



the exchange



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The Prez says.....

Is it really October? We are in to fall and I finally experienced my first 6m opening into South America— It was a blast.

What is the next big event? Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years? Nah.. The DX Dinner! And, Yes, you can help. Just let me know you have a few hours and we will find a spot for you.

Please remember that you can always find out what the program is for the next meeting by checking the website. (swodxa.org) Also, remember that attendance via ZOOM counts for meeting attendance and allows you to vote for the DXpedition of the Year next spring. How tough is that going to be? K8DV and his crew will have their hands full.

So what do you think of the monthly newsletter? I haven't gotten any feedback so I am curious. As long as there is content, we can keep it going.

Take a lesson from the ARRL— One backup is never enough and two are as good as one! I have a local copy (to a USB disk), one to the cloud, and one to a network based drive that is basically separated from my system. We will have a program on that soon. Just remember, you are one click away from a disaster.



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73 and Gud DX
AJ8B => Bill

SWODXA 2024—2025 Calendar

October 2024

10 SWODXA Meeting
26-27 CQWW DX SSB

November 2024

2-4 ARRL SS CW
14 SWODXA Meeting
16-18 ARRL SS SSB

December 2024

6-8 ARRL 160M CW
12 SWODXA Meeting
14-15 ARRL 10M
28-29 Stew Perry 160M CW

January 2025

4-5 ARRL RTTY Roundup
9 SWODXA Meeting
18-20 ARRL January VHF
24-26 CQWW 160M CW

February 2025

8-9 CQWW WPX RTTY
13 SWODXA Meeting
15-16 ARRL DX CW
21-23 CQWW 160M SSB

March 2025

1-2 ARRL DX SSB
13 SWODXA Meeting
29-30 CQWW WPX SSB

April 2025

10 SWODXA Meeting

May 2025

8 SWODXA Meeting
16 SWODXA DX Dinner
16-18 Dayton Hamvention
24-25 CQWW WPX CW

June 2025

12 SWODXA Meeting
14-16 ARRL VHF
21-22 All Asian CW
28-29 ARRL Field Day

July 2025

12-13 IARU HF Championship
19-20 CQWW VHF

August 2025

9-10 WAE DX CW
23 Ohio QSO Party

September 2025

6-7 All Asian DX SSB Contest
13-15 ARRL Sept. VHF Contest
11 SWODXA Meeting
13-14 WAE DX SSB Contest
27-28 CQWW RTTY

Upcoming Club Dates and Topics

Meeting Date	Topic
Thursday, November 14th , 2024	Dxpediton to Vanuatu—K0BBC—Matt Holden
Thursday, December 11th, 2024	DXPediton to Fredonia
Thursday, January 9th, 2025	POTA & SOTA—K4SWL—Thomas Witherspoon

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Updates from our DX Friends

Hi Bill,

I trust you are well and enjoying our great hobby. I am having great fun with 2m TEP activity. It is completely new to me, so I'm learning a lot about this type of propagation. I have already worked A71XX @ 3207 mi, A65BR @ 3151 mi and 9K2GS @ 3469 mi. I use an Icom 7000, 80 watts into a 2 x 8 el Yagi by I0JXX.

QRG :- 144.192 Mhz

Mode:- Q65-30B

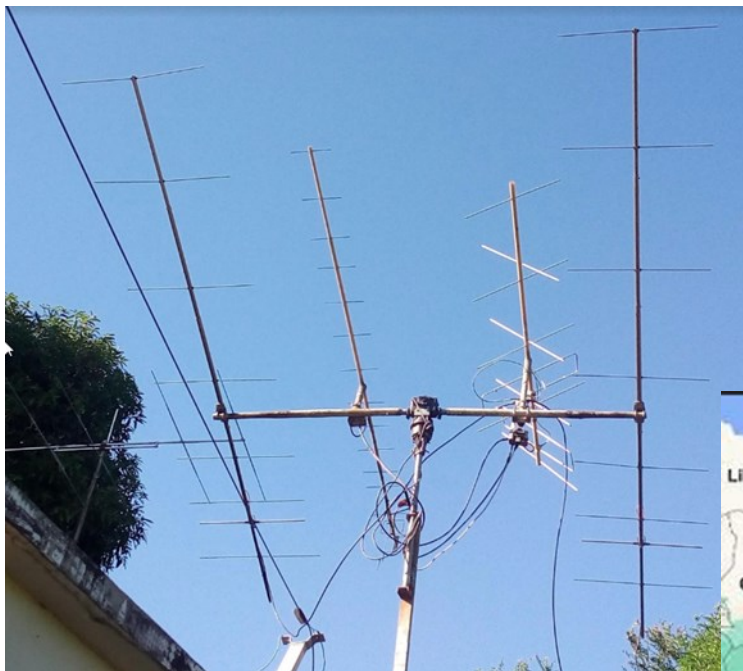
About TEP :- <https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/antennas-propagation/ionospheric/transequatorial-propagation.php>

I hope this message can trigger interest in this amazing activity. Keep healthy

73s

Pat— 3b8fa

2x8 el beam on the sides and LEO sat antennas in the middle.



SWODXA Club News—DX Friends

Hello Bill

Yes , last September, during the California QSO party, I was able to contact my last county in California, a mobile station with only 10 watts on 10m; awesome! Since that day, I'm the first French station to have the 58 California counties and a beautiful award.

Thank you solar cycle 25...

F8PDR— Ben



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Interview with GI6FZI

Gordon McBriar (gi6fzi@yahoo.com)

I worked Gordon and immediately sent him a request to tell us something about himself. He responded with the info below. Thanks Gordon.

Hi folks, greetings from the Emerald Isle.

I'm Gordon, I hold the callsigns GI6FZI & EI5IIB. My journey into amateur radio began in 1979, I was twenty-one and studying electronics in Belfast. One lunch-time, Paul GI4FZD(SK), who I guess you would call an Elmer, was modifying an ex-police department Pye Cambridge to operate on the 2m band, I was instantly hooked! In the UK in the late 1970's to get an amateur



radio license you were required to pass the City & Guilds "Radio Amateur Examination" (RAE) which was in two parts, part 1: licensing conditions, interference and EMC, and part 2: procedures and theory. Having aced this, I then had to apply to the UK Home office, who at that time were responsible for vetting and issuing callsigns. (Left)

HOME OFFICE
WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT, 1949
AMATEUR LICENCE B

Date of issue 20 OCTOBER 1981 Fee on issue £5.00
Renewable 20 OCTOBER in each year. Fee on renewal £5.00
Call Sign GI6FZI

1. (1) Licence GORDON MCBRIAR
(hereinafter called "the Licensee") is hereby licensed, subject to the terms, provisions and limitations herein contained:

(a) to establish in the United Kingdom an amateur sending and receiving station for wireless telegraphy (hereinafter called "the Station");

(i) At the above address (hereinafter called "the main address") or

(ii) At any premises (hereinafter called "the temporary premises") or any location (hereinafter called "the temporary location") for separate periods none of which shall exceed four consecutive weeks; or

(iii) At any premises (hereinafter called "the alternative premises") provided that at least 7 days before the Station is established at the alternative premises notice in writing of the postal address of the alternative premises is given to the General Manager of the Post Office Telephone Area in which the alternative premises are situated or, in the case of the Channel Islands to the Director of the Telecommunications Board of the appropriate Bailiwick. The said General Manager or Director shall also be notified in writing when the Station is no longer established at the alternative premises; or

(iv) in any vehicle or vessel but not on the sea or within any estuary, dock or harbour;

(v) as a pedestrian;

(b) to use the Station for the purpose of sending to, and receiving from, other licensed amateur stations as part of the self-training of the Licensee in communication by wireless telegraphy:

(i) Messages in plain language which are remarks about matters of a personal nature in which the Licensee, or the person with whom he is in communication, has been directly concerned;

(ii) Facsimile Signals;

(iii) Radio Teletypewriter Signals;

(iv) Visual Images;

(v) Signals (not being in secret code or cypher) which form part of, or relate to, the transmission of such messages, signals or images;

(c) to use the Station, as part of the self-training of the Licensee in communication by wireless telegraphy, during disaster relief operations conducted by the British Red Cross Society, the St John Ambulance Brigade, the Emergency County Planning Officer, or any police force in the United Kingdom or during any exercise relating to such operations, for the purpose of sending to other licensed amateur stations such messages as the Licensee may be requested by the said Society, Brigade, Emergency County Planning Officer or police force to send; and of receiving from any other licensed amateur station such messages as the person licensed to use such other licensed amateur station may be requested by the said Society, Brigade, Emergency County Planning Officer or such police force to send;

(d) to use the Station for the purpose of receiving transmissions in the Standard Frequency Service.

(424/10132) 1

I received the call GI6FZI in 1981. In the early days I used the aforementioned Pye Cambridge, but my first 'real' VHF synthesized 2m rig was a Yaesu FT290R Mk1. This was a Rolls Royce by comparison, and it was multimode. I spent many happy hours at the top of the Craigtantlet Hills (above Belfast) with the rig, a Microwave Modules 100W amplifier and a 10XY Yagi beam working into England, Scotland, Wales and the near continent. I was also active on RTTY and Packet TNC. Happy days. Eventually my young family and career had to take precedence and I went QRT for the best part of thirty years.

Interview with GI6FZI (cont.)



GI6FZI/EI5IIB

15 Ambleside Drive, Bangor, United Kingdom, BT20 4QB
 latitude : 54° 39' 14.8" N Longitude : 5° 38' 22.6" W WAB square: NW63 QTH locator : IO74EP

Gordon McBriar gi6fzi@yahoo.com

HF station configuration
 Flexradio 6400
 Flexradio 3000
 Yaesu FT991A
 1.8-50Mhz 1.2Kw amplifier (homebrew)
 Hexbeam 20m-6m
 Ciro Mazzoni Midi Loop

VHF/UHF
 Yaesu FT350
 MFJ1536 Triband 6m, 2m 70cm

QSL
 LotW
 QRZ.com

On resuming the hobby there were lots of new toys to play with. Moore's Law is correct, while I was QRT electronics had become much more powerful and inversely cheaper too! Over the years I've swapped, traded, and upgraded my HF transceivers: Kenwood TS590S, Yaesu FT957D, Flexradio 3000, FT991A to arrive at my current setup, a Flexradio 6400, which I love. An-

tenna wise I am restricted by having a postage stamp sized garden, and medieval UK planning laws. I employ a six band hexbeam 6-20m, a Ciro Mazzoni Midi Loop 80-20m and a Diamond CP-6S vertical trapped-radial antenna 80m-6m. (*Below*) To help me break DX pileups I use a homebrew 1.2Kw 1.8-6m amplifier, for 1Kw at the antenna. I must admit when visiting pages on QRZ.COM I look with envy at the superb antenna farms and QTHs which have space for one or more full size 160m antennas.

During the past year I have further developed my interest in modern digital modes (WSJTX/JTDX), these compliment my love of RTTY but not to the exclusion of SSB, I still love a good ragchew or net on 40/80m. I'm not a fan of the quick-fire QSO, name, report, next...repeat. It's amazing how many good friends I have with people I've never physically met. Amateur radio is the original socially-distanced hobby. I did have a brief sojourn with DVM, talk groups and timeslots, and while I applaud innovation and advances in this communications technology, I cannot get excited by this branch of our hobby – each to his own.

My advice to anyone newly licensed is to learn about grey/gray line propagation. (<https://www.qls.net/w2vtm/grayline.html>)

The grey line region is the part of our planet that is neither in darkness nor in daylight (the twilight zone). Propagation along the grey line is very efficient, the D layer, which absorbs HF signals, disappears rapidly on the sunset side of the grey line, and it has not yet built upon the sunrise side. This process is known as skywave propagation and is your window of opportunity! At this time there is almost no signal attenuation, but the MUF is still very high, so long-distance skip is still possible, capitalise on it, it doesn't last very long.



Interview with GI6FZI (cont.)

I am currently the chairman of the Bangor & District Amateur Radio Society (BDARS). (<https://www.facebook.com/BangorDistrictARS>) We were the first ham radio club in the North of Ireland and currently have around 60 active members. We regularly participate in RSGB special events and field days, assist local Scouts with Jamboree on the Air, and provide opportunities for learning, skill development, and camaraderie through our monthly club nights and other activities. Our club is not only about radio waves and hardware, it is about the connections we make, the friendships we build, and the experiences we share. Let us continue to support and help each other and welcome and inspire others to join our ranks.

If you are lucky enough to visit the Emerald Island, north or south, I suggest you indulge yourself, at least once, to The Full Irish breakfast or Ulster Fry. Colloquially described as a 'heart attack on a plate' it consists of two of each of the following fried ingredients: soda farls, potato bread, bacon rashers, sausages, black pudding, tomatoes, beans and mushrooms, washed down with a cup of strong tea. Ireland's most famous export, Guinness, is still a firm favorite here, but it's not the only one, you might also sample traditional Irish cider, Murphy's Stout, Tullamore Dew, Jameson whiskey, though I suggest you might want to pace yourself, alcohol free versions are available too! Take a trip to the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the north coast. The Giant's Causeway, some 40,000 massive black basalt hexagonal columns sticking out of the sea, (below left) and hear myths, stories and folklore about the giant Finn McCool, finish the day by visiting the Bushmills Distillery for a Black Bush.



Two meters is reasonably active over the whole island, and there is good repeater coverage. We are a friendly bunch and often meet up with fellow hams on vacation, so pack a handheld and call CQ.

Best 73

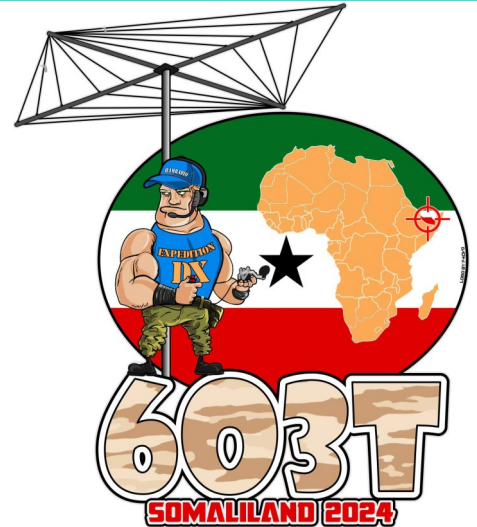
Gordon, GI6FZI/EI5IIB.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxPxevwParvDV7-5f-nk9FQ>

603T— A DxpeditioN to be Told

By Fabrizio Vallefuooco (iw3sqy@gmail.com)

Our Misadventure in Somaliland



Dear Amateur Radio Friends,

First of all we want to thank you for following our expedition so closely and for taking the time to get updates, despite the silence that followed after our decision to stop operations.

This adventure was born out of a desire to return to DXpeditioning after many years of a break, a break due to a thousand reasons and among the main ones being work and family.

After a careful analysis related to many factors, including DXCC location, difficulty in acquiring permits, safety of operators, we evaluated Somalia as a possible country where to carry out the next DXpedition. In this analysis, the area considered to be the “safest” for us, turned out to be Somaliland, a “democracy” that had seem quite stable when compared to the diverse Somali context.

Having verified this, in November 2023, I begin to liaise with possible contacts to help me receive an amateur radio license, since from the first interlocutions, the local Ministry of Technology and Telecommunications, had not been very proactive, and often my emails and phone calls would go unanswered for weeks, to my considerable frustration, but not much surprise, given past “African” experiences.

Having explained this, I will not hide the fact that I struggled with absurd requests, as the local ministry, as often happens, thought we wanted a broadcast license. So, to facilitate understanding, I prepared for them, dozens of PowerPoint slides, sent out documentations and involved local academics, to best explain who we amateur radio operators are and what we do. A very simple thing for those in the field, somewhat less so for those who are not familiar with our field at all.

Where is Somaliland?

Officially the **Republic of Somaliland**, is an unrecognized country in the Horn of Africa. It is located in the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden and bordered by Djibouti to the northwest, Ethiopia to the south and west, and Somalia to the east. The capital and largest city is Hargeisa.

The interlocution with the various ministries was long and tortuous and culminated at the end of July (nine months later) in a call conference via Skype, directly with the Honorable Minister and the Director General, who is its operational arm, to try to finalize the whole process, and to have an answer without too much prevarication: YES or NO!!!

603T (cont.)

A Long and Challenging Journey

Finally after 10 months, also thanks to the intervention of a “technical director” from the Ministry of Technology, we were able to get the license stamped and signed by the minister, and then a green light also from the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Customs and the Ministry of Immigration, all of whom had in the meantime been informed by the Ministry of Technology and our on-site contact.

As soon as we got this wonderful news, we proceeded to 'purchase the airline tickets (which in the meantime had almost tripled in price), paid for our location located in the hills at 1320mt elevation just adjacent to the town of Hargeisa, as well as took out the various insurances, which are very difficult to find but above all very expensive, as Somalia is coded as a risk country and often uninsurable.

In a short time we set up 5 stations complete with Yaesu FTdx-10 and brand new Expert 1.5k-FA Taurus amplifiers fresh out of the factory and ready to be squeezed.

As antennas the setup planned consisted of two Spiderbeams, a HexBeam and several verticals for all bands.

Honestly we would have been ready to be able to get really, really, good anywhere in the world and on any band.

Our Journey began on September 10th from northern Italy and we reached Rome airport by train, with 18 pieces of luggage in tow, some very heavy and some out of standard size.



603T (cont.)

The trip was rather smooth, about 6 hours to Addis Ababa and about an hour and a half to Hargeisa, where we land on time and very tired, after 24 hours of travel, including transfers and stop-overs.

We are asked for our passports for the identification and visa procedures, which are completed in about forty minutes, not before having a coffee together with the authorities present on our arrival.

As expedition leader I am taken as the contact person for all the steps related to our arrival, so I leave the rest of the team to drink coffee and go along with our on site contact, to the customs offices, where after a negotiation in classic Arab style, we get the equipment issued, with great satisfaction, and relative speed, which to be honest left me rather surprised. Evidently our contact had everything well organized.

After closing the customs paperwork, a young officer from the Homeland Security unit shows up at the office, wanting to open the suitcases and inspect the interior.

We without difficulty, as we have all the authorizations, agree and help in the inspection explaining what kind of materials it is, and that it will be used in a legal way as already agreed with the various ministries already aware.

After about an hour of inspection, and the impression that they did not understand us very well, we are dismissed saying that they would have to call an IT specialist, with specific knowledge, to authorize the material to enter the country. We point out that the material had already been authorized by the Ministry of Technology, complete with an endorsed list!

Meanwhile, days pass, Friday arrives, which is a public holiday in Muslim countries, Saturday passes, and then Sunday, which we discover is another day with a national holiday.



603T (cont.)



I arrange to make contact with the airline in order to anticipate the return as soon as possible, managing to find a flight arriving in Milan Malpensa for the following Monday.

Once the flight is booked and with three days to go, we begin a series of phone calls with the various institutional interlocutors who had blocked our equipment, with the goal of reaching an agreement and getting us back in possession of the equipment that had been stuck in an airport warehouse for almost two weeks now.

We manage to contact the Director General of the Ministry of Interior, from whom we request a meeting, and in the afternoon we manage to see him and agree together on the release of the equipment, in exchange for our departure, and the reassurance that nothing would remain on Somaliland soil. We also agree on permission to be able to go the following day to pack and re-check our luggage, which in the meantime had been opened and inspected numerous times.

“110% - You WILL Get Your Materials BACK!!”

After a thousand promises, the bitter disappointment and the difficult decision...

In the climate of total disappointment with the whole story at this time, we see a small ray of light and a hope that we can come out of this adventure with slightly less broken bones.

The next day, three of us went to the customs warehouse, where after 12 days the suitcases could not be found, as they were buried by new arrivals.

Having found the suitcases, some broken and some half-opened, we open them one by one and try with the few means at our disposal to re-pack everything as best we can, and decide to throw away some materials that would have generated us some over-baggage and whose value was far less than the cost to be paid to the airline. Here, too, discussion arises as to why we want to throw it away, but it ends when the material, along with a suitcase, is kindly donated to the “boss” on duty.

Having finished packing and received the okay from the “police,” we go to customs to report that we finally got the okay and would be leaving the next day.

603T (cont.)

Obviously it could not end so easily and we learn that in all this institutional whirlwind we had unexpectedly created, all the state offices had put a block on us and our equipment... so blocking customs (which had given the ok on our arrival) and that the release could only be given by the minister himself!!!

Panic !!! we are only 20 hours away from our departure and it looks like we are not going to get anything back !!!

Our contact, knowing well how “the system” works, tells us that we must go immediately to the Ministry of Finance (on which customs depends) and speak directly with the Minister himself otherwise we would never see our radios again!!!

We drive about an hour from the airport, to the center of Hargeisa, through busy, dusty, pothole-filled roads, and reach the Ministry, where thanks to connections we manage to get in and find out that the Minister is not there as he is busy in a meeting with the president... What now??? As always we wait and wait and wait.

In a hustle and bustle of more or less colorful figures, a deputy minister is recognized, who once the situation is explained and the minister’s videoconference is over, invites us upstairs so that he can confer and explain our problem again. Needless to say, he was aware of the situation, as at the institutional level our case was “going around,” but he did not know what to do... when, from our contacts he is explained who to call and what to ask, so that we get straight to the point.

The order is given to release our luggage and an apology is brought, which honestly seems late and gives us little satisfaction, but by institutional courtesy we shake hands and leave, with a result in our pocket, which for many might seem little, but for us was vitally important.

After what passed I must say that I was definitely happy, but still not 100% confident, until I saw our bags go up together with the whole Team on the Ethiopian flight the next day, which then actually happened and made the whole Team breathe a sigh of relief.

During our stay in Somaliland of course it was not all serene as there were, as is normal to happen, moments of tension, euphoria, fear and despondency, where we reasoned many times on what more or better could have been done to avoid this and the answer was always the same, and with modesty, we can say: Nothing!!!



603T (cont.)

A week later, it is easier to look back with greater clarity and recognize that organizing an expedition to Somalia involved some significant risks, which we had already evaluated and considered at the time of planning anyway.

We had gone through all the required formal and informal processes, we had received written documentation where we attested that we could operate from Somaliland legally and according to the rules.

However, sometimes the intervention of one person, out of scruple or fear, can create a concatenation of events and bad information, leading to the sinking of a long-planned DXPedition.

In addition, we had confirmation of how the Somaliland government is still immature, as the various documents signed by the various ministries and personally signed by a minister, were considered waste paper by other state officials, who evidently for reasons unknown to us had the authority to do so

From the point of view of personal security we never had any problems, i.e., the location was definitely protected, with two guards per shift, some of us were able to visit the city in total autonomy, with only a guard and a cab, we always had the freedom to leave the hotel (with an escort) to go do some shopping at the nearby market, or go for a coffee at a nearby international hotel, where many Europeans were present, we never saw the various military check points pinching dollars, typical of the various African capitals.

However, I will not deny you that more than a few times, considering also the institutions we had to deal with, we had the impression of being “kept in check,” which, I assure you, is not a feeling that makes you feel calm and helps to keep calm in a context like the one we were in.

This experience, where all times were very dilated and where we could not do what we had set out to do, which was radio, the days were marked between breakfast, lunch, dinner and a lot of boredom, always with the same dishes (I know we were not at the Sheraton), and I have to admit that discouragement some times took over and one must also take note of how it was a great strain on our emotional resilience, and certainly a challenging stress test for each team member.

Everyone in their own way learned something from this experience, some in a positive way, that is, to treasure it for their personal lives and for possible future experiences, while others were overwhelmed by emotions and experienced this adventure very badly. Fortunately, we are not all the same and everyone has their own character and personality.

603T (cont.)

Our Mantra in Those Days

Let's Solve on thing at a time without panicking!!!



In conclusion, we can say that the two weeks we spent in Somalia taught us a lot. The country has extraordinary beauty and its people have shown great strength and resilience, but unfortunately the conditions of stability are still extremely precarious. This made it difficult to carry out our operations, and the risk of failure became too great to ignore.

We were aware that we had avoided further problems, but the weight of what we experienced will be with us for a while yet. As you can well imagine, mental trauma is not something that goes away quickly. We have had time to reflect and confront the choices we have made, and despite the unforeseen outcome, we are still grateful to have had the opportunity to work together in such a complex context.

As you can well imagine, mental trauma is not something that goes away quickly. We have had time to reflect and confront the choices we have made, and despite the unforeseen outcome, we are still grateful to have had the opportunity to work together in such a complex context.

We believe that traveling and discovering the world, even through our hobby, remains one of the most enriching experiences. However, this adventure has taught us again to never underestimate possible risks and to always prepare for the unexpected, even when it seems that everything has been planned down to the smallest detail.

We would like to thank you again for your interest and support, thank you for your messages, for your patience and for waiting on the air, hoping to hear from us. It is an important signal for us to know that the community is there for us, especially at times like this.

I also want to thank all the foundations and individual donors, who helped and supported us in the attempt of this feat, which we really came very close to. Thanks again to the foundations who gave us the opportunity to bring in at zero expenses for him, Kristers YL3JA, a young boy with excellent operational skills, so that he could gain experience in DXPedition.

603T (cont.)



Our regret is that he was not able to express himself on the radio during the furious pileups that were sure to take place, but I am convinced that he learned a lot from this experience and that before long, we will see him independently organizing a project of his own. We are sure of it!!!

Finally, to close with a little hope, we would like our experience to help raise awareness about what it means to organize an expedition in such “complex” areas.

73 de IV3JPP— on behalf of the entire team IV3ZXQ - IV3AZV - IV3DSH - IZ8GCE - YL3JA



603T (cont.)

Jamhuuriyadda Somaliland
Wasaaradda Isgaadhsiinta
iyo Teknoolajiyadda



Republic of Somaliland
Ministry of Communication
& Technology

License for Amateur Radio Station
MICT/DoT/005/05

1. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

(Check list for official use only)

- Application Letter to DG
- Somaliland National ID Card or Passport of the Applicant
- Foreign persons not based in Somaliland applying for Amateur license should notarize all their documents
- A copy of the manual / brochure of the radio equipment intended to be used
- Payment of non-refundable application fee

2. TYPE OF AMATEUR LICENSE APPLIED FOR (TICK ONLY)

- Amateur License for Somaliland Nationals and Residents (Renewable annually)
- Temporary Amateur License for Foreigners (valid for a maximum period of one year only)

3. PARTICULARS OF APPLICANT (IN BLOCK CAPITAL)

1. Name: FABRIZIO VALLEFUOCO
2. Nationality: ITALIAN
3. ID/ Passport Number: 1985790000
4. Postal Address: Villa Somalia, P.O. Box 100, Hargeisa
5. Telephone: +252 11 444444
6. E-mail: IW3SQY@GMAIL.COM
7. Physical Address: City: Hargeisa, Somaliland
8. Callsign issued: 6O3T

Handwritten signature and date: 08/08/2024

4. REFEREE FOR THE APPLICANT

1. Name: ...
2. Nationality: Somaliland
3. ID Number: ...
4. Postal Address: ...
5. Telephone: ...
6. E-mail: ...
7. Physical Address: ...

5. RADIO AMATEUR TRANSMIT SECTION TO BE USED

1. Make & Type of Equipment: Yaesu Musen ltd
2. Model: FT-DX10
3. Frequency Ranges Covered: 0-30Mhz and 50-52Mhz
4. Maximum Transmit Output Power (in Watts): 100
5. Antenna Make & Type: Spiderbeam 6 Bands
6. Antenna Gain: 10 dBi at 10mt high

1. Make & Type of Equipment: Yaesu Musen ltd
2. Model: FT-991
3. Frequency Ranges Covered: 0-30Mhz and 50-52Mhz
4. Maximum Transmit Output Power (in Watts): 100
5. Antenna Make & Type: Spiderbeam 6 Bands
6. Antenna Gain: 10 dBi at 10mt high

6. DECLARATION:

I hereby certify the information I have provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that it is an offence to give false information in support of any application under laws of Republic of Somaliland.

Name of Applicant: VALLEFUOCO FABRIZIO

Ministry Of Information And Communication Technology (MICT)

Minister Dr. Ahmed Yousuf Idris



Signature:

Date: 08/08/2024



Heard It. Worked It. Logged It.

Japanese Castles on the Air— JACOTA

Greg Cook— J03SLK (kgregc1@mac.com)

I had a great call with Icom's Ray Novak, N9JA. Somehow we started talking about our newsletter and Ray suggested that I contact Greg, J03SLK. Greg has a series of articles describing his activations of Japanese Castles. I read the first several and knew that these would be great for our newsletter. Greg was kind enough to allow me to reprint these.

Thanks to Ray for the connection and for Greg for his permission to reprint. You can slow watch the discussion about the Castles on the Air with Greg and the DX Mentor at (<https://youtu.be/HrhHDzzqCjM>)

I'm back on the castle trail again! It has been a long time, but I decided that I could now take a short trip to a nearby castle to operate from. The corona virus situation is still serious the Kansai area, and there are travel restrictions for "non-essential" reasons....but visiting and operating at a castle again is something I considered "essential!" So, I drove the 25 minutes it takes to reach Ikeda castle from my house and talked to the park director about operating Ham radio on the castle grounds. He said that I would need to submit a formal request to the city office, but in principle it should be OK. He gave me the necessary forms and I had a friend fill them out in Japanese and then I sent them by email to the director. A few days later the director called me and said that the city had approved my request, so I was good to operate on Friday, the 23rd of July. So, Ikeda castle is the topic of this month's JACOTA operation. The city of Ikeda, where Ikeda Castle is located, is also famous among hams for the Kansai Ham Festival.

It was the second day of a 4-day holiday/weekend, and I was somewhat concerned about a lot of people visiting the castle...and also about the heat! The weather was forecast to be hot and humid, and the forecast was correct. I arrived at the parking lot very close to the castle about 8:15am and waited for the castle to open at 9:00am. There are only 6 parking spots at the lot very near the entrance of the castle, but there is another large parking lot just north of the castle, that is just a short walk to the entrance.

Ikeda castle is located in Osaka prefecture, and about a ten-minute walk from Hankyu Ikeda station. Ikeda castle is a small castle, similar to Shoryuji and is easy to visit in a morning or an afternoon.

JACOTA (cont.)

History of Ikeda castle

The castle was originally a small fortification built by Ikeda Noriyori in 1334. The Ikeda clan ruled the area from this time through to the Sengoku Period. The castle was involved in many battles and struggles for power in the area and gradually grew in size and strength with each one. The castle fell to Oda Nobunaga in 1568. Nobunaga recognized the skills and intelligence of Ikeda Katsumasa, lord of the castle, and made him a retainer. Ikeda rebuilt and strengthened much of the castle, learning from Nobunaga's castle techniques. Araki Murashige took over the castle in a coup in 1570 and expelled Ikeda Katsumasa from the castle. The castle was abandoned in 1580 when Araki moved to Itami Castle. (History courtesy of Jcastle at <http://jcastle.info>)



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DX Engineering is a proud sponsor of major DXpeditions like 3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023. Our active operators are dedicated to making ATNOs possible for hams around the globe. See you in the pileups!

JACOTA (cont.)



The picture on the left is of the Ikeda main keep and surrounding pond

The Tenshu is a reconstruction and is very nicely maintained. You can sit on the platform and view the pond, a very peaceful experience.



This is the main gate, Otemon Gate and a wooden bridge to the castle.

To the right after you pass through the gate is an office and rest area. The staff in the office are very nice and helpful.

JACOTA (cont.)



To the left of the gate is a nice garden.

A large open ground with foundation stones. The grass is very green and trim.



A tea house on the castle grounds. The vast green lawn of the castle grounds. It would be great to set up a large antenna on the grass and operate here all day...but not in summer!

JACOTA (cont.)



The castle is at the far end of the grounds.



Operating spot for J03SLK Ikeda JACOTA.

The stone ledge at the base of the Tenshu is where I can set my bags on and sit while operating. I had my IC-705 transceiver in the LC-192 backpack, which held everything I needed, including an antenna.

JACOTA (cont.)

I decided to use the Icom AL-705 magloop antenna as it is compact, is easy to mount on a tripod and I have finally learned to tune it fairly quickly. I wanted to use the Buddistick Pro® tripod, but I forgot an adaptor I needed to mount the antenna tuning box to the “Versa Hub.” I ended up mounting the antenna to my camera tripod, which had the correct sized base screw. Constructing a vertical dipole would have been the best antenna to use on 40 meters, but the location was too close to the Tenshu and the walking path, and I had to think about the visitors that would be walking past my station. Setting up on the wide grassy area would have been perfect, but that was not allowed, and there was no shade nearby. In addition, the place I chose had a pretty open view to Osaka and Kobe.

I hung the Go Pouch on the tripod for some additional weight (batteries, adaptors, tablet) and to show my call sign tag in the top pocket. Several visitors seem to understand what I was doing, and paused to watch.



HF and D-Star operations

The Ikoma 430 repeater was fairly easy to access with a simple whip antenna and 5 watts, and I used it for D-STAR contacts. It is located high on Mount Ikoma, east of Osaka. Unfortunately I couldn't access the Tanimachi repeater, JR3VH, owned and operated by the Tanimachi Repeater Club, where I am a member. The Tanimachi repeater is located in the center of downtown Osaka.

Later in the morning I switched to HF. I found a clear frequency in the SSB portion of the 40 meter band and called CQ, but got no reply. I thought my signal was too weak or the antenna was just not tuned right. I called a friend in southeast Osaka, and he said he couldn't hear me at all...the signal seemed to skip over Osaka. So I went hunting for other stations calling CQ and managed to work stations in Mie and southwestern Hyogo prefectures. RSTs ranged from 43 to 57.

JACOTA (cont.)



The day was getting hotter and more humid, so I packed up the station, gave my thanks to the nice castle staff and told them I would send them a link to the August FB News site. By the time I got back to my car I was sweating, but it had been a great day and a lot of fun. I hope other hams will operate from Ikeda or another castle that they find. JACOTA operation is a lot of fun and learning more about the castles is very interesting.

Future JACOTA castle articles

Last December I visited Izushi castle in Hyogo prefecture. It had snowed the day before, and the road and castle grounds were white and wet. And, it was cold! I only took pictures that day, and talked to the man in charge of the parking lot, right in front of the castle, about operating there. Izushi

Taking a break in the shade of

castle could be the next place that I take you to visit and operate from.

73.



Izushi castle in Hyogo prefecture.

Interview with ZB2MR– Michael

I have worked Michael several times on several modes and when I received his QSL card,. It was the trigger to contact him for an “interview”. He agreed and sent this along. He can be reached at mrrecagno@gmail.com

AJ8B: How did you first get interested in amateur radio?

ZB2MR: Well, I vividly remember my late Dad with his world Band Receiver listening to both commercial and Airband transmissions, this was back in the late 70's when I was about 7 years old. After that my brother Eddie (ZB2ER) bought his first CB, a 40 channel Asahi. I was hooked!!

From cheap Walkie Talkies to really Expensive Rigs, we had them all! We looked forward to rainy days and my brother and I still joke to this day, that every time we change the shack or put up an Antenna it normally rains! Which has happened on quite a few occasions!



AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

ZB2MR: My favorite bands are 15 and 40 Meters. I enjoy FT8 and BPSK plus listening to QSO's in 40 meters.

AJ8B: What time of day and days do you like to operate?

ZB2MR: Since I was very young, I have always enjoyed my hobby late at night, all

the way to the early hours of the morning. Hence why one of my favorite bands is 40 Meters. I operate on a daily basis but due to work I can only stay late on weekends.

AJ8B: Any secrets to your success?

ZB2MR: No secrets, just patience, when after a specific Country and with the help of some much-needed propagation.

I have worked most parts of the Globe with minimum power. Can sometimes be frustrating but conditions changes, sometimes drastically and if you are persistent enough you will get the Countries that you are looking for.

ZB2MR (cont.)

AJ8B: Any tips that you can share?

ZB2MR: You don't need to overpower your Rig! I normally transmit with no more than 50watts. no more than 25watts if on Digi Modes.

Having said that I live quite high up the Rock of Gibraltar very near the Moorish Castle and believe it or not what I use is a small Balcony Antenna for 10, 15, 20 & 40 meters.

AJ8B: Describe what you are currently using:

ZB2MR: At the moment my main Rigs are Yaesu FTDX 3000 and a Yaesu FT991A for Digimodes.

I have recently joined the DMR craze and enjoying it thoroughly, as it has brought back very fond memories of the QSO's back in the 80's which sadly we don't hear any more.

I also own multiple Scanners. With my last purchase a the Uniden SDS-200E.

AJ8B: What advice do you have for those of us trying to break pileups to work DX?

ZB2MR: This is a very talked about topic, as many Hams prefer to crank up the Watts while others prefer to wait for a space. I prefer to be able to hear the calling station clearly if not I won't even bother calling.

I also give my full callsign and not just my prefix/suffix. I hate to repeat myself, but Patience is the key!

AJ8B: What is your favorite contest?

ZB2MR: To be honest, I have never participated in any, need more hours on my daily routine! although I enjoy listening to them. Maybe when I retire, I will give it a go!

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ZB2MR (cont.)

AJ8B: Any QSLing Hints?

ZB2MR: Not really other than if you receive a QSL, always reply! I make it a point to reply to all my QSL's immediately and with as little delay as possible.

AJ8B: What coaching/advice would you give new amateurs?

ZB2MR: To be patient, especially to the younger generation. This is not the Internet where you can speak with crystal clear audio to anyone around the world! This is Radio and I always stress to friends and my son Johnjoe who is starting to find interest on the hobby, about propagation conditions.

On advice, always be safe when installing your first Antenna, watch out for power cables and high restrictions. If not sure ask your local Ham Radio Club for advice.

AJ8B: If I were to stop by for a visit, what local place would you want us to visit?

ZB2MR: The Upper Rock! The views are spectacular and on a clear day you can see Africa.

The Alameda Botanical Gardens is also a place to visit. I visit a lot to do Photography, one of my other Hobbies.

AJ8B: What local food would you want me to try?

ZB2MR: Calentita! (Hottish) Which is similar in texture to a Yorkshire Pudding. Ingredients are Chickpea Flour, Olive Oil, Water, Salt & Pepper. This is normally eaten inside a piece of bread or in small slices as a side dish.

AJ8B: Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

ZB2MR: Just keep up the good work! It's people like you that keep this Hobby alive!

Thank you for considering me for this interview.

You have a new Member on your Team!

Best 73's de ZB2MR.

[Qrz.com/db/zb2mr](https://qrz.com/db/zb2mr)

ZB2MR (cont.)



KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF and 6 Meter Power Amplifier

By Bill, AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net)

A no-tune solid state amplifier delivering 1200 Watts SSB/CW Output from 160 to 6 Meters.

I have been looking for station upgrades that would fit my budget and provide results. The first upgrade was to my antenna system. I added a K4K10 Hexbeam at 30 feet and a couple of beverage antennas for 160M. Next, I was looking for a replacement for my trusty AL-80B. It has been a solid performer for many years, typically delivering 700 Watts without a complaint. However, I have been trying to take advantage of my FLEX-6400 2 slice operation and switching between bands meant tuning up each time. Also, I wanted to pursue contacts on 6M and the AL-80B does not support 6M.



After quite a bit of research, and some coaching from Tom, NR8Z, I chose the KM3KM Mercury IIIs amplifier. Tom is all in on this amplifier, raving about it at every opportunity. I could only find one review on this amplifier and that was on the kit form of the amplifier.¹ The Mercury IIIs is no longer available in kit form.

Although I trust Tom completely, I had to check for other opinions. Quickly searching eHam.net, it became obvious that others felt the same way. There are 83 reviews with an average of 4.9 out of 5.0! The very first reviewer posted "I've owned my amplifier for just over 4 months, and it works perfect, great fit and finish. I have owned a lot of amplifiers, but this is an absolute joy to operate. Get on the list and it's well worth the wait!!!" The other reviews are similar or better!

As I have reviewed this article, I realized that it sounds more like a commercial than an independent product review. There are two reasons for that. First, it is the first piece of equipment that I have reviewed and then shared with others. Secondly, it is only "kind of" a product review. I own the amp and just want to share my experience!

KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF (cont.)

Overview

The KM3KM Mercury IIIs arrived, and I was ready to go. KM3KM kept me updated during the entire manufacturing, testing and shipping process. It arrived in one box as the power supply is inclusive to the chassis. Figure 2 shows the front panel layout.²

Here is a list of the features of this amplifier:

Operating Bands 160M – 6M	RF Auto Band Decoding
7-inch Color Touch Screen	FWD/REF/SWR Meter
DI Voltage/DI Current Meter	Selection for 3 Antennas w/Memory.
1200 watts SSB/CW	700 watts DIGI mode
Full FCC Acceptance: FCC ID: FCC ID: 2A3P6MERCURYIIIS	

There are two other features not mentioned. The first is complete amplifier protection that is part of the design. Reprinted from the manual is an overview of the testing that is done during the 2-week burn in before your unit ships: *“We have performed a test of ruggedness with a controlled load mismatch through all phases, enabled by the test fixture. The mismatch unit is connected to a network analyzer. Through a network control, we can set it to work through all phases of the Smith chart. This mismatch unit will create voltage standing waves with ratios from 55: 1 up to a maximum of 125: 1. With the normal situation (standard, 50 volts 1200 watts into a 50-watt load) the amp is operating at full power. The mismatch unit now replaces the dummy load connected to the output of the amp and the test set up is powered up again. We then vary the mismatch unit to expose the LDMOS transistor to a range of extreme mismatch conditions and positions on the Smith chart. The extreme conditions range from a VSWR of 55: 1 to 125: 1. The transistor is still alive by going back to the original load and showing the 1200-watt output power. It still works! Would you ever treat a transistor worse than this? Check out the next test.*

What is an LDMOS transistor? (KM3KM uses the BLF189XLA from Ampleon, USA.)

LDMOS (laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor) transistors are used in microwave/RF power amplifiers. These transistors are often fabricated on p/p+ silicon epitaxial layers. The fabrication of LDMOS devices mostly involves various ion-implantation and subsequent annealing cycles. As an example, the drift region of this power MOSFET is fabricated using up to three ion-implantation sequences to achieve the appropriate doping profile needed to withstand high electric fields.

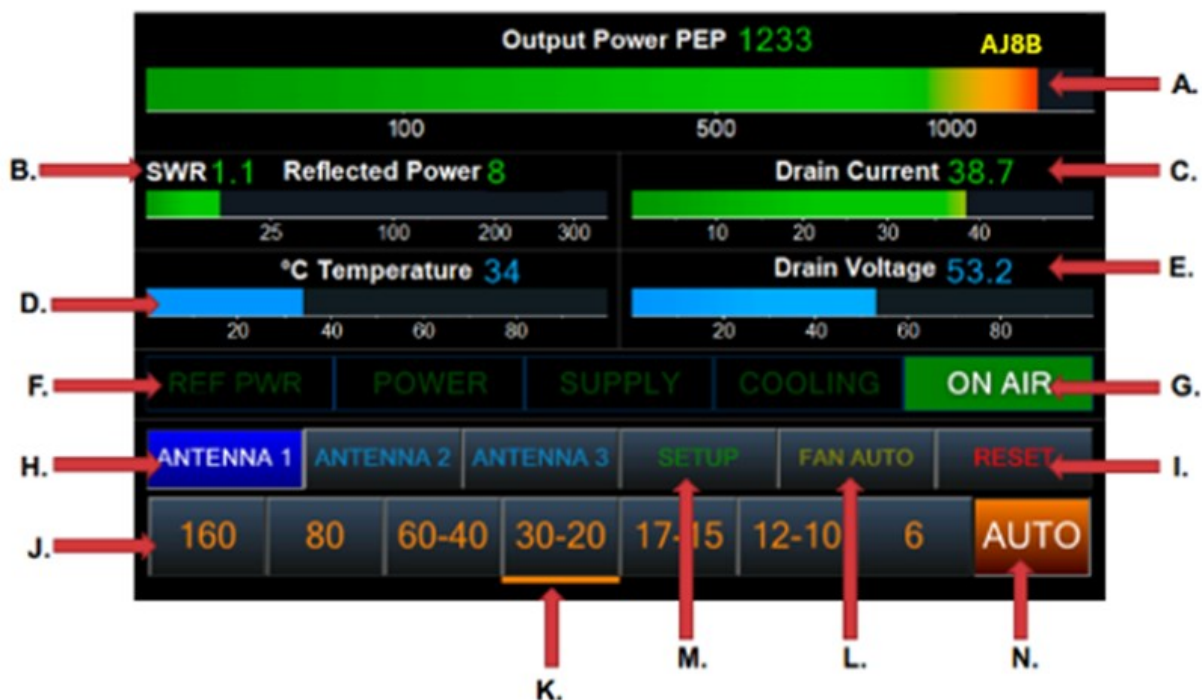
Silicon-based LDMOS FETs are widely used in RF power amplifiers for base-stations as the requirement is for high output power with a corresponding drain to source breakdown voltage usually above 60 volts. Compared to other devices such as GaAs FETs they show a lower maximum power gain frequency.

KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF (cont.)

Even though the transistor is normally used at 50 volts, we then test it at 55 volts to challenge the extremely rugged LDMOS. The transistor was powered at 55 volts 1200 watts into 50 ohms when we suddenly disconnect the output load, creating a very unfriendly open circuit situation. Then, we powered up the transistor to 1200 watts. A short was introduced to the output of the amp while the transistor is powered up. When placed back into the 50-ohm load and powered up to 1200 watts, we see that it again survives and works perfectly. This is what we mean by extremely rugged. This transistor seems to be unbreakable; this does not mean that proper operations procedures and suggestions should be avoided as damage may occur.”

The second feature not mentioned is the Warranty. From Angel, N2PTB of KM3KM, I learned:

“We offer one-year nontransferable warrantee for any defects in material and workmanship to original owners, not unlike the industry standard. The difference is that after the one year, should anything happen, we WON'T charge for LABOR...Not even to secondhand owners. After one year all the customer would pay for is shipping and parts (at cost) ...LABOR for repair is on KM3KM. This is unique to KM3KM in the Ham Radio world of service and arguably the most expensive to the consumer.”



KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF (cont.)

FWD Power Output (PEP)	SWR & Reflected Power
Drain Current	Operating Temperature
Drain Voltage	Alarm Indicators
On Air Light (Transmitting)	Antenna Switch Zone
Reset Button (Clears Faults)	Manual Band Select Zone
Automatic Segment Indicator	Auto/Manual Fan Control
Configuration	Auto Band Select

Specifications


Of course, the Mercury IIIs has undergone full FCC Type acceptance using the FCC ID: FCC ID: 2A3P6MERCURYIIIS. The results can be found online at <https://fccid.io/2A3P6MERCURYIIIS/Test-Report/Test-Report-5680979>. Below are a few of the highlights of the specifications.

- Intermodulation distortions (IMD3): better than 30dB below the rated PEP
- Input and output impedances: nominal value: 50 Ohm unbalanced, UHF (SO239) type connectors.
- Input circuit: broadband, SWR below 1.2:1 (1.1:1 typically); 1.8 – 54 MHz continuous range without retuning or switching.
- Temperature range: 14 F to 149 F (-10 C to +65 C)
- Unit Supply Voltage 120VAC or 220VAC – Auto-Sensing
- Dimensions (projections not included) and weight, operating: (W x H x D) 12 x 5.5 x 13.5 In (305 x 140 x 343 mm); 27Lbs (12.2 kg).

This unit complies with the FCC RF Exposure limits for an uncontrolled environment. To comply with FCC RF exposure limit requirements, antennas must be operated at a minimum distance of 740.25 cm or 24.29' between the radiator and any person's body.



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The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday, and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 mos.*

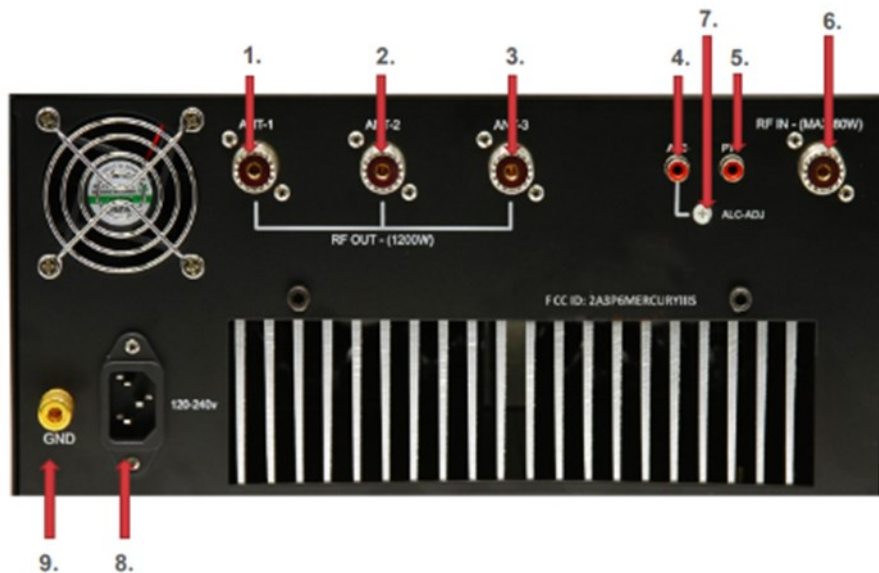
The Weekly DX - is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via email in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics. *Subscriptions are \$27.00 for one year.*

Get two weeks of The Daily DX or a sample of The Weekly DX free by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com, or at <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm>.

KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF (cont.)

Amplifier Connections

So, how easy is it to setup and use? I did check YouTube and found several videos about the Mercury IIIs. The one that was most like my situation was from K7AGE.³ After unpacking the unit, I connected my Flex 6400 to the RF IN, the antenna switch to Antenna port 1, and a ground strap. Then I plugged it in. I turned on the power and heard the Morse code “RE” indicating that all was ready. I set the Tune “button” on my Flex to 5 watts on all bands. I turned the antenna switch to my dummy load and selected 14.028 on the Flex. I pushed the “Operate” button on Mercury IIIs and then tapped my key for a quick dit. The amplifier immediately jumped to 20M, and the output was approximately 700W! I was good to go. Figure 3 shows the back panel layout and the table following is a description of each of the items.



Antenna 1 Connection (Default)	Antenna Connection 2`
Antenna Connection 3	RCA Plug ALC to Radio
RCA Plug PTT from Radio	RF PL-259 In Connection
ALC Adjust	Ground Connection
AC Power Input	

KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF (cont.)

Operation

I don't have sophisticated equipment to do testing, but I was curious about Input drive and output results. The table below shows my findings using a FLEX-6400 and a dummy load in CW mode.

Freq (Mhz)	Input (W)	Output (W)	Gain (db)
1.83	45	1200	14.26
3.528	35	1200	15.35
7.028	25	1200	16.81
14.028	35	1200	15.35
18.1	40	1200	14.77
21.028	40	1200	14.77
24.915	45	1200	14.26
28.028	50	1200	13.8
28.4	50	1200	13.8
50.313	50	700	11.46

Conclusion

If you are like me, you are always looking for the downside or the “gotcha” for a product. For the KM3KM Mercury IIIs it is the availability. The table below shows the timeline of acquiring the Mercury IIIs.

7/1/2023	Filled in Online Form
7/3/2023	Confirmed that I was on the list
6/5/2024	Deposit Due
6/24/24	Unit in final testing stage
7/11/2024	Unit Shipped
7/15/2024	Arrived and Setup

To me, this was the “gotcha”. However, I waited patiently and was rewarded with an excellent product.

KM3KM Mercury IIIs HF (cont.)

In summary, I would suggest that the size, weight, and no-tune capability allow this amplifier to exceed any other amplifier in the same price range. When you consider the 1200W output on 160 – 6M and the seamless integration into your existing equipment, this is an excellent choice for you ham station. Here is an update on delivery from Angel, N2PTB. “I’m thrilled to inform you that our MIIIS amps delivery time has improved significantly! We’re now able to deliver in just 7 months from the time of list placement. Plus, for the LUX model, we’ve eliminated the waiting list entirely, shipping in about 2 months post-deposit or even within 6 days if it’s in stock. We’re committed to maintaining the highest quality without compromise, even if it means taking a bit more time. Customer satisfaction remains our top priority!”

This amplifier can be ordered from KM3KM.com at <https://www.km3km.com/mercuryiiis-fully-assembled/> . The cost is \$2,799 + Shipping.

¹ Build Your Own Solid-State Linear Amplifier – CQ Reviews: KM3KM Electronics Mercury IIIs Amplifier Kit by W7DGJ – Dave Jensen – CQ September 2021, Pages 40 – 45

² The Manual and details are available at <https://www.km3km.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Operation-Manual-v4.3-Full-Unit.pdf>

³ New In The Ham Shack: Mercury IIIs Amplifier <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CDc-NeP4To>

ARRL OH Section Updates

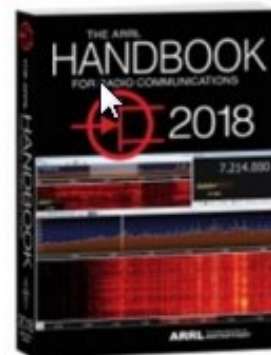
From our ARRL Section Manager,
Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Hey Gang, Do you get updates from your ARRL Ohio Section Manager via email? If not, go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered.

What’s the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There’s nothing else to it. I pay all expenses, and from time to time, I Give Away more than just a Handbook. And, you’ll never know just what months will be those special times that I will have more than just a Handbook to Give Away!!

Did you see the ad from ARRL recently? Well, they liked my idea so much that they’ve copied it. Yup, they were giving away a Handbook too!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that’s easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big RED Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often! <http://arrl-ohio.org>



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Trustee W8EX
—
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SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

Club Fact Sheet

Who We Are: *SWODXA* is comprised of active DX'ers and contesters with a deep passion for all aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club to please contact us. *SWODXA* members are active in all facets of DX and Contesting. We also travel to, and fund various DXpeditions all over the world. *SWODXA* sponsors the annual DX Dinner held on the Friday evening of Hamvention weekend in Dayton, Ohio. In addition, *SWODXA* members moderate the Hamvention DX Forum and host the *W8DXCC DX Convention*. *SWODXA* is proud sponsor of the prestigious *DXpedition of the Year Award*.

DX Donation Policy: The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the website at: <https://www.swodxa.org/dxgrant-application/> and elsewhere in this newsletter

Club History: The Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) is one of the country's premier amateur radio clubs. Though loosely formed in mid-1977, the club had its first formal organizational meeting in August of 1981 where Frank Schwob, W8OK (sk), was elected our first President. While organized primarily as a DX club, SWODXA members are active in all aspects of our hobby.

Requirements for Membership: We welcome all hams who have an interest in DXing. It doesn't matter whether you're a newcomer, or an old-timer to DXing; everyone is welcome! Visit <http://swodxa.org/member.htm>

Meetings: The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at Hunter Pizzeria in Franklin, OH, and virtually via ZOOM. Members gather early in the private room for dinner and then a short business agenda at 6:30 PM, followed by a program. If you enjoy a night out on the town with friends, you'll enjoy this get together. Meeting attendance is NOT a requirement for membership.

Club Officers: Four presiding officers and the past president (or past VP) make up the Board of Directors. The current roster of officers are: Past President Tom Inglin, NR8Z, President Bill Salyers, AJ8B; Vice President Brian Bathe, AD8FD; Secretary Ken Allen, KB8KE, and Treasurer Mike Suhar, W8RKO.

Website: We maintain websites at www.swodxa.org and www.swodxaevents.org managed by Bill, AJ8B. These sites provide information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing.

SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

DX Donation Policy

The mission of SWODXA is to support DXing and major DXpeditions by providing funding. A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition should be directed to the DX committee by filling out an online funding request.

(<https://www.swodxa.org/dx-grant-application/>)

The DX Grant committee will determine how well the DXpedition plans meet key considerations (see below). If the DX Grant committee recommends supporting the DXpedition in question, a recommended funding amount is determined based on the criteria below. The chairman of the committee will make a recommendation at the general meeting on the donation.

Factors Affecting a DXpedition Funding Request Approval

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of club sponsors
Ranking on the Clublog Most Wanted Survey	QSLs with logos of club sponsors
Online logs and pilot stations	Logistics and transportation costs
Number of operators and their credentials	Number of stations on the air
LoTW log submissions	Bands, modes and duration of operation

H40GC	H44GC	ZL9HR	XX9D	HK0NA	FT4TA
KH1/KH7Z	EP2A	FT5ZM	C21GC	VK9WA	NH8S
K4M	CY9C	VK9MA	PT0S	FT4JA	YJ0X
6O6O	VP6D	TO4E	XR0ZR	VP8STI	VP8SGI
W1AW/KH8	K1N	3D2C	VK0EK	S21ZBB	E30FB
ST0RY	TI9/3Z9DX	VK9MT	K5P	9U4M	TX3X
VU7AB	3Y0Z	3C0L	TX7EU	CE0Z	3C1L
TI9A	3D2CR	3B7A	K9W	VU7RI	6O7O
C21WW	CE0Z	T30GC	T30L	D68CCC	W8KKF/WP5
K5D	3Y0J	T33A	3Y0J	CY9C	