many an amayeur received a new country, thanks to W6MHB for a job well done.

* * * * *

We finally had enough members present at our last meeting to act upon the Petition that was presented Dec. 1953 to amend our Constitution and By-Laws. The members present voted unanimously to accept the petition and now we have the machinery whereby we can cast a ballot by mail. The new Constitution and by-laws will be found elsewhere in this paper, please save for future reference.

We were honored with the presence of six visitors: W6JZ-Director Pac. Div. of the ARRL, W6YUS-W7DZO-W6PQW-W6DIP. Please visit us again. We were also glad to see W6MUF and K6AQP make the meeting, both have new QTHs and we wish them good luck on DX!

A letter from the ARRL, in answer to the club' letter, was read into the minutes, regarding the new countries situation. The general consensus of opinion was that the League was avading the issue. W6LDD was instructed to write another letter to the League restating the issues.

73 & DX, W6G#B, Editor.

DX'ER DEADLINE

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR BY THE 26th.