

March 2010

HF Happenings 398

What is YOUR Radio Club doing for World Amateur Radio Day on Sunday 18 April and for Marconi Day on Saturday 24 April?



Chilean amateurs praised for their efforts

There has been high praise for the Radio Club of Chile following the earthquake and aftershocks.

A television news report describes the Chilean radio amateurs as a collection of dedicated operators scattered across the country, proving to be an information lifeline during recent events. While telephones and the internet largely failed, many of the radio operators had back-up power and were able to provide vital lines of communication, picked up by National Radio Chile and rebroadcast, giving status of various affected areas. The report went further to say that claims that ham radio is dying were put to rest as these operators provided such vital communication links.

The Radio Club of Chile has expressed its thanks to the world's radio amateurs for keeping emergency frequencies free during their nation's time of need.

DXCC News

8 year old receives DXCC certificate!
Bill Moore, NC1L, Awards Branch Manager, reports that on 16 March, the Virginia DX Century Club's Vice President, Ron Young, W8RJL formally presented 8-year-old William Ferguson, KJ4EYZ, with his DXCC certificate at a Club meeting. William is the son of Rich, N2XQM. His achievement makes him the youngest full member of the VaDXCC, and one of the youngest members of the DX Century Club. On an added note, William's 10-year old sister Carissa, KJ4EZA, has 82 countries worked - the DXCC expect to be hearing from her shortly! To see William's presentation, go to [http://www\[dot\]arrl\[dot\]org/blog/Century%20Club%20Awards](http://www[dot]arrl[dot]org/blog/Century%20Club%20Awards)



Frequency Change for Amateur Radio Mirror International

On 28 March the 17 860 kHz frequency for Amateur Radio Mirror International will change to 17 560 kHz. Amateur Radio Mirror International is on the air on Sundays at 08:00 UTC on 7 205 kHz and 17 560 kHz with a repeat on Mondays at 19:05 UTC on 3 215 kHz. Receptions reports are invited send them to [armi\[at\]sarl\[dot\]org\[dot\]za](mailto:armi[at]sarl[dot]org[dot]za).

CEPT meetings in Istanbul

International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 members will take part in two separate CEPT European Communications Office meetings in Istanbul on 30 and



31 March and 6 to 9 April.

Panayot Danev, LZ1US, will represent IARU Region 1 at the annual Civil/Military meeting of the Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG) that takes place over the period 30 and 31 March 2010 and this will be closely followed by a meeting of the WRC-12 Conference Preparatory Group Project Team C, which takes place between 6 and 9 April 2010.

While there are no immediate matters to concern the amateur services during the Civil/Military meeting it is always a good opportunity to have a presence in case matters arise that could affect our interests. The fact that the meeting Chairman is Russian and Panayot speaks the language is an added bonus.

The Project Team C (PT-C) meeting will discuss, amongst other things, WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23 which is the IARU proposal for a secondary frequency allocation around 500 kHz. Ulrich Mueller, DK4VW, the Region 1 HF Manager will represent DARC in the German delegation while John Gould, G3WKL, will be in the UK delegation as the RSGB representative.

The CEPT Coordinator for this agenda item is Colin Thomas, G3PSM. There will also be a number of other licensed radio amateurs within their respective delegations representing either their administrations or organisations. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to remind readers who are members of their national societies and have an interest in this agenda item that a 500 kHz discussion forum does exist within the IARU-R1 website.

ZS8M Pirate?

Pierre, ZS1HF, reports this past week: "Hi All, Yes, in true tradition, we will have an idiot pirating my call sign - ZS8M. Shame on you! Please note.... ZS8M will only be operational from approx 15 May 2010. Before I get operational, I will notify you all via qrz.com once I am ready. Please do not entertain any idiot pirating my call sign before I make the announcement. My technical training is progressing well. The complete team gathers on Tuesday 23 March in Cape Town to start team training - fire fighting, first aid and cooking. 73 for now..... Pierre ZS1HF"

Brand-New Prefix Launches for CQ WPX Contest

For the first time, the Azores Islands will be active under the call sign CQ8X in this weekend's WPX Contest, featuring a multinational team of CU2CE, CU2DX, DL6LAU, N6RC, OH1TV, OH2BH, OH2UA, OH6KN, OH6RM and

March 2010

ZS10WCS operated by the Sandton and West Rand ARCs

- 26 Schools Close
- 27 Pretoria ARC Flea Market; PIC course at NARC; Earth Hour 8:30 pm
- 27 - 28 CQ WW WPX SSB
- 28 Palm Sunday
- 30 Pesach (Passover)
- 31 SARL Club Championship - digital

April 2010

ZS10WCS operated by the Northern Cape ARC

- 1 SARL 80 Metre QSO Party
- 2 Good Friday; World Autism Day
- 3 Two Oceans Marathon; April RaDAR contest
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 5 Family Day; Closing date SARL VHF/UHF logs
- 7 World Health Day; Closing date SARL Club contest logs
- 10 PIC Course, Durban
- 11 SARL President's Net
- 12 Schools Open
- 16 Closing date SARL 80 Metre QSO logs
- 17 World Haemophilia Day;
- 2010 SA AMSAT Space Symposium
- 17/18 IARU Region 1 EC Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 18 World Amateur Radio Day; Autumn QRP Sprint
- 19 Closing date RaDAR logs
- 22 Lyrids meteor shower, 21:07 CAT
- 23 Africa Malaria Day
- 23/24 SARL National Convention, Port Elizabeth
- 26 School holiday
- 27 Freedom Day



OH8NC. They may even put another station on as CR2X to push for more Xtremes. Please kindly update your CTY file.

This not only marks Arcala Extreme's (OH8X) Annual Meeting, now held in the Azores, but also forms part of their 3rd anniversary activity - OH8X, from Arctic Circle will be there as well courtesy of Marko, OH4JFN.

As part of the upcoming festivities, the 2nd phase DX Summit will be made available to limited Beta testers for Easter. If you wish to be one, please kindly contact Radio Arcala by e-mail to oh8x[at]sral[dot]fi. QSL: CR2X/CQ8X via OH2BH, and OH8X via OH2UA.

Amateur Radio event - Earth Hour 2010

The Romanian Society of Radio Amateurs is supporting the Earth Hour 2010 initiative by issuing a special QSL card for QSOs with YO3KSR and YR1X (special calls). The stations will be active on the HF, VHF and SHF bands, from the 80 m band to the 23 cm band, on 27 March 2010, between 18:00 - 20:00 UTC. The maximum power of both stations will be 50W and the stations will be entirely battery operated! For more than 3 QSO with these stations on 3 different frequency bands, a special Diploma will be sent in electronic format. For a paper Diploma, please contact us via e-mail yo3ksr[at]gmail[dot]com. Info at www[dot]yo3ksr[dot]ro or www[dot]asrr[dot]org

Earth Hour - 8.30 pm 27 March 2010

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million homes and businesses turned their lights off for one hour to make their stand against climate change. Only a year later and Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating. Global landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the CN Tower in Toronto, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and Rome's Coliseum, all stood in darkness, as symbols of hope for a cause that grows more urgent by the hour.

In March 2009, hundreds of millions of people took part in the third Earth Hour. Over 4 000 cities in 88 countries officially switched off to pledge their support for the planet, making Earth Hour 2009 the world's largest global climate change initiative.

Earth Hour 2010 takes place on Saturday 27 March at 8.30 pm (local time) and is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community throughout the world. It is a call to stand up, to take responsibility, to get involved and lead the way towards a sustainable future. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Europe to Asia to the Americas will stand in darkness. People across the world from all walks of life will turn off their lights and join together in celebration and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common - our planet. So sign up now and let's make 2010 the biggest Earth Hour yet!

*It is Showtime! Show the world what can be done.
Encourage all Radio Amateur families to join us!*

You can support Earth Hour by:

1. Turning off your lights at 8.30 PM on 27 March.
2. Adding Earth Hour widgets, logos and banners to your blog or website to help us spread the word. You could even be an Earth Hour Online Supporter of the Day.
3. Talking about Earth Hour in your social network by updating your Facebook status, grabbing a Twibbon, tweeting about your support, and more
4. Get together with your friends and family, by hosting an Earth Hour party or holding your own candlelit affair.



5. Rally your local council or community group to run an Earth Hour event for your community.
6. Encourage your employer, workmates, school friends, radio amateur friends and family members to take part in Earth Hour and make energy savings every day.
7. Make an Earth Hour Lantern as a symbol of hope for the future. Visit the Earth Hour website.
8. Be creative! Find a new way to mark Earth Hour and let us know all about it!

Thanks to Eskom, we support Earth Hour more often than once a year!

Lightning Predictor Kit Again Available

The SA Amateur radio Development Trust has the popular Lightning Predictor kit again in stock. The kit is an ideal Saturday afternoon construction project and the predictor is a useful instrument to have in the shack or around the house. It will alert you when a lightning storm is approaching. The cost is R130 including postage and packing. Full details and how to order is available on [www\[dot\]amateurradio\[dot\]org\[dot\]za](http://www[dot]amateurradio[dot]org[dot]za).

DX from Africa

Sudan, ST. Robert, ST2AR, will be active from Khartoum, Sudan, during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (27 - 28 March) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via S53R, direct only.

Mauritius, 3B. Slavo, SP2JMB, will be active on all bands, CW only, as 3B8SC from Flic en Flac, located on the west coast of Mauritius island (IOTA AF-049, WLOTA LH-0595), from 7 - 21 April 2010. Bogdan, SP2FUD, will be joining Slavo and will operate SSB and RTTY modes. QSL via SP2JMB. Website [www\[dot\]sp2jmb\[dot\]pl/](http://www[dot]sp2jmb[dot]pl/).

View photos of Slavo's 2008 trip and operation as 3B8/SP2JMB at [http://www\[dot\]sp2jmb\[dot\]pl/index\[dot\]php?page=g_mauritius_04\[dot\]2008&LANG=eng](http://www[dot]sp2jmb[dot]pl/index[dot]php?page=g_mauritius_04[dot]2008&LANG=eng)

Mauritius, 3B8 (AF-049). Mart, DL6UAA, will once again be back in Mauritius as 3B8MM beginning 4 April; the duration of his stay will be 3 weeks. Activity will be on 160 - 10 meters mostly CW. Some SSB and Digital will be possible. QSL via DL6UAA, by the Bureau or direct.

Morocco, 5D. Operators Stefano, IK2QEI, and Matteo, IK2SGC, will be active with the special call sign 5D5A from CN3A contest station during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (27 - 28 March) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via I2WIJ or LoTW.

Democratic Republic of Congo, 9Q. Ghis, ON5NT, (ex-9Q1NT), reports that Georges, VE2EK, will once again be active as 9Q1EK from Kinshasa very soon and will be the ONLY radio amateur station left in the DRC with a VALID LICENSE. According to George's BLOG [http://ve2ek\[dot\]blogspot\[dot\]com](http://ve2ek[dot]blogspot[dot]com) (edited): "Soon... ! After several months of standby, I will be again on air. Due to a QSY of my QRA (in flat now...!!!). I am going to install very soon my station on my prof. radio broadcast site. The available hours will be reduced. Station will be FT2000 with a OM2500HF. Dipoles for 160, 80 and 40 and a Delta loop and beam on 45 m tower. Major activity will be on CW."

Georges states that he has a second project (which will be later) on EME (144 MHz with 4 x 16 elements + 8877 and 432 MHz with 4 x 21 element + 8938). QSL direct via SM5DJZ. Also, by the LoTW or eQSL.



Maderia, CT9 AF-014. Helmut, DF7ZS, will be in Madeira again for one week starting on 25 Mar. He will sign CR3L or CQ3L in the WPX SSB Contest and if time permits, also as CT9/DF7ZS before and after the contest. Unfortunately, he has not that much time left outside the contest so he will spend his few hours of additional operation on the WARC bands. QSLs for CR3L or CQ3L via DJ6QT, CT9/DF7ZS via DF7ZS.

Special Event

Qatar, A7. Look for special event station A71RCAR to be active during the "2010 Regional Conference on Amateur Radio" in Doha, 4 - 6 April. The Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS - A71A) in collaboration with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in Region 1 is hosting this year's event. A special QSL card will be available to commemorate this event. QSL via QARS Bureau: Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS), PO Box 22122, Doha, Qatar.

Club News

The Overberg Amateur Radio Club will be holding their AGM at the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory starting at 10:00 CAT on 27 March. Visitors are welcome and the usual braai will be held afterwards.

ZS6PTA Mega Flea market on 27 March 2010. The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Flea market will be held on Saturday 27 March 2010 from 08:00 to 11:00 CAT at the Pretoria Motor Club in Silverton. For further information or to book a table contact Almero du Pisani on cell number 082 908 3359 or send an email to almero[at]up.ac.za

The John Vorster Technological Secondary School Radio Club, ZS6JVT, will have a flea market starting at 08:30 CAT on Saturday 8 May 2010. The Club can be found at 1072 Meyer Street, Rietfontein, Pretoria.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 22 to 29 March 2010.

SKCC Sprint
 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 24 March
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC No or power
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; Bonus Points: 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; Bonus Points: 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 26 March 2010
 E-mail log summary to: (none)
 Post log summary at:
[http://www\[dot\]skccgroup\[dot\]com/sprint/sks/sks-submit\[dot\]html](http://www[dot]skccgroup[dot]com/sprint/sks/sks-submit[dot]html)
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at:
[http://www\[dot\]skccgroup\[dot\]com/sprint/sks/](http://www[dot]skccgroup[dot]com/sprint/sks/)

NCCC Sprint



02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 March
 Mode: (see rules)
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: (see rules)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 28 March 2010
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at:
[http://www\[dot\]hornucopia\[dot\]com/3830score/](http://www[dot]hornucopia[dot]com/3830score/)
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at:
[http://www\[dot\]ncccsprint\[dot\]com/rules\[dot\]html](http://www[dot]ncccsprint[dot]com/rules[dot]html)

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest
 00:00Z 27 March to 23:59 UTC 28 March
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
 Classes: Single Op All Band - Low or High - Tribander or Rookie; Single Op Single Band - Low or High - Tribander or Rookie; Single Op All Band QRP; Single Op Single Band QRP; Single Op Assisted All Band (Low/High); Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi
 Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours
 Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: RS and Serial No
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per QSO with same country
 Exception: QSO points double for NA-NA QSOs with different country
 Multipliers: Prefixes once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 25 April 2010
 E-mail logs to: [ssb\[at\]cqwp\[dot\]com](mailto:ssb[at]cqwp[dot]com)

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Rd, Suite 405, Hicksville NY 11801, USA.
 Find rules at:
[http://www\[dot\]cqwp\[dot\]com/rules\[dot\]htm](http://www[dot]cqwp[dot]com/rules[dot]htm)

UBA Spring 2 m Contest
 06:00 - 10:00 UTC 28 March
 Mode: CW, Phone
 Bands: 2 m Only
 Classes: Single; SWL
 Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: ON: RS(T), serial no and UBA Section; non-ON: RS(T) and Serial No
 QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station
 Multipliers: Each UBA Section
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 18 April 2010
 E-mail logs to: [ubaspring\[at\]uba\[dot\]be](mailto:ubaspring[at]uba[dot]be)
 Mail logs to: Michel Gerits, ON4CAQ, Momestraat 69, B-3550 Heusden Zolder, Belgium
 Find rules at:
[http://www\[dot\]uba\[dot\]be/sites/default/files/uploads/hf_contests/uba_spring_en\[dot\]pdf](http://www[dot]uba[dot]be/sites/default/files/uploads/hf_contests/uba_spring_en[dot]pdf)

SARL 80 m Club Championship
 17:30 - 18:30 UTC 31 March
 Mode: PSK and RTTY
 Band: 80 m in the segment 3,580 - 3,620 MHz. Note: the frequency segment 3,580 to 3,585 MHz is reserved for PSK operation - stations operating PSK should transmit only between these limits. Stations operating RTTY should not attempt to make QSOs in this 5 kHz segment.
 Classes: Single Operator; Multi-operator
 Exchange: RS(T) and a consecutive serial number starting at 001
 Power: Low - 100 w maximum power at the transmitter output; QRP - 10 w maximum power at the transmitter output.
 QSO points: One point per contact.



Work stations: Once on PSK and Once on RTTY

Submit logs by: 23:59 CAT 7 April 2010

E-mail logs to:

hfcontests[at]netactive[dit]co[dot]za

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at: 2010 SARL Contest Manual

SARL 80 m QSO Party

17:00 to 20:00 UTC 1 April

Mode: SSB

Band: 80 m - 3.600 to 3.650 and 3.700 to 3.800 MHz

Classes: Single Operator; Short Wave Listener (SWL)

Exchange: Call sign, RS signal report and operators name

Work stations: Once per band

Scoring: 10 points for every contact with a South African station; 15 points for every contact with a station outside South Africa.

Submit logs by: 16 April 2010

E-mail logs to:

zs5lp[at]vodamail[dit]co[dot]za

Mail logs to: 17 Brownlee Place, Bluff, Durban, 4052

Find rules at: 2010 SARL Contest Manual

RaDAR Contest

12:00 - 18:00 UTC 3 April

Mode: All amateur modes

Band: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 4, 2 m, 70, 23 cm and higher. Including cross band contacts via amateur satellites. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will be allowed.

Exchange: Call sign, name, QTH and grid locator.

Classes: (A) Home station; (B) Home station; (C) portable station; (D) RaDAR station; (E) RaDAR QRP [check multipliers]

Work stations: 1 QSO per mode, per band / satellite, per call sign.

QSO points: 1 point per QSO

Multiplier: (A) x1 for all home stations using normal antennas and mains power; (B) x2 for all home stations not relying on their normal antennas or mains power; (C) x3 for portable operation not relying on mains power. This would include all mobile stations; (D) x4 for true RaDAR portable operations not relying on existing antennas or mains power; (E) x5 for true RaDAR portable operations as above and using QRP. Output power limited to 5 watts PEP.

Bonus points for portable and RaDAR stations: 5 Points (equivalent to 5 QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital mode involving a computer QSO.

Station setup: The true RaDAR station must have carried; the entire station including antennas for at least 1 km prior to setting up, without relying on existing man made infrastructures i.e. antennas, masts or towers. To be considered as a RaDAR station, the entire station; radios, batteries, mast and antennas must be easily portable and hence the need to carry the equipment for at least 1 km.

For the sake of safety, it will be acceptable to carry / backpack your entire station for a distance of at least 1 km and end up where you started from - your home, campsite, picnic site, motor vehicle or wherever you choose to operate.

Submit logs by: 19 April 2010. A photo of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

E-mail logs to:

zs6lrk[at]nwinternet[dot]za[dot]org

Mail logs to: The Lichtenberg Amateur Radio Club (LARK), PO Box 410, Lichtenburg, 2740

Find rules at: 2010 SARL Contest Manual

Next Week's Contests

SARL 80 m Club Championship, 17:30 - 18:30 UTC 31 March

ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 1 April to 23:59 UTC 11 April

SARL 80m QSO Party, 17:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 April

LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest, 04:00 - 08:00 UTC 3 April



RaDAR Contest, 12:00 - 18:00 UTC 3 April
ARCI Spring QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 3 April to 23:59 UTC 4 April
SP DX Contest, 15:00 UTC 3 April to 15:00 UTC 4 April
EA RTTY Contest, 16:00 UTC 3 April to 16:00 UTC 4 April
Missouri QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 3 April to 05:00 UTC 4 April and 18:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 April
RSGB RoPoCo 1, 07:00 - 08:30 UTC 4 April
Low Power Spring Sprint, 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 5 April
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 5 April
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 6 April

This week in History

The week starting 22 March

1843 First traffic tunnel under the Thames opened
1860 ML Byrn, New York, gets a patent for the corkscrew
1883 First long distance telephone service between Chicago and New York
1885 Edison patents wireless induction telegraphy between moving trains and railway stations
1898 US Navy starts investigating Naval Aviation
1899 First wireless telegraph message sent across the English Channel
1910 First seaplane takes off, Henri Fabre, near Marseilles, France
1958 Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, born.

Remember to share your copy of HF Happenings with your radio amateur friends and club members - even those you do not like.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Maurice, F5NQL, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.