



27 September to 25 October 2017
www.t32c.com

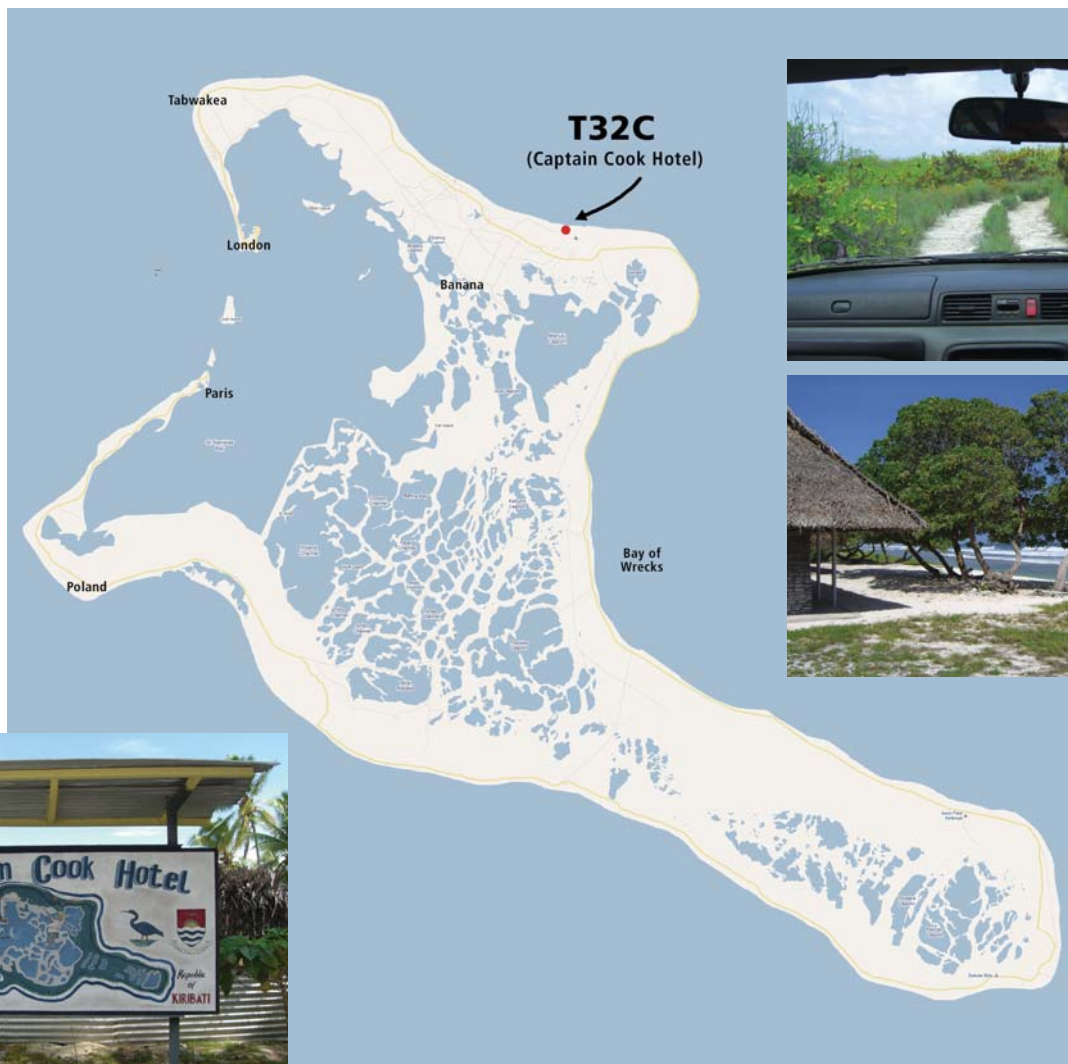


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The **Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA)** is proud to announce its fifth major DXpedition, this time to Christmas Island in the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Yet again, this will be a major effort, with a target of more than 150,000 QSOs. Given the remoteness of the location and uncertainty about propagation during this new sunspot cycle, 3 1/2 weeks of operation is planned including 4 full week-ends.

There will be up to 15 stations active around the clock. October has been chosen as the optimum time of the year for HF propagation to the major centres of amateur radio activity.

The Objectives

We have multiple objectives but the principal ones are to offer DXers worldwide the chance to make at least one contact with this remote DXCC entity, however modest their station, while at the same time allowing more serious DXers the opportunity to complete new band-slots. The team will make a particular effort to focus on Europe and the US East Coast. It will aim to operate to the highest standards and to make the operation as inclusive as possible, by way of its interactive website.

We will attempt to contact 40,000 unique stations. This will be a real challenge. In the case of stations in the UK we will attempt to contact between 1,000 and 2,000 unique stations, a major challenge from the Pacific particularly bearing in mind the severe planning restrictions on antennas in the UK.

Openings to Europe will be short so we will be very disciplined in exploiting these openings (short path and long path) whenever we can.

Christmas Island

Why Kiritimati? Club Log shows Eastern Kiribati (Kiritimati) T32 as 36th most wanted DXCC entity by European operators and 61st most wanted worldwide. It is even more sought after on the LF bands.

The 2010 DX Magazine most wanted survey shows the following for Eastern Kiribati:

- Worldwide ranking - Mixed modes - #78 (2009 - #91)
- Europe ranking - Mixed modes - #37 (2009 - #47)

Kiritimati or Christmas Island is a Pacific Ocean atoll in the northern Line Islands and is part of the Republic of Kiribati. It should not be confused with an island of the same name (VK9/X) in the Indian Ocean.

Christmas Island lies 232 km (144 mi) north of the Equator, 6,700 km (4,200 mi) from Sydney and 5,360 km (3,330 mi) from San Francisco. It is in the world's farthest forward time zone, UTC + 14, and Christmas Island is the first inhabited place on Earth to experience New Year each year.

The entire island is a wildlife sanctuary and access to five particularly sensitive areas is restricted. The island is perhaps best known for the nuclear tests conducted in the region around Christmas Island by the United Kingdom in the late 1950s and by the United States in 1962. During these tests islanders were not evacuated. The island's runway was kept in good repair as a back-up for the space shuttle and there are regular flights from Honolulu. The main source of income nowadays is tourism, mainly for bone fishing in the saltwater lagoon.

The name "Kiritimati" is a rather straightforward translation of the English word "Christmas" into Gilbertese - where the 'ti' combination is pronounced 's'-as in the English word nation. Similarly Kiribati is a transliteration of Gilberts with the K replacing the G and the R replacing the L.

Our Strategy

FSDXA has established a reputation for activating countries which are high in the top 100 worldwide and doing so with substantial resources in order to cater not only to "top gun" DXers but also to the huge numbers of DXers (maybe 75,000 or more) who would like to contact rare DXCC entities but who are unable to do so because they lack the necessary equipment or, more particularly, antennas. Many are unable to hear the rare DXCC stations because of their weak signals and interference. Many DXpeditions are active for a short period and do not even cover two weekends.

Our strategy is to run maximum power on as many bands as possible. By operating simultaneously on all bands, we also aim to reduce the potential for deliberate interference which unfortunately has become an issue in recent years during some DXpedition operations.

Given the remoteness of the location, we will supplement our usual collection of monoband Yagis with vertical arrays close to the sea, to cater for the low arrival angles to be expected from the more distant parts of the world. We will be active for almost four weeks including four full weekends, on all bands 160 through 6m, and on SSB, CW and RTTY. Activity on other modes such as FM or PSK31 will only be considered if and when it is felt that demand for the main modes has been well met on particular bands.

Our Equipment and Antennas

We are planning to have up to 15 stations. There will be a station on every band from 160m to 6m with second stations on 80m, 40m and 20m and other bands where technically feasible, so that we can operate on CW and SSB at the same time. Once again, Yaesu will be providing our RF equipment, the newly-launched FT-5000 transceivers and the well-proven VL-1000 linear amplifiers.

The antennas planned are as follows:

- 160m: Titanex with top loading
- 80m: Two pairs of phased verticals
- 40m: Two four-square arrays
- 30m: Four-square array and single vertical
- 20m: One 3 element Yagi and one Vertical Dipole Array
(Vertical dipole, with parasitic reflector)
- 17m: One 4 element Yagi and one special 4-element broadside VDA
- 15m: One 4 element Yagi and one VDA
- 12m: One 4 element Yagi and one VDA
- 10m: One 6 element Yagi, one 3 element Yagi and one VDA
- 6m: 7 element Yagi with EME capability

We will be using the StarLog computer system. Logs will be uploaded daily by satellite telephone. We will need to take generators and fuel as there is only limited generating capacity on the island.



Christmas Island Statistics

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Population: | Approx 5000 |
| Area: | About 322 kilometres (124 sq miles) |
| Latitude: | 1° 52' North |
| Longitude: | 157° 20' West |
| Time Zone: | UTC +14 |





Waikiki - the adventure begins!



It's a long way to Kiritimati!



Needs must.



Airport, Christmas Island

Website www.t32c.com

The T32 website has been developed using new technology. Based on past history we expect to get over 10,000,000 hits during our time on the island. In addition there will be many hits before and after our trip. The website will contain some innovative and exciting features that should attract favourable comment from the DX community. The website has already been launched. Several innovations will be released just before the DXpedition.

Sponsors

We are delighted that Yaesu have already agreed to be Global Sponsors of T32C continuing our excellent relationship. We have used Yaesu equipment on all our DXpeditions starting with our 9M0C DXpedition to the Spratly Islands in 1998.

Leading UK amateur radio retailers Martin Lynch and Sons and Nevada Radio are again sponsoring our DXpedition. We are very grateful for their ongoing support

However, with a project of this magnitude, there is much else that is required.

This is where you come in. With the huge amount of equipment, antennas and other ancillary gear necessary for such a large-scale operation, the most economical method of shipping from Europe to Christmas Island is to fill a 20ft shipping container, which will go to Christmas Island via Suva, capital of Fiji. This is very expensive and the Five Star DXers Association is seeking sponsorship from DX clubs, foundations, societies, associations and individuals as well as corporate organisations.

Because Christmas Island is so remote, the cost of airfares from Europe, North America or Japan via Honolulu is considerable. All members of the DXpedition are paying their own travel expenses, for their accommodation and food on the island as well as making a contribution to the substantial logistics costs.

Sponsorship monies will be used to fund the balance of the costs of equipment, antennas, coaxial cable, computers and ancillary equipment, together with the cost of shipping and insurance from Europe to Christmas Island and back, together with Customs and other legal paperwork.

How to become a Sponsor

Individual Sponsorship

You can help the DXpedition by making a personal donation through our donations page. In order for your call sign to appear on the T32C QSL card a minimum donation of £30 Sterling, \$45 US, € 40 or ¥4,000 Japanese is required. Those donating over £10 Sterling (\$15 US, € 12 or ¥1,500) will be sent their QSL cards directly immediately after the DXpedition - they will not need to request cards. Donations should be made via PayPal. All individual Sponsors will be recognised in the Sponsors page of our website.

Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Sponsors make a major contribution to the DXpedition. Besides money this can include equipment, services or resources. All Corporate Sponsors will receive links from pages on this site to their own websites. In addition they will receive acknowledgement on the QSL card and in presentations and articles about the DXpedition. If you want to become a Corporate Sponsor please contact Neville Cheadle, G3NUG via email: g3nug@btinternet.com

Club Sponsors

Radio and DX clubs are invited to sponsor the T32C DXpedition financially. "Club Sponsor" names will appear on the QSL cards and in presentations and articles about the DXpedition. We will show all Club Sponsors on our web pages together with logos and links to their web sites where available. To become a Club Sponsor please contact Neville Cheadle, G3NUG via email: g3nug@btinternet.com There is limited space on the T32C QSL card and in presentation materials and articles. To be sure that your club appears here we ask for donations of at least £100 Sterling (\$150 US, € 120 or ¥15,000 Japanese).

Donations

Running a DXpedition is a very expensive business and you are invited to make a donation towards the cost of the operation. We are extremely grateful for any donation you can make regardless of the amount.

Postal Donations

To make a donation by post in Sterling, US Dollars, Japanese Yen, Euros or other currencies.

Interbank Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Donations

Donations via EFT are very welcome and are particularly efficient for UK donors. FSDXA incurs no costs if you use EFT, so we get the full benefit of your donation.

PayPal Donations

We welcome donations via PayPal although UK donors in particular may prefer to use EFT (see above).

In the "Payment For:" box on PayPal, please be sure to enter your callsign so that you can be added to the list of sponsors on our web site.

The Team

A large number of amateurs from 13 different DXCC entities have already signed up for T32C, some for half the overall period, some for the whole operation. There will be 30 operators on site at any one time. Operator numbers have been determined to ensure that a full complement of stations can be manned whenever bands are open. Many of these operators have been with us before. All bring experience not only of operating (usually multiple modes, often with a contesting background) but in terms of other essential skills. For example, we will have two medical specialists, antenna, RF and software specialists, and a range of other skills which will be essential in mounting a major operation so far from logistical support.

At the time of writing, the team is expected to consist of 40 operators including:

Neville G3NUG (Team Leader)

Chris G3SVL (Co-Leader)

John G3WGV (Co-Leader)

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Michael DG1CMZ | Falk DK7YY | Paul EI5DI | Dave EI9FBB |
| Gerard F2JD | Ian F5VKT/G3YBY | Michel FM5CD | Vincent G0LMX |
| Tony G0OPB | Nobby G0VJG | Fred G3SVK | Laurie G3UML |
| David G3UNA | Gordon G3USR | Dave G3WGN | Mike G3WPH |
| Don G3XTT | Mark G4AXX | John G4DRS | Nick G4FAL |
| Mike G4IUF | Tony G4LDL | Justin G4TSH | Michael G7VJR |
| Clive GM3POI | Bob GU4YOX | Kazu JA1RJU | Dave K4SV |
| Bob MD0CCE | Bill N2WB | Arnie N6HC | Bob N6OX |
| Ronald PA3EWP | Maury W3EF | Paul WF5T | |

Michael DG1CMZ is the winner of the competition for the sponsorship of a young amateur to join the T32C team. We thank the anonymous sponsor for making this sponsorship available.

FSDXA

FSDXA was formed by the team members who organised the 9M0C DXpedition in 1998. The seven founder members also organised the record-breaking D68C Comoros DXpedition in 2001 (over 168,000 contacts, a staggering 70% increase over the previous DXpedition record). This team subsequently organised the 3B9C (Rodrigues) DXpedition in 2004 and 3B7C (Saint Brandon) in 2007. Saint Brandon was an invaluable proving ground for much of what we will do at Christmas Island, being the first time we had been so far from medical and logistical support and the first time we had had to rely on generator power.

We have been allocated the callsign T32C. The "C" in the callsign stands for "CDXC", the club from which the Five Star DXers Association was formed. It is also a reminder of the group's previously successful operations as 9M0C (Spratly Islands, 1998), D68C (Comoro Islands, 2001), 3B9C (Rodrigues, 2004) and 3B7C (Saint Brandon, 2007).

Useful Web sites:

T32C: www.t32c.com

CDXC: www.cdxc.org.uk

Previous FSDXA Expeditions: www.fsdxa.com



FSDXA, February 2011
Photography by Don G3BJ



Team Leader Neville G3NUG



Our home for four weeks



Local entertainment



Don G3BJ and Neville G3NUG undertook a site survey in January 2010. This is the Butternut used by T32BJ.