



INDEXA

Helping to Make DX Happen Since 1983

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INDEXA

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Equatorial Guinea and Annobon (3C3W and 3C0W)—2018

By Yuris, YL2GM; Kas, YL1ZF, and Girts, YL2KL



Kaspars YL1ZF, Yuris YL2GM, and Girts YL2KL

Hello dear radio friends! After successful first reconnaissance DXpedition to 3C in the late 2017, it was time for our next much larger DXpedition. This time the team initially consisted of eight operators—three from Latvia and five from Ukraine. As we were getting ready to set for this journey, we timely booked all our flights and hotels, submitted all applications for visas, and did all other necessary

work for the expedition's preparation phase. We Latvians acquired the visas without much difficulty, however, our Ukrainian team members had some problems and the grant of visas got delayed and delayed by the responsible embassy until we got to the point where we could not wait any longer and unfortunately we could not go with the full team. After this setback, we continued with a smaller team than planned. It was only three operators--Yuris YL2GM, Kaspars YL1ZF and Girts YL2KL. Our equipment consisted of the following:

Transceivers:

3x Elecraft K3

Power amplifiers:

2x SPE Expert 1.3K-FA
Juma PA1000

Generator: Honda EU20i

Antennas:

160/80/60/40/30m bands—18m high vertical with capacity hat RA6LBS
20-10m bands—Folding antenna
20-10m bands—Spiderbeam
40/30m bands—3 phased vertical
Beverages for receiving

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inside... Meet INDEXA's new Directors

3C3W and 3C0W—2018 (con'd)

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DXPEDITION DIARY

Day 1 - Monday, 26th of February

At 6 AM we arrived at Riga airport. We were asked by airport personnel to repack one of our generators, as the airport security did not let it through due to smell of gasoline. Even though I ran it until all the gas was used up and the generator stopped, there still were some drops left behind, enough to create the smell. After repacking, we continued with the check-in procedures with all our luggage.

The flight from Riga to Paris went by very quickly and connection in Paris was only one hour and forty minutes. We had to change terminals, but everything went smoothly and we were on board of our next flight on an A330 to Malabo. The total travel time was around 8 hours with a stopover in Cameroon for refueling and disembarking some passengers who had reached their destination. Onwards to Malabo the flight was only 45 minutes and we were only about twenty passengers left on the very big airliner.

We arrived in Malabo airport around 7 PM local time. We passed Passport and Security control without any questions, however, while waiting by the baggage belt, we found out that that one of our suitcases and one of the generators was missing. We filled out all necessary paper work at lost and found and were assured that our things should arrive with tomorrow's flight. Customs representatives were very kind and let us through by merely showing our papers.

Day 2 – Tuesday, 27th of February

In the morning, I went to the Ministry of Telecommunications and New Technologies to acquire our operating licenses. I already knew where to go and whom to approach. The Director kindly met with me and promised to arrange the permits as soon as possible. He also told me what more paper work I had to prepare as the regulations had changed since the last time I was there. We agreed on meeting next morning at 11AM in his office.

Our local friend Jesus helped us with the enquiry about our future flights to Annobon for phase two of our DXpedition, and he booked the tickets for us. Travel Company promised that the flight would be the next Tuesday, on March 6. This looked great but

as we know from our experience, flights tend to change frequently. So we would only be sure when we were seated on the plane!

In the evening, we went back to the airport to find out about our missing luggage. Our suitcase was there, but the generator was not. We turned to Air France office for some more information, but they said we should direct our questions to Riga Airport. In the end, it turned out that the generator was not loaded in Riga due to a smell of gasoline, so we remained with just one generator.



Receiving our license in the Ministry

Day 3 – Wednesday, 28th of February

Next day we found out that the Minister of Telecommunications had changed, and with him also the regulations for applying for the licenses had changed. Locals kindly helped us to solve these questions and we received the licenses without much problem.

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3C3W and 3C0W—2018 (con'd)

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In the afternoon, when we returned to our hotel in Trocadero, and we set up two verticals and started to operate. First QSO was on 30 meters with S52GP.

Day 4 – Thursday, 1st of March

From the very morning we started to set up all other antennas—Spiderbeam, Folding antenna, 18m vertical for 160/80/40/30m with RA6LBS capacity hat, and two phased verticals for 40m.

Day 4 -11

We actively worked on air with two stations. Every second day I went to the Malabo internet café to upload our log to Clublog. On the 7th of March, while on the way to upload our latest logs, I was waiting for a bus and taking some pictures of the local market, when suddenly my “adventure” began. A police officer approached me and asked for my permission allowing me to take pictures, which of course I did not have. As it turned out, tourists are not allowed to take photos unless they have bought a special permission for this. Who could imagine that tourists have to buy such a permission to take pictures in the city? Anyway, the police officer took me to the station where I had to wait for several hours until the police chief arrived. They took my phone and started to check every picture I had taken and asked me numerous trivial questions. When they finally allowed me to make a phone call to my contact in the Ministry, then with brief discussions everything got sorted out. They set a payment for tourist permission to take pictures and I could go. I asked the police chief if I could take pictures in the next day's event in honor of women's day; he said okay, but only if I went to the event with him.

After this incident I did not want to go to Malabo again. I'd be better to stay in Trocadero and work on the air!

Next day we were visited by a delegation of six people. We demonstrated them how we work and told about amateur radio. They are favorable to us and did not have any claims against our work.

Day 12 – Friday, 9th of March

In the morning, we made our last QSO with EA3QP on 40m CW with this finishing our work from Trocadero hotel. In total we made 30,323 QSOs. (Note, our flight was NOT on March 6, as promised!) After



Team breakfast in Trocadero Hotel

breakfast, we took down all remaining antennas and hardware and moved to a hotel in Malabo.

Day 13 – Saturday, 10th of March

In the airport we had to wait for our flight to Annobon because of delays due to bad weather conditions. In addition, we got “invited” to the office of the airport chief to explain who we were and what were we carrying. It took about one hour and without a call to my

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Boarding the plane to Annobon.

3C3W and 3C0W—2018 (con'd)

(Continued from page 3)

friend in Ministry, again, we could not have proceeded.

Around 4PM we landed at Annobon airport. We rented the same house that we rented during our previous expedition. In the evening, we set up the Folding antenna and vertical and during the night we made our first 1500 QSOs.



Day 14 – Sunday, 11th of March

We check the surroundings and realize that in the place we had previously set our RA6LBS vertical antenna the grass had grown to be one meter tall, so we hired local farmers who cut the grass so we could proceed.

Day 15 – Monday, 12th of March

Today we visited the Governor of the island. We had already met him once before during our previous expedition. He kindly welcomed us and invited us to visit the island again in future.

Later we set up RA6LBS vertical and Spiderbeam. We also set up our second operator's position approximately 40m away in another house, nearby.



Local electricity is turned off twice a day, from 6AM to 10AM and from 4PM to 7PM and the grid voltage is ~160V. Our SPE Expert amplifier works perfectly in these power conditions, however it is not the same with Juma 1000 amplifier. During the day as a power source we use our Honda 20i generator. This is the only 2kW generator that ensures our requirements and weights only 23kg. This generator provides the power for one station, but for the second position to work we have to reduce our amplifier power output.



Our trusty Honda EU20i inverter generator proved to be a valuable investment for this operation.

In the evening, our neighbor dropped by and said that we are "using all the electricity", and because of that his refrigerator cannot function normally and all his fish is going bad. We have to find a compromise so we give him a grid autotransformer that ensures he can get 220V for his refrigerator.

Day 19 – Friday, 16th of March

Our Beverage antenna gave good results and we made 150 JA QSOs on 80m.

Day 20 – Saturday, 17th of March

During the day we tuned the 3,5 SSB sub band RA6LBS vertical on 60m and during night we made 230 QSOs on 60m. Kaspars was taking part in RDXC with 3C0W. That was a surprise for many operators when they heard our call and in total we made 900 QSOs in this contest. We could not get access to internet, so we could upload the logs only after completing the DXpedition.

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3C3W and 3C0W—2018 (con'd)



Kaspars makes RDXC contestants happy with a needed multiplier as 3C0W on the weekend of 17 March.

(Continued from page 4)

Day 23 – Tuesday, 20th of March

During the last 24 hours we have set our DXpedition record—5748 QSOs. During the night, we worked also on SSB 80m and 160m.

Day 26 – Friday, 23rd of March

Tomorrow is Saturday and our planned flight back to Malabo, so for today we have planned our “Hams with Hearts” activities. In total, with the donations left over from previous 3C0L/3C1L expedition and the donations made by amateurs during this expedition, we together have raised 1422 EUR. Our local friend Eduardo arrived from Malabo with the first package—school bags, exercise books, pencils and other school things. We also managed to buy some more presents in the local shop on the island, even though, it is the only shop on the island and the supplies there are very limited. We still had 980 EUR so we decided for the remaining money to buy station-

ary goods when we got back to Malabo and ship them to Annobon Island with the help of our friends. At 1PM we met with the children and teachers in the local school. Children's songs and smiling faces was gratitude for our support. After that, we had a small excursion on the island and took some photos by which to preserve memories of our wonderful journey.



Day 27 – Saturday, 24th of March

In the morning, we made our last QSO on 40m. In total from Annobon during this DXpedition we have made 54,267 QSOs. We took down all remaining antennas and equipment. At 2 PM our friends drove us to the airport. During security check we are forbidden to take the generator with us on the plane, so we have to leave it with our friend Eduardo for our next DXpedition.

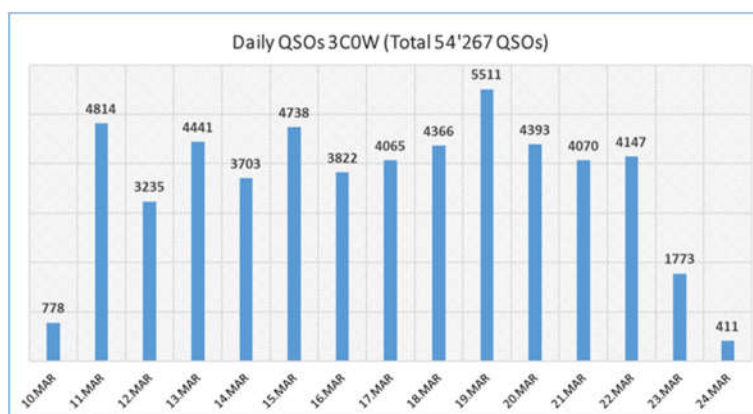
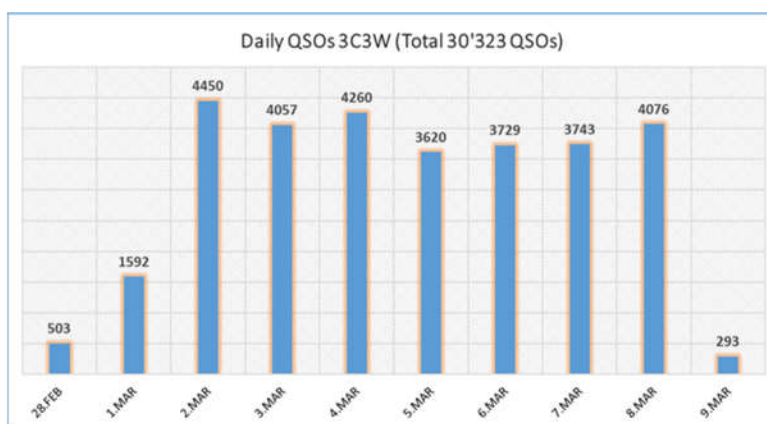
Day 28-30

In Malabo, together with Alida and her sister, we visit shops to buy school things for “Hams with Hearts” program with our remaining funds. We packed them and shipped them to Annobon by sea, as by air it is too expensive due to its weight. Our friends Eduardo and Alida finalized this action by giving these presents to school and children of Annobon. Thanks to everybody who supported “Hams with Hearts” program and helped the children of Annobon.



3C3W and 3C0W—2018 (con'd)

DXpedition Statistics:



Band/Mode breakdown 3C3W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	0	330	0	330	1.1%
80	48	1720	0	1768	5.8%
60	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40	1101	3314	509	4924	16.2%
30	0	2714	748	3462	11.4%
20	1949	5554	468	7971	26.3%
17	700	5361	718	6779	22.4%
15	444	4075	424	4943	16.3%
12	0	143	3	146	0.5%
10	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Totals	4242	23211	2870	30323	100.0%

Band/Mode breakdown 3C0W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	3	489	0	492	0.9%
80	215	1404	56	1675	3.1%
60	0	321	0	321	0.6%
40	2212	4163	715	7090	13.1%
30	0	5755	735	6490	12.0%
20	4367	7969	842	13178	24.3%
17	2977	7896	1020	11893	21.9%
15	2825	7007	350	10182	18.8%
12	593	1562	63	2218	4.1%
10	68	660	0	728	1.3%
Totals	13260	37226	3781	54267	100%

Continent by Mode 3C3W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	54	118	21	193	0.6%
AN	0	1	0	1	0.0%
AS	261	2641	329	3231	10.7%
EU	2202	14715	1888	18805	62.0%
NA	1643	5442	604	7689	25.4%
OC	9	48	1	58	0.2%
SA	73	246	27	346	1.1%
Totals	4242	23211	2870	30323	100.0%

Continent by Mode 3C0W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	159	217	34	410	0.8%
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	590	4400	375	5365	9.9%
EU	9195	21593	2466	33254	61.3%
NA	3036	10238	842	14116	26.0%
OC	18	97	5	120	0.2%
SA	262	681	59	1002	1.8%
Totals	13260	37226	3781	54267	100%

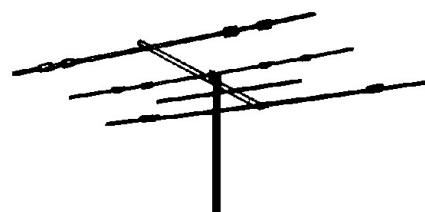
3C3W and 3C0W—2018 (con'd)

CONCLUSION

In total we established 84,590 QSOs. We hope that many amateurs were very happy that they were able to make QSOs with 3C for one more time in case they missed 3C0L/3C1L in 2017. Thanks to all our supporters and thank you for reading this story.

73, *Yuris*/YL2GM/, *Kas*/YL1ZF/, *Girts*/YL2KL/

You can find more information on expedition webpage: http://www.lral.lv/3c0w_3c3w/



Meet INDEXA Director Otis Vicens, NP4G

Dr. Jose C. Vicens, NP4G, goes by Otis on the air. Otis is an orthodontist by profession and is currently the president of the Puerto Rico Orthodontic Society. In his role as a radio amateur, he is Assistant Director for the ARRL Southeastern Division, and Assistant Section Manager for Puerto Rico. He is past Chairman of the ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention.

Otis was licensed as a radio amateur at age 16 when still in high school. He got a taste of radio contesting with the Purdue University Amateur Radio Club in the November 1998 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes and decided he liked the competitive aspects of the hobby. Too busy with studies of dentistry after Purdue and then post graduate work in Stony Brook, Long Island, he was not able to enjoy much of the solar peak of the early 2000s. He did manage to get to Dayton during those



Jose "Otis" Vicens, NP4G

years, and listened intently in the DX Forums. He knew he wanted to chase DX when he returned to Puerto Rico to practice his profession.

The urge to compete in contests was not entirely lost, however. Otis has become a member of the K3LR Multi-Multi contesting operation. He enjoys participating shoulder to shoulder with the fine operators at that station. It would be easy to become spoiled a bit by the antenna farm at K3LR, but Otis leads an active DXer's life nearer to home. You can't beat Caribbean propagation.

Otis enjoys operating from various locales in the Caribbean, and he enjoys travel. He's operated from KP4, KP2 and PJ7. To quell his quest for travel and DXing, he recently operated from Easter Island as CE0Y/NP4G. Yet, he took time enroute to visit former INDEXA Director Roberto Ramirez, CE3CT, and also had some guest operator time at CE3CT's QTH. He marveled at the absence of auroral flutter on Easter Island that he regularly hears when operating JAs from Puerto Rico. Otis intends to do more travelling!

Life on an island in the hurricane belt that is the Caribbean provides experience with emergency communications—another aspect of amateur radio. He provided communications with the Red Cross in 2017 with Hurricane Irma for KP2 in and then with Hurricane Maria for KP4.

Otis looks forward to serving as a Director of INDEXA and representing the viewpoints of his fellow hams from the Caribbean area.

Meet INDEXA Director, Hal Turley, W8HC

I was first licensed as WN8ZAT in 1967 at the age of 15 and have now thoroughly enjoyed this great hobby for over 51 years. I always liked chasing and working DX but didn't get "serious" about it until I upgraded to Advanced class in 1981. In 1989 I upgraded to Extra Class and eventually ended up with the "vanity" call sign W8HC.

Through the 90's and 2000's, I was very active in DX contests from my modest QTH in Southern West Virginia. My friend Dave WA8WV and I would travel to the very competitive M/M Contest Station of Bob W4MYA (SK) and participate in CQWW and ARRL contests.



Hal Turley, W8HC

In October 2003, I traveled to Israel and operated in the Phone CQWW as 4X/KC8FS. This was all arranged for me by the President of the IARC at the time, Joe Obstfeld 4X6KJ. I would ultimately return to Israel over the next 5 years and operate from different locations during the CQWW Phone Contest using the callsigns: 4X0WV and 4X0C. My last, very memorable contest operation from Israel was in 2008 with a multi-op entry from the top of historic Masada near the Dead Sea. I am returning to Masada next year as the guest of the Holyland DX Group for a special event activity.

I have always had a fascination with Marconi, who I consider the ultimate pioneer in commercial radio. I have visited several Marconi sites in Ireland. In August 2007, I was the honored guest of the Marconi Radio Group MN0MRG and coordinated a special event activity at the famous East Light house on Rathlin Island where I operated as GI/W8HC.

In 2012 while at Friedrichshafen, I was asked by Joe Pater W8GEX if I would possibly be interested in participating with the September 2012 NH8S Swains Island DXpedition. Less than two weeks later, I was "officially" on the NH8S team roster and looking forward to participating in my first major DXpedition. Since then, I have been honored to be a team member of the following DXpeditions: 2013 K9W Wake Atoll Commemorative; 2015 VK9WA Willis Island; 2016 K5P Palmyra Atoll; and the aborted 2018 3Y0Z Bouvet effort. I am looking forward to participating in October 2019 with the Pitcairn Island DXpedition led by Ralph Fedor K0IR.

My working career kept me involved with chemical manufacturing, working for Dow Chemical and Bayer. As a retiree, I now get to spend more time with my radio avocation.

My daughter, Holly Turley Greathouse N8VUQ is the youngest YL on record to receive her DXCC in 1993 at the age of 9. Holly and her husband Adam N8ASG are busy raising my granddaughters. I also have a son Jason who, although not a ham, never ceases to amaze me with his skills in his chosen leisure pursuits of hunting and fishing.

A few of my ham awards and activities are:

- #1 DXCC Honor Roll—350 Entities
- 9-Band DXCC
- ARRL - West Virginia Section Manager 2000-2004 (2 terms)
- ARRL DXCC QSL Field Checker
- ARRL 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau "H" Letter Manager
- Past President, West Virginia DX Association
- A-1 Operator Club

Meet INDEXA Director Steve Sullivan, KZ2I

In around 1960, my dad bought a Hallicrafters SX-100. I became a shortwave listener, and after a couple of years listening and getting QSLs from VOA, Radio Moscow, BBC, etc., I moved up to New Milford High School and 7th grade. I attended a Radio Club signup meeting and figured “that this is what I do”. At the first meeting, students were actually TALKING on the radio. The “hook” was set. After a couple of years and a bit of studying, I sent to the FCC for the Novice test. The scary envelope arrived, containing the test. You either had to take the test, administered by a General Class or higher class operator, or return the test unopened. Basically, I chickened out. My dad, Joe Sullivan, had been a Navy radioman during WWII, so he knew the code and 5 wpm was nothing for him. He looked through the study manual, took the test and became WN2KQC. About 6 months later, I passed the test and became WN2OFG in 1964. I managed to work 6 countries and 3 continents as a Novice. I also made some local friends during that year, including a guy named Bob, who would later become



Steve Sullivan, KZ2I

WN2RJJ, WB2RJJ and N2OO. (Yes, that’s the same Bob who is INDEXA’s President—Ed.) A year and half later I passed the General exam and became WB2VFT.

After marriage, we settled in Tuckerton, down in southern New Jersey. There, I finally had some respectable radio gear and a beam antenna mounted on a 60 foot tower. It was during this time that N2OO, N2CW (SK) and I formed the South Jersey DX Association. It was the three of us, calling each other on the phone at all hours of the night when something came on the air that we needed. In 1981, Bob “coerced” me into joining him on Desecheo Island with the KP2A/d group. I finally knew what it was like “being DX”. (KZ2I’s DX rule #1: You can’t criticize ANY DXpedition until YOU have actually been on one yourself!!)

After my marriage ended in divorce, I moved to North Cape May, at the southern tip of New Jersey. The 60 foot tower went away because of a 35 foot height restriction on support structures. Since my father had passed away, I moved his 35 foot tower to my location in North Cape May. There, I was a quarter mile from Delaware Bay and a half mile from the Atlantic. I was told many times that I had the strongest signal into Europe. Amazing what a little salt water between two ham radio stations can do. After ten years at that location, a bank merger dictated that I (and Cec, my co-worker and soon to be my wife) needed to move to Charlotte, NC. Luckily, there was a wonderful group of people—The Carolina DX Association—that I was introduced to by Gary, K4MQG. This group became my Second Ham Family. I was very happily ensconced in Charlotte for 20 years. Upon retirement, we decided it was time to go back home to Southern New Jersey and the TEN GRANDKIDS. (I’m sitting here in Southern New Jersey—Philadelphia Eagles territory—wearing my Carolina Panthers NFL finery!). The odd thing about INDEXA is that it joins my two ham families, SJDXA and CDXA. What a small world!

Amateur Radio Affiliations/DXpeditions:

South Jersey DX Association (Founding Member,
2018 Vice President)
Carolina DX Association
Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (Founding Member)
ARRL Life Member
SJDXA QSL team: QSL Managers for K5D, HK0NA,
FT5ZM, K1N, VP8STI/VP8SGI
DXpedition team KP2A/d, Desecheo 1981
DXpedition to EI4VSB in 1994

Amateur Radio Accomplishments:

9BDXCC 5BWAS
5BWAZ (198 ZONES - need 24 & 26 on 80m)
Top of the DXCC Honor Roll
DXCC Challenge 2587 (as of 09/15/2018)



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