



FSDXA St. Brandon DXpedition – Bulletin No.5



3B7C – Isle du Sud, St.Brandon, QRV 7th to 24th September 2007

Since our last bulletin Neville G3NUG and Don G3BJ have taken a vacation in Mauritius and used the opportunity to confirm the various logistical arrangements for our September operation from St.Brandon. Don also visited Isle du Sud (our operating location) to make a detailed site survey. Everything is looking good, and the contracts are in place both for the ship which will take us to the island and for accommodation and logistics on the island (which, on this occasion, will be somewhat less than Five Star but perfectly adequate). The good news is that we will have the island to ourselves and there is lots of space for our antennas including a range of receiving antennas – photos from the survey appear on the website (see below).

Our container of gear has now been shipped and will arrive in Mauritius on 12 August. Six large diesel generators (5kVA each) have also been shipped ahead as the modest generator already on Isle du Sud would be inadequate for the large-scale operation we have planned.



The container ready for shipment



The 3B7C operating hut on Isle du Sud

6m

6m enthusiasts will be aware that 6m operation is not normally allowed from Mauritius and its outlying islands. However, we have been able to gain a short-term permit, limited to three fixed frequencies: 50090 (CW), 50102 (CW), 50145 (USB) and are grateful to the 3B8 licensing authorities for this concession. We are hoping for some good trans-equatorial propagation on the band – from 3B9 three years ago we were able to work on a daily basis into Japan, Central Asia and Southern Europe.

WEB SITE

Our web site (www.3b7c.com) continues to be updated on a regular basis. There are photographs of the island and of the container being loaded. There is also a table of DXpedition records, by band and mode, so that we have something to aim for! We are also preparing some propagation charts for each of the major areas of the world so that you can find the best time to work us on each band. And there's a full list of sponsors, to whom we are very grateful. But more are always welcome, details on the website and in previous bulletins on how to become a sponsor.

Our QSling approach is also detailed on the website and you may wish to check this out before we fire up. We will, of course, be fully supportive of LoTW, as with our previous expeditions, for those who are looking for DXCC credits. Remember that if you are a sponsor, you will receive priority treatment for QSL cards.

Also on the web site you will find details of how to pre-order the DVD that we will be making of the 3B7C operation.

TEAM CHANGES

Just one to mention since the last bulletin which is that we are delighted to have Bob N6OX join the team.

We still have a vacancy for one team member to bring our total team to 20. We are seeking a team player and an outstanding operator who is ideally known to one of the current 3B7C team members. A 6m specialist would be particularly welcome. The cost is £1,800 to £2,000 (\$3,600 to \$4,000) depending on the package chosen. This is exclusive of airfares to and from Mauritius. All team members have committed to be available for the whole of September 2007.

BAND-SLOTS GAME

We are developing a band-slots game. Each time a new part of the log is uploaded, a routine will be run to identify the top 30 stations in terms of band/mode slots worked to date. CW, RTTY, PSK, SSB and FM count separately on each band. The results will be shown on the website. We're not running the Nevada Trophies this time. There will be no prizes – this is just for fun!

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(FSDXA Publicity Officer)

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