

**DX Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report**

**December 31, 2007**

**To the American Radio Relay League  
Board of Directors**

**Submitted by  
Bob Allphin, K4UEE  
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee  
Southeastern Division Representative**

## Introduction

I would like to update the Board on the overall DXing environment in 2007. Despite the fact that we probably experienced the bottom of Sunspot cycle 23 during the past six months, DXers have been busy with lots of DX to work and many DXpeditions to make the bands interesting. I have chosen to include the following article titled "2007 DXCC Year End Review" written by Joe Reisert, W1JR and recently published in The Daily DX. This will serve well as my year end summary.

*"DX wise, the year 2007 was just as challenging, if not more so, than 2006. During January 2007 we saw some solar activity but it really tapered off by mid-February. A few small disturbances came in late April when 6-meter aurora was detected. June and July also saw some small disturbances but by September the sun had really settled down. Solar flux numbers dropped all the way down to 65 in early October. Solar minimum had been predicted for early in the year. If in fact we did go through minimum, it may have occurred when the solar flux was 70 or below for most of October and November.*

*On 11 December, a high latitude region of magnetically reversed polarity appeared on the Sun. Although the region never became a sunspot, it is a possible indicator that Solar Cycle 24 is approaching. On 21 December, NASA released a prediction that cycle 24, expected to peak in 2010 or 2011, may be "one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." Since smoothed sunspot numbers are officially released nine months after the fact, we will not know until at least mid 2008 if in fact we have already reached the end of Solar Cycle 23 and started Solar Cycle 24.*

*That being said, there was still plenty of DX activity in 2007 albeit mostly concentrated on 160 through 17 meters. 20 meters was the bread winner and 17 meters was not too far behind during daylight hours. 10 through 15 meters were spotty at best and then mostly on the North/South paths. We enjoyed unexpectedly good propagation during both days of the CQ WW SSB DX Contest with spectacular worldwide 15 meter openings and brief 10 meter openings to Europe, Africa and the Pacific and strong openings to the south.*

*Although no longer rare, the year started out with a large scale effort from SMOM using the call sign 1A4A even workable on 160 meters. This was quickly followed by operations on all HF bands with large scale operations by XT2C, S21XA, VU7MY and VU7RG. I'd speculate that a DXer with a moderate antenna farm and a reasonable amount of effort could have worked as many as 200 DXCC entities during January.*

*February saw good activity from a semi-rare entity when ZK3RE operated all bands and made an effort to satisfy the 160 meter gang. This was followed by 3B9/G3TXF, one of Nigel's several CW operations during 2007, most with Roger G3SXW (1A0KM, FY, JW, OY, PJ2, V2). YW0DX came on from Aves Island but this may be the last operation from there for some time as the island was*

severely diminished in size by hurricane Dean later in the year. DX0JP made an effort to put Spratly on the low bands. Also active in February were VK9DNX from Norfolk as well as 9U0X and 9U0Z by DJ6SI and DJ9ZB respectively. Other notable semi-rare DX entities made appearances early in 2007 such as J20RR/J20MM, J5UAR, 9M4SDX (Spratly), D60VB, XW1A, ZL1GO/8, ZM8CW and 4W6AAV.

In early April, N8S made a big effort to work those who missed the first Swains Island (KH8SI) DXpedition. Conditions were not great on the higher bands but many worked N8S on the lower bands. In early May after ten years of waiting, BS7H came on from Scarborough Reef. Setting up the equipment on four rocks was difficult and propagation conditions were not the best. Many deserving made the grade but many others did not and are hoping for a repeat operation. 3B7SP showed up in June followed by a large scale 3B7C operation in September. VP6TD and VP6AL from Pitcairn made it into many logs in between May and August, and FW0MO and FW0YL were particularly active on the low bands in July and August. On August 14th a station signing 7O/G4HCL used a local Yemen Communications station to activate that rare entity but no documentation has been received by the DXCC desk at this time.

The later third of the year saw VK9WWI activate Willis mostly on the lower bands. Rare to semi rare DXpeditions included 3C7Y, H40MY, 5L2MS (Liberia), 1A3A (during the SSB DX contest), VK9CCC, XF4s, TN6X and TN9Z, E4/OM2DX, 3D2AG/P (Rotuma), 9U0A, V8FDM, V8FWP, V8FWU and C91KDJ to name a few. A station is now on Bouvet using the call sign 3Y0E but has not shown much action as the year ends. Let's hope 3Y0E makes it into many logs before they leave Bouvet in mid-February.

Many DXers got a rare Christmas present when St. Barthelemy (FJ) was added to the DXCC list for contacts made on or after December 14, 2007. That is the date when it was added to the US State Department Fact Sheet. Martti, OH2BH and Olli, OH0XX came on the air on December 18th as FJ/OH2AM and operated through Christmas day giving many of the Deserving a new one. Local FJ5KH also was activated. The addition of FJ to the DXCC list means that the current entities list was increased to 338. Stay tuned. There are several possibilities for more new entities in 2008! 60 meters also showed promise as more entities obtained permission to operate on that band.

Approximately 291 DXCC entities were activated during 2007, several more than in 2006. CW did not die since I worked over 250 entities on CW, about the same number as worked in 2006. Many stations with no code licenses, especially outside the USA, have been operating on CW and some have shown great CW skills. At the same time, some SSB operators have noticed an increase in activity, especially during SSB contests."

### **Issues/Concerns/feedback from the DX community**

Prior to writing this year-end summary, I asked the DXAC members to provide any issues, concerns or feedback that had come from DXers in their respective Divisions. I am happy to

report that the only issue that was reported concerned the average 15 week backlog at the DXCC desk. Some feel that this is excessive and that the ARRL should add or adjust manpower to considerably shorten this average backlog.

### **Issues/Concerns/feedback from the DXAC**

This comment is of interest, in that it reflects the fact that the DXAC has not been very busy lately.

*“DXAC has been pretty quiet this year, hasn't it. I'm somewhat surprised that the folks in Newington don't see a need to keep DXAC informed in advance of potential decisions when things like the FJ/FS situation crop up - not to mention the Dutch Antilles and Kosovo. It would be nice to feel "in the loop", even when ARRL management believes that the existing DXCC rules fully define what must happen to the various Entities.”*

### **Other comments**

On Jan. 2, 2008, I received an email from Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, ARRL-DXAC liaison. I was notified that the ARRL Programs and Services Committee had approved an assignment to the DXAC to study and report the impact on DXing and DXCC of remote operations. We have been given a May 1, 2008 deadline to present our findings and recommendations. We look forward to being of service.

Respectfully submitted,

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