



PRESS RELEASE

October 21, 2013

TO : The DX Community

FROM: Ralph Fedor - KOIR

A sea container filled with our equipment --- bandpass filters, camp supplies, and other miscellaneous equipment -- is now on its way to New Zealand. There it will be loaded aboard our ship, the MV Braveheart. The Braveheart crew and our VK6 friends have our shopping lists for other needed materials, and are procuring these items for us. These materials will all come together in January when the Braveheart and the FT5ZM team arrive in Fremantle, Australia.

Our network and logging team are in the last round of testing our system for the seamless uploading of our logs. Currently we can export 400 QSO's each hour from each of 10 PC's in approximately 500 msec. The log collection will be automatic, so there is no interruption of operator time. A zipped log file with 100,000 QSO's will be just over 600 Kb in size, saving time and money on satellite uploads. The process has been tested end to end, including uploading to ClubLog.

We are in the phase of the DXpedition where large expenses are coming at us rapidly. We've completed one down payment on our ship, we've had to purchase some equipment and shipping supplies, shipping and customs fees have been paid, our anchorage and per diem costs at Amsterdam Island are coming due, we will be seeing berthing and ship supply charges from Fremantle soon, and we have another ship payment due on December 1.

We are staying within our budgeted expenses, but contributions have been somewhat less than we had hoped. It now appears almost certain that the team members will have to increase their personal contribution from \$10,000 per person to \$12,500 per person as well as pay their own way to and from Fremantle, Australia. If you've contributed to the DXpedition, we thank you. If you've yet to help us, or if you can send some additional help our way, we can certainly use any financial support that you can give us.

Please continue to check our progress, our news updates, and photos on our website: www.amsterdamdx.org

If, while you are there, you'd hit the "Donate" tab, we'd really, really appreciate it.

Ralph -- KOIR

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

As Chief Financial Officer and fundraiser for the upcoming FT5ZM DXpedition, I am deeply involved in the subject of DXpedition costs and financing. I have served in the same role for numerous high-profile and expensive DXpeditions to very rare DX entities. Examples are 3Y0X, K5D, and HK0NA.

However, the article written by Don Greenbaum, N1DG and published in several publications is the definitive work on the subject of DXpedition costs and financing. If you have not seen it, it's available on the NCDXF website at: <http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/dxresources.html>.

Don points out that DXpeditions to the Southern Oceans are the most expensive mainly because they involve a vessel charter. In his study, those charters averaged \$260,000. However, three of the six DXpeditions included in that study took place 13-15 years ago and costs have risen significantly since then. See Ralph – K0IR's article on this website entitled "Why Does This DXpedition Cost So Much?" It was posted in the "News" section on 21 June 2013 at www.amsterdamdx.org. It details our current, up to date vessel charter costs. They represent 75% of our \$400,000 DXpedition budget.

Now, to really put DXpedition costs in perspective, let me share some simple math with you. At FT5ZM, Let's assume we are on the air for 14 days. That allows two days for set-up and two days for take down. That equates to 20,160 minutes on the air. If our budget is \$400,000 (not including operator travel costs to Perth and back), then our time on the air costs \$19.84 per minute. Yes, \$19.84 per minute on the air !!!!!

Let's take this a bit further. Assume we make 100,000 QSOs, (a worthy goal for a #4 "most-needed"). The cost per QSO works out to \$4.00. Yes, \$4.00 per QSO !!!!!

Now, for some good news, the DXpedition operators will pay about half of that. This means however, our sponsors including DX Foundations, DX Clubs and individual DXers worldwide need to pay the remainder. So, when deciding not if, but how much support you will offer FT5ZM, ask yourself:

How many QSOs am I going to make? How important are those QSOs to me? Am I paying my fair share of the costs? Our DXpedition leader K0IR has often joked that if every DXer would give up a cup of coffee for each QSO with FT5ZM and send that money to support the DXpedition, we would not have to worry about our expenses. You know, he is right.

73 and CU in the pileups!
Bob-K4UEE

**ADDITION BY LA6VM
PROPAGATION**

What are your chances to get a contact; how will you plan your operation?

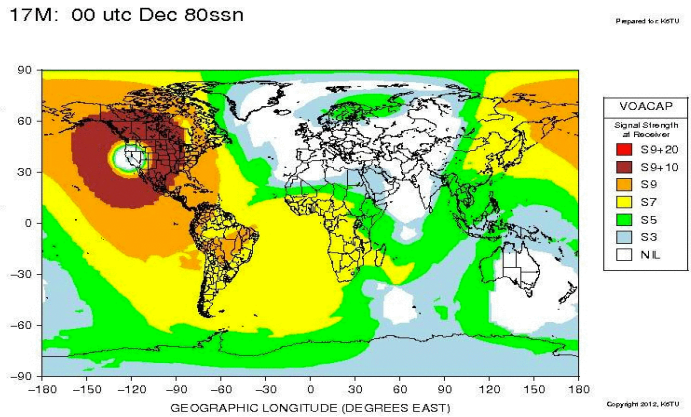
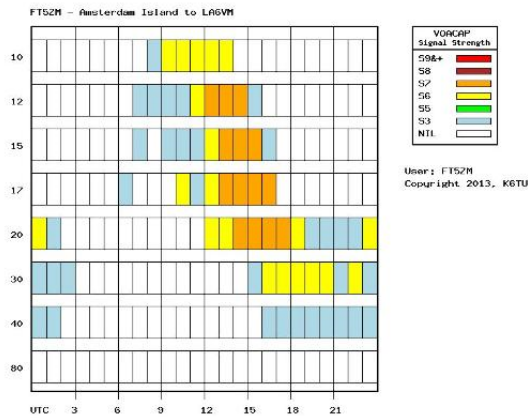
First, you need to know the propagation between Amsterdam Isl. and your QTH.

The expedition web site has an excellent tool for showing the actual propagation between Amsterdam Island and your QTH; provided by K6TU.

Visit <https://k6tu.net/?q=node/add/dx-prediction-ft5zm> to check your propagation to Amsterdam Isl!

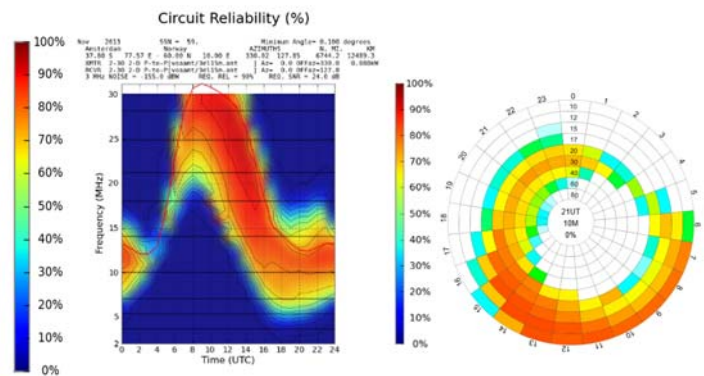
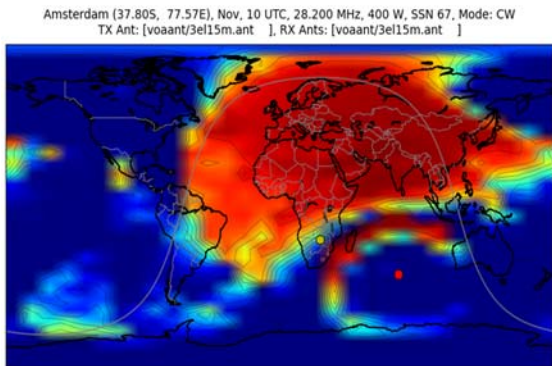
LA6VM to Amsterdam Isl.
10-Nov-2013_10:35:31_UTC

Coverage og K6TU transmission on 17m



You may also check the online propagation at <http://www.voacap.com/coverage.html>

At <http://www.voacap.com/prediction.html>, you may get these reports:



There is a whole range of propagation tools available on the internet for you to plan your operation for successfully working the expedition on your favorite bands, and to increase your band-land count.



DX University™

A Guide for DXers and DXpeditioners

How to Work Us

Our Goal is to provide every station in the World the opportunity to make at least one QSO, and to enable top DXers to put our callsign in their log on as many bands and modes as possible.

- Let's get started. First, make sure you can copy us well enough for a good QSO. If signals are poor, would it be better to wait a while for better propagation? It can be very embarrassing to you for us to call you when you can't hear us.
- Unless otherwise noted, we will utilise split operation only. This means you cannot succeed by calling on our frequency. We aren't listening there. Be very careful to set up your transceiver so that you do not call on our transmit frequency. You must find where we are listening and then pick your next transmitting frequency accordingly.
- Our operators will try hard to work everyone in the world. Some areas will require more effort than others. Listen carefully to determine if we are trying to work a particular geographical area. Call if you are in that area. We will not respond to callers who are not in that area. If you are not in the desired area, spend the waiting time studying the pileup procedure of the operators.
- Call only if we are calling your exact callsign, if we are calling a very similar callsign or if we are asking for anyone to call. One matching letter in your callsign is NOT enough! Listen to the pileup again, and wait for the next opportunity to call. We will not respond to calls from stations other than those we are addressing. Keep in mind that many DXpedition operators may be hearing you even if they don't respond. You could earn a bad reputation in this way.
- If you do not hear who has been called, listen for a short time as the operator will probably call again. You don't want to miss his second call. When in doubt, DO NOT call, but rather try to determine the correct procedure. You will be far more successful by listening more and transmitting less.
- Be sure you have made a good QSO. If you aren't sure, make another QSO. It is best not to send a report until the operator sends your callsign correctly. If the operator does not send your callsign correctly, make another QSO. He may have actually worked someone else.
- Reiterating, we will not work stations who are:
 - Calling out of turn - when we are trying to work someone else
 - Calling out of the called area - study the pileup and wait for your turn
 - Calling with an obviously wrong partial callsign - use the time to study the pileup.
- These simple guidelines are intended to help you to get into our log quickly. They are consistent with our intended operating procedure. If you call the way we expect you to call, it makes sense that you will be in the log more easily and more often.
- We understand that no one is perfect, and that everyone will make mistakes. Keep your own house in order; make sure to minimize your own mistakes. Don't get frustrated. Our operators are some of the best in the World. Summon your greatest self control, and let us deal with the others. Soon, you will be in the log.

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Also see the presentation "The Big Picture of Expedition Operating and the direct relationship to Anti-Social Pileup Behavior" by Rick K6VVT at: <http://youtu.be/svLlfrFA-1E>