

October 1967

Dear Fellow DXer,

The time has come to bring you up to date on the DXpedition and once again ask your continued support. I'll attempt to give you all the details and let you decide whether it is worthwhile, at this stage, to continue or quit the DXpedition. A self-addressed envelope is provided, and we would greatly appreciate your comments and suggestions, and any support you can give at this time. If adequate finances permit, we will continue; if not, contributions will be returned to those donating, and the DXpedition will be terminated. Whatever does happen, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of all those connected with this expedition, to thank each and every one of you for your encouragement and support. Few amateurs realize just how much planning and effort are involved in a venture of this magnitude (the Dxpediton has been on all seven continents), and just how discouraged one can get with all the obstacles, both deliberate and incidental (hi). I'll try to bring you up to date, in outline form:

1. Bill, WA6SBO, and myself left the States 3 months ago; en route to this area it was necessary to make arrangements for future operations, meet with DX organizations (mostly in Europe), conduct a great deal of research and supply information regarding the ARRL mess and the legal complications, and arrange for transporting our gear, Our funds were in fair shape at that time.
2. By the time the Dxpediton actually was underway, however, we were burdened by mounting expenses; these included expenses connected with the ARRL crisis (it is difficult to combat the degrading material published by ARRL at the expense

of thousands of dollars)

expenses for transportation of gear (about double what we had anticipated), expenses connected with Bill's urgent and unexpected return home, and various miscellaneous expenditures that were not anticipated.

3. It was quite clear we were in poor shape, but at least we were able to secure transportation for a reasonable price (Indian Ocean) and start rolling again, with operations from St. Brandon and Rodrigues Islands. The bands had seemed quite "dead" but the activity, on all bands, was well worth while.

4. An emergency at home necessitated Bill's untimely return to the States; it looks quite unlikely that we will join up again before long. This was quite a disappointment for both of us; Bill put a great deal of effort and time into the planning of the Expedition and deserves much of the credit for successfully launching the Expedition again.

5. Larry Page, WB2DHF, obtained the Mauritius license, VQ8CC, and the two of us worked together on these operations; Steven Gibbs, VQ8CC, joined us for the Rodrigues operation. Both Larry and Steve deserve a great deal of credit for the operating and physical work involved. Larry will probably accompany me for future operations in this area, although this is not quite definite.

6. The ARRL Awards Committee has been supplied with the following documents to verify the operations from St. Brandon and Rodrigues Islands: Original of License, original of statement, signed by Island Manager and Meteorological Officers at St. Brandon, stating we were there, original of receipt for travel to and from Rodrigues Island via commercial ship, telegrams indicating arrangements for accommodations at Rodrigues, original

of letter from private lessee of St. Brandon giving us permission to land and visit,
and so on. We weren't sure whether or not this would be required, but I did not want to take any chances that QSL cards would be rejected, even temporarily, for these operations. The Statement from the Awards Committee in May indicated the new policy of requiring these, but it was not quite clear whether they should be submitted automatically, or whether they should be sent only at the Committee's request. Just to be on the safe side, they were submitted by registered air mail. We hope to have word from the Committee on how to handle this in the future and, as I promised the Directors in May, we will continue to cooperate with the Committee on future operations and be quite careful to document everything, so that no misunderstanding or rejection of cards can possibly occur.

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7. The trip to St. Brandon was accomplished on the 30-foot trimaran, Edward Bear; we actually set sail for Rodrigues, against the strong trade winds (no engine), but half-way there a stay snapped and we tore two sails, so we turned North and made the 300 miles to St. Brandon in about 36 hours. VQ8CBB was slow in getting started for a number of reasons; first, there were medical emergencies on the Island - the temporary island manager was quite ill with acute rheumatic fever; he, and skipper Jack Astley, who was suffering from a paralyzed right hand due to a radial nerve injury, were returned to Mauritius on the fishing vessel, the Siren, the day after we landed in Brandon. The, I was quite shocked to learn of Bill's emergency departure for the States.

8. Larry and I returned to Mauritius on the Edward Bear in about 40 hours. About 5500 QSO's were made from St. Brandon, on all bands, 80 through 10 meters.

9. Steve, Larry and I traveled to Rodrigues Island on the M.V. Mauritius; we operated from the Cable & Wireless Station, and four, 100-foot towers with platforms were placed at our disposal; this accounted for about 6,000 QSO's on all bands; W2RAA and VK5KO were worked on 160 meters; 75 meter phone was excellent into Europe and the States, even long-path to W6; again, long-path openings to the West Coast were available on all bands, 10 through 80 meters!

10. QSL's: I must take the blame for some of the confusion that has arisen regarding QSLing for the Dxpedition. I arbitrarily changed QSL managers, against Bill's wishes, without adequately consulting Bill first. Please accept my apology for any inconvenience or delay which may result. Here are the definite QSL arrangements:

A. Roy, K0TCF, and his XYL, Laurie, are handling all QSL's

for contacts with this

Dxpedition since August 15th, 1967. This includes VQ8CBB, St. Brandon, and Rodrigues Islands. Roy will continue to handle QSL's for the remainder of the Dxpedition. His QTH: K0TCF
423 Miriam Ave.
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122, USA

Cards already sent to WA6SBO will be forwarded to K0TCF.

B. Bill, WA6SBO, continues to handle cards for contacts made before August 15th, including VQ8CB/A.

C. Ack, W4ECI, continues to handle cards for all previous operations, through January, 1967 (last operation, VU2WNV, Laccadives)

D. Regarding Rodrigues, the calls VQ8CBR, VQ8CCR, and VQ8CHR were all used; QSO's with CCR only, may be QSLed via VQ8CC; all others should go via K0TCF. If cards were inadvertently sent to Roy or Steve by mistake, they will be handled by whom-ever they were sent (both have logs for the other operations).

E. All SWL cards should go via VE3GCO.

11. Direct QSL cards: In 1965, at the start of the Dxpedition, Ack and I announced that we would send QSL's directly, from on-the-spot locations, to those contributing \$25 or more;

we have continued that policy all throughout the Dxpedition. The ARRL Statement of early

this year found no fault with this policy. It should be remembered, however, that the

Dxpedition has maintained a 100% QSL Service via our manager and that no preference is

given on-the-air regarding contributions. A solid QSO must be made before any QSL is sent,

and QSL's are answered irrespective of financial support. The recent ARRL investigation

supported these policies, and the Dxpedition was given a clean bill of health regarding QSLing.

12. Frequencies and band openings: The Dxpedition will continue to

use the same frequencies.

Here is a rundown, with peak openings from the Indian Ocean;
Listening frequencies are
announced on the air:

160 meters 1827 Kcs (listening 1802, 1998 Kcs)

W2RAA worked, solid S 5-6 (SSB would have been easy) at
2305Z.

VK5KO worked 1800Z.

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80 - 75 Meters

CW-3502: SSB-3795 Kcs

Frequencies vary with commercial QRM; W6-7 LP FB at 1330Z on SSB, W2 SP at 2300-0100;

Eur at 200-0200Z, SA at same times.

40 Meters

CW-7001-7008; SSB-7070-7095 Kcs

Same as 80 meters, LP opens to W2 as early as 1100Z; SP stays open past 0200Z, Eur

Open all night, LP W6-7 SSB open as late as 1500Z.

20 Meters

CW-14045; SSB-14105 Kcs

USA LP 1100-1500Z, USA SP 1800-0400Z, W6 LP also at 0200-0400Z; Eur best 1500-1900Z

but we usually operate 21-28Mcs then: JA same as LP USA, SA LP same as USA LP; SA

SP 1800-0400Z, Pacific same as LP USA.

10-15 Meters

CW-28045, 21045; SSB-21245,

28605 Kcs

Eur & SA & SP USA 1400-2000Z; LP to W5-6-7 FB at 0300-0500Z, SP occasionally at 0200Z

13. This Dxpediton, together with the Long Island DX Association, has contributed a Swan

Transceiver for use in the Mauritius-Indian Ocean areas, for fixed and emergency use, and

for Dxpeditons: it is currently in custody and use of Mr. Paul Caboche, VQ8AD, a real DX

pioneer in this area. In addition, we have distributed about 500 publications (CQ, ARRL,

Etc.) since this phase of the Dxpediton began; these were purchased, and some donated by

WILVQ and W9LKJ. We are attempting to assist with formation of an amateur radio club in

Mauritius. Medical Services were donated at St. Brandon. Lectures and slide presentations

were given in Birmingham and London, England, Manheim, Germany, Geneva, Switzerland (IARC),

Zurich, Switzerland and Oslo, Norway, en route. It is regretted that talks this month in

Geneva and London had to be cancelled because of Bill's return to our present change of

plans.

14. This Dxpediton continues to receive unnecessary harrassment from a number of sources;

most is sour grapes over not being worked; some is in the form of active campaigning

against the Dxpediton under the false disguise of "fair play", Etc. By now, nobody is

being fooled by this type of publicity and misleading transmissions and publications.

Here are some of the sources:

A. ARRL Awards Committee:

(1) Publications distributed to U.S.Government Agencies, non-ARRL Members, Etc.,

but only to Honor Roll Members (the "chosen few") among ARRL Membership, at

the expense of thousands of dollars. During our lecture tour across the

States, ARRL distributed anti-Dxpediton propaganda, in advance, to each

home we visited, including non-ARRL Members and non-DXCC holders!

(2) Three anti-Dxpediton documents released through North Jersey DX Association

in advance of the rest of the DX fraternity.

(3) Continued harrassment of Dxpediton in every way possible. Deliberate failure

to credit QSO's made from Geyser Reef, despite the fact that I have supplied

documentation that Geyser Reef is above water, and that the Documents re-

garding claims from various neighboring countries, requested by Bob White

to give Geyser Reef separate country status, were submitted Nine Months ago.

It's a pity that thousands of QSO's have not yet been accepted for credit in

the interim of almost a year, while somebody tries to find a way to disqualify

that operation.

(4) In May I met with the Directors of ARRL and a Gentlemens' Agreement was made;

the Directors assured me the matter was resolved, warned me to be quite care-

ful in our future operations and wished me luck; this agreement has now been

broken by the Committee; against the Directors' wishes, operations from St.

Peter & Paul's Rocks and Chagos Island were discredited, along with Heard

Island! No further information against the first two was supplied by the

Committee since the May Directors' meeting; yet, the Directors' decision was

reversed (the Directors definitely met and decided each operation prior to the

final Committee Statement); my letter of thanks to the Directors was included

in the minutes of the Directors' meeting and published in QST. There can be

no denying these Facts.

(5) The discreditation of these last three operations was done without further

consulting me on any of the three; I was not asked to supply further document-

ation or even asked a single question regarding Heard Island. Thus, it is

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definitely not true that the reason for these discreditation was because I "failed to supply information" requested by the Committee.

(6) The new regulation, stated in the Committee's publication following the Directors' Meeting, is a good one, and backs up the wishes of the Directors, that future operations be documented. However, the Committee has now made this new regulation retroactive to my past operations!

Regarding the past, I have a letter from Bob White telling me it is strictly up to the individual on whether or not he documented DX operations. The annoying thing is that, in the history of DXCC, I am the only DX operator who has ever been asked, retroactively, to supply such documents as ships' papers, and the first to have an operation questioned on the basis of whether I had a right to be in a particular place at a particular time. Never before has any DX operation been discredited on this basis. Therefore, the thought that these "rules" are being applied to all DXpeditions, is a mere fantasy!

In fact, an operation from Tibet was unquestioned by the Committee after ARRL President Hoover told the Directors that entry into that country without passport validation was strictly illegal and after I gave Mr. Huntoon the Original of a letter from the State Department backing this up; Operations from XE4, AC4, PY0, and several from Africa and the Caribbean areas, even when the operators had admitted violations and asked that these be discredited, were ignored; Ours, however, continued to be

discredited, against the wishes of
the Directors, without consulting me, and by
ignoring whatever evidence I was
able to present, even retroactively.

For these reasons, the ARRL Matter is now being
handled by my attorney and
suit will be filed if necessary; this was done
only as a last resort and after
all else failed and the Directors' decisions
reversed and the agreement broken.

B. Particular South American DXer, particular Editor, Etc.,
Claiming certain operations
were illegal, Etc. Hardly worth mentioning;
passport shows, quite clearly,
entry and exit into and out of areas, operating
licenses and permits have been
available upon request for many months; What
really upsets me is that some of
these operations involved a great deal of work by
Chuck Swain and Ted Thorpe,
who gave their lives needlessly for such
ungrateful individuals. Please
consider the source.

15. This should bring you up to date with the FACTS. There remain
a total of five possible DX
operations from the Indian Ocean area and four en
route back to the USA.

Two will most definitely qualify as new countries
for DXCC; a third may also.
Another four are also in the "top ten" most wanted
DX countries. We are here,
with adequate gear and transportation, but cannot
continue further without your
help and support. Believe me, it has been quite a
struggle all the way through,
and I would hate to call it quits without visiting
these remaining countries.

Please return the enclosed envelope as soon as
possible; give us your ideas
and suggestions and whatever support you can -
with adequate donations we will
continue; otherwise, it's 73. In a few weeks
we'll let you know the outcome and

decision.

Best 73, and good

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Don Miller, W9WNV, Etc.

DXing!

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