

QRP Adventures: Portable, Afloat and Abroad...

By
José VA3PCJ/VE3DTI

March 18, 2019
A presentation to the:

West Carleton Amateur Radio Club



Most of the information in this talk was extracted from articles in the following blog:
thewakesileave.wordpress.com.

Menu for the presentation

- A bit about his previous life
- How he got into boating
- How he got into Amateur Radio
- How he put them together
 - Island Qualifyings
 - W/VE Island QSO Parties
 - Radio “Portable Afloat”
- Some of his portable antennas
- Operating QRP abroad

In his previous life, VA3PCJ was a physician and a research scientist with a Ph.D. from McMaster University, specialized in Medical Microbiology (Virology). He was a Research Scientist in Health Canada and Senior Science Advisor to the Public Health Agency of Canada. He retired working for PAHO/WHO as director of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre.

As he approached fifty, he started using his free time to train as a keel-boat sailor. At the end of the nineties he attained certification as Cruising Instructor (Advanced) with the Canadian Yachting Association (CYA, now Sailing Canada) and the American Sailing Association (ASA). For numerous years he was a sailing instructor for the CYA in the Ottawa River, Lake Ontario and the British Virgin Islands.

In 2000 he decided it was time to buy his own boat and he acquired "Vándor" (the last hull ever built for the Alberg 22):



Cruising the Ottawa River (thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2015/11/11/sail-cruising-the-ottawa-river-between-lac-deschenes-and-chat-falls-in-the-early-2000s/) he noticed the lack of means for long range communications from and to the boat. He directed his attention to Winlink 2000. He got his "Basic and Morse Code" ticket in January 2004, acquired an ICOM 706MKIIG radio and an SCS PTC-IIex pactor modem, and became one of the first local users of Winlink 2000. With a W3FF Budipole on board, he set to improve his single-handed sailing/cruising abilities and in August 2004 he cruised the lower Ottawa River from Ottawa to Montreal and back, while posting Vándor's log in "real-time" in a Yahoo Group. He later published his experience in an article in the newsletter of the Great Lakes Alberg Association (GLAA) and for this effort, the GLAA later awarded him the 2004 Gordon Proctor Memorial Trophy (http://www.alberg.ca/images/newsletter/2005/spr_05.pdf).

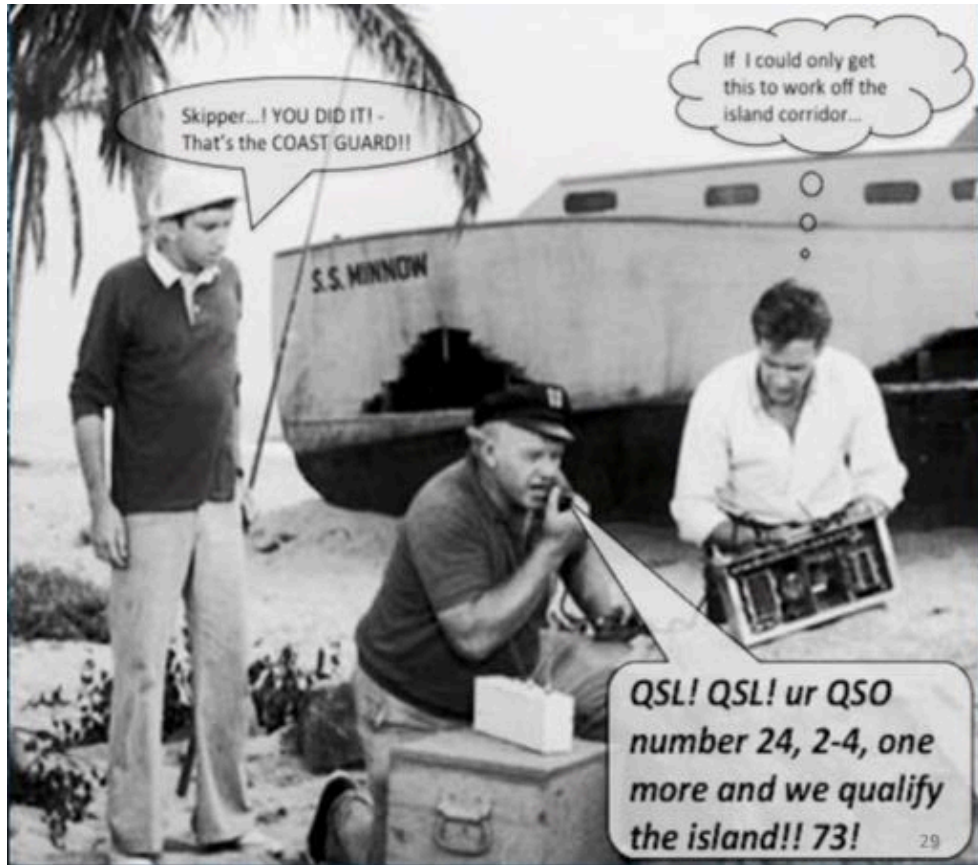
As a next step towards the conquest of the oceans, for the next three years he decided to sail in Lake Ontario off Collins Bay Marina, West of Kingston. Sailing the North shore of Lake Ontario greatly enhanced his sailing experience. However, in 2007, while still feeling the appeal of the blue yonder, he was offered a position in PAHO/WHO as director of the Caribbean Epidemiology Center in Port-of-Spain. Work there was extremely demanding and during that time he did not sail nor did he operate any radio. Radio-wise this was as well, since 2007-2010 were the years of the previous dip in the solar cycle.

He emerged from this tropical experience much subdued in his dreams for circumnavigation. Also, as he approached his retirement from professional life, QRP and CW showed prominently in his "Bucket List". He then carefully researched and eventually ordered a brand-new boat: the ultimate pocket-cruiser and sailing-trailerable for a single-handed aging sailor: a gaff-rigged Com-Pac SunCat 17 that he christen "Sassy Gaffer", (and a 2006 Jeep Liberty CRD (diesel) as its land-auxiliary):

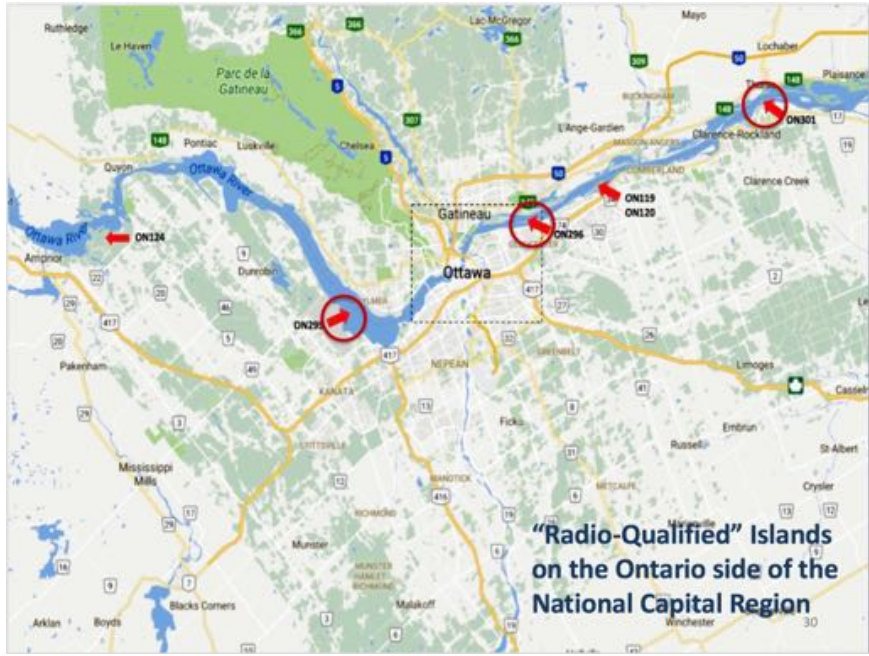


He acquired an ICOM 703-Plus and started to train earnestly in CW (he still does...) in an effort to retrace backwards the path followed by his father, who in his youth had been a professional telegraphist to later become a physician and a cardiology specialist.

Between 2010 and 2014, all summers were spent cruising the waters of Georgian Bay in Lake Huron (an incredible experience), but in 2015 he discovered the Canadian Island Activators program (CIA) (veislandactivators.blogspot.ca) that superseded the Canadian Islands Awards (CIsA). He also became aware of the W/VE Island QSO Party organized by the US Islands Awards Program (usislands.org). This is likely the way in which it all started:



As shown in the next two maps, few islands within the National Capital Region were already qualified for the CIA program (shown without a circle) but VA3PCJ was about to add a few more (those shown within a red circle):



However, many still remain to be qualified. Here is a complete list together with their Maidenhead Grid Locators:

In the Ottawa River:

- Lower Duck Is. (FN25EL92)
- Chaudière Is. (FN25DK30)
- Lemieux Is. (FN25DJ29)
- Bell Is. (FN25DJ29) (different from ON239 (FN05DD52))
- Lumpy Denomee's Is. (FN25DJ19)
- Nichols Is. (FN25DJ19)
- Young Is. (FN25DJ19)
- Merrill Is. (FN25DJ19)
- Kedey's Is. (FN15VL33)
- Alexandra Is. (FN15VL25)
- Slide Is. (FN15VL23)
- Victoria Is. (FN15VL22) (different from ON123 (FN25DK))
- Killally Is. (FN15VL21)
- Crane Is. (FN15VL21)
- Chartrand Is. (FN25BJ20)
- Haycock Is. (FN25BI29)
- Cuningham Is. (FN25CJ97)
- Riopelle Is. (FN25CJ97)

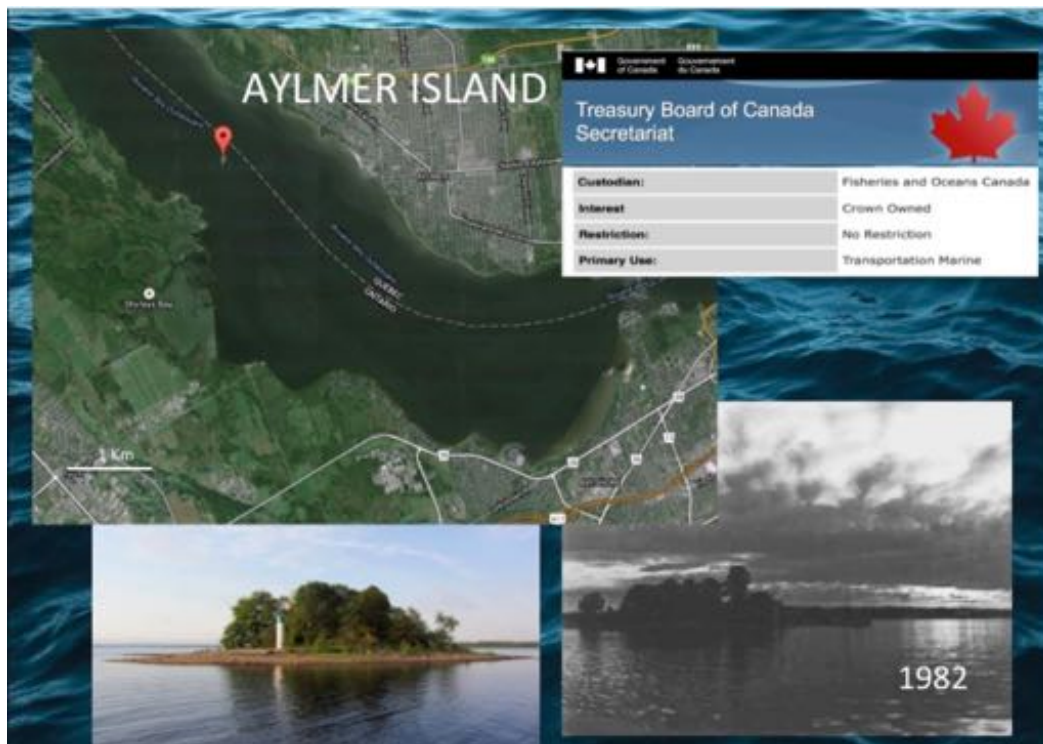
In the Rideau River:

- Nicolls Is. (FN25DG50) (different from ON193 Nicol Is. (EN68FT89))
- Long Is. (FN25DF67) (different from ON257 Long Is. (EO30KR38))
- Cummings Is. (FN25DK93)
- Camper's Is. (FN25DH63)
- James Is. (FN25EC49)
- Sanders Is. (FN25ED37)
- Clifford Allen Is. (FN25DJ72)
- Crystal Guillot Is. (FN25DJ83)

In the Rideau Canal:

- Pig Is. (FN25DJ85KO)

Qualifying Aylmer Island (ON-295) - August 15 2015



Aylmer Island used to be referred to as "Lighthouse Island" and was explored in 1899 by archeologists Henri-Marc Ami and Thomas Walter Edwin Sowter. Human remains were found in the island which had been a burial ground sacred to the Algonquin people. In a picture taken by Henri-Marc Ami on June 24 1899, the base of a square wooden light house structure is clearly seen at the top of the promontory at the North tip of the island

(https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Henri-Marc-Ami-photograph-of-Aylmer-Island-with-the-lighthouse-visible-on-top-of-the_fig7_280878605). The structure would have been similar to the one still operation in Sand Point on the Ottawa River at Braeside, ON

(<http://lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=1557>). In modern times the lighthouse has been replaced by a green lateral marker located on the NE shore of the island, with a green-flashing solar-powered light.

VA3PCJ sailed from the Nepean Sailing Club and anchored off the NE shore of the island. He landed via his Sportyak II tender and operated from a rock under the tall oak tree not far from the lateral green flashing light marker in the NE shore, while carefully avoiding the numerous poison ivy shoots that plague the entire ground all over the island. He operated SSB using his Elecraft KX3 rig at 5-10W into an LNR PAR EndFedz 20m monobander hoisted via a 10-meter Sotabeams telescopic travel mast:



After a little over three hours, while participating in the NAQP SSB, he had logged 30 QSOs in three DXCC's (W, YV and VE, including a memorable one with Chris VE3CBK) with which Aylmer Island became CIA ON-295.

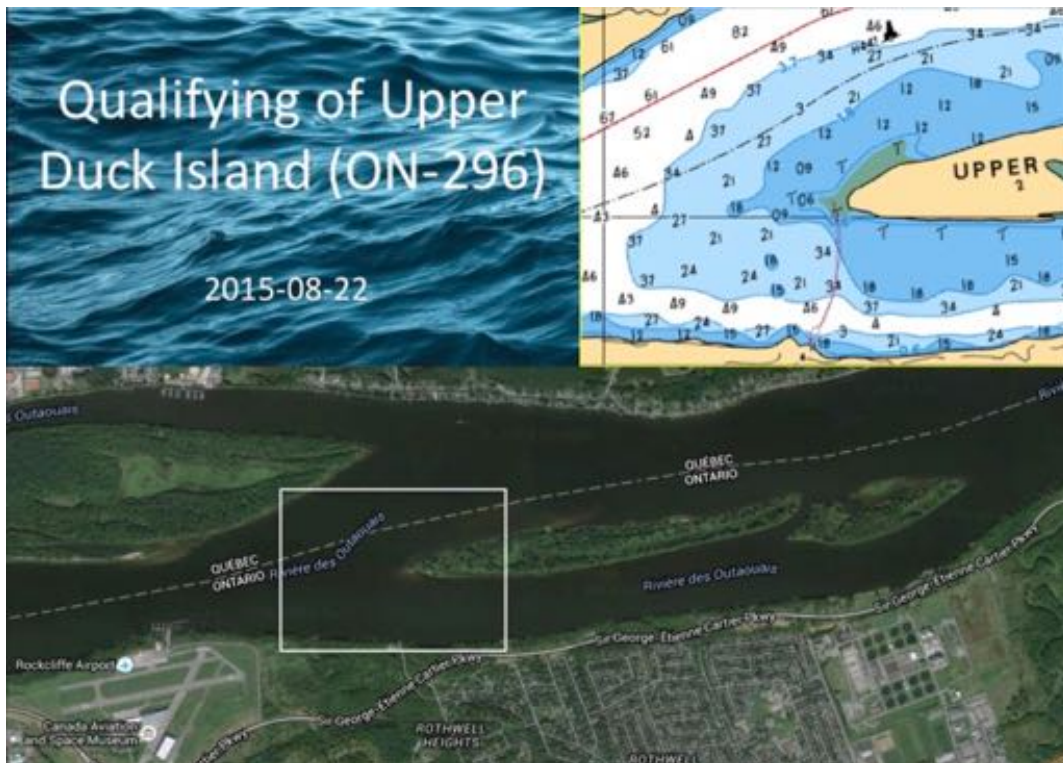
Following an improvised ritual homage to the rightful owners of the island:



he re-boarded Sassy Gaffer for a pleasant night swinging at the anchor, being rewarded the next morning with a momentous sunrise:



Qualifying Upper Duck Island (ON-296) - August 22 2015



Next, VA3PCJ focussed his attention on Upper Duck Island, downriver from the Rockcliffe airport and marina. The island was accessed via a Sevylor "Rio" inflatable kayak/canoe. The rig was the same as before, but the antenna was an LNR PAR EndFedZ Tribander hoisted via the telescopic pole of an S9v.43 antenna:



After four and a half hours over 30 QSO had been logged in 3 DXCC's (W, VE and TF). Most of them had been in the Ohio QSO Party, with which Upper Duck Island became CIA's ON-296.

W/VE Islands 2015 QSO Party - August 29 2015

For the W/VE Islands 2015 QSO Party, it was decided that VA3PCJ would sail back to Aylmer Island (already qualified as CIA's ON-295). This time he did some exploration inland and at the top of the promontory he found the badly mangled triangulation marker of the Geodetic Survey of Canada:



He also found that the island is very poorly maintained from the ill-treatments it receives from many of its thoughtless visitors, while also being a first resting and drinking stop for many Monarch butterflies starting their multi-generational journey from the Gatineau Hills to the Yucatan peninsula.

Operating QRP/P into the 20M PAR monobander he participated in the Kansas QSO Party (and the YODX) and logged two island-to-island QSOs (with islands GA 027L and FL 098S). Since the organizers of the W/VE Islands QSO Party did not acknowledge QRP operations (or, for that matter, the added effort of sailing single-handed to a water-locked island), VA3PCJ was only listed in 9th position out of eleven "Expedition" stations.

The strange story and qualifying of Rideau island (ON 297)

For a number of summers, Bob VA3QV and VA3PCJ had operated QRP/P from Brewer Park off Bronson Avenue. From that location, VA3PCJ/VE3DTI had logged at least 36 QSOs DXCC's while Bob VA3QV had logged an even greater number:



Much to their surprise, one day, VA3PCJ and VA3QV discovered that Brewer Park was part of an island:

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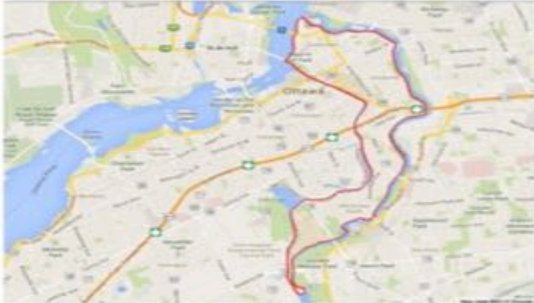
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- Architecture
- Bikes
- Civic Engagement
- Communication
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- Culture
- Curiosities
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- Food
- Green Space
- Headlines
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- Housing
- Infrastructure
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- Media
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- Parks
- Photos
- Politics
- Services
- Spacing
- Streetcscope
- Traffic
- Themat
- Urban Design
- Walking
- Waterfront

WATERFRONT Comments Like Tweet 17

Rideau Island: An island for Ottawa?

OCTOBER 17, 2013 | BY KRISTEN GAGNON  **Kristen Gagnon**



Toronto has Ward's Island, Vancouver's got Granville, and Montreal has, well, the Island of Montreal. So it is about time that Ottawa took a look at itself to see that it too is a great Canadian city with claims to a water-locked piece of land. And it's quite large if you really think about – so large that a good majority of us actually live, work or go to school on it. And while we are all familiar with Chaudière and Victoria Island, this piece of geography has gone overlooked in our daily trips across the many bridges that mark the Ottawa cityscape. But overlooked it shall no longer be, as Ottawa finds a new sense of identity, united by a piece of land that contains so much of our great city.

So, the logs were sent the Bill VE3FI, manager of the CIA program, and Rideau Island became CIA's ON-297.

W/VE Islands 2016 QSO Party - August 27 2016

Back to Aylmer Island. This time VA3PCJ chose to operate the W3EDP Jr. multiband antenna hoisted vertically with the aid of an S9v.43 telescopic pole:



Among the many QSOs logged mainly in the Kansas and Ohio QSO Parties, four island-to-island contact were also completed (GA 031L, NC 019S, WA 003S together with an amazing SSB contact with CY9C, the expedition to St. Paul Island, NS 003):

2016 Results

Quicksilver Radio is sponsoring a First Place plaque for the Expedition category.

Call	USB	Score	Class	Place
WACN	KY027R	11,805	Expedition	E-1st
NF4GA	GA031L	8,314	Expedition	E-2nd
WBRD	FL017S	6,945	Expedition	E-3rd
VA3TC	ON-623	5,980	Expedition	E-4th
N4BVC	FL528S	3,878	Expedition	E-5th
W1NRG	CT037R	2,918	Expedition	E-6th
VA3PCJ	ON-295	1,548	Expedition	E-7th
NCRQ	CA006S	261	Expedition	E-8th
NDKTK	MO003R	207	Expedition	E-9th
W7PFG	WA003S	113,113	Fixed	F-1st
K9GJS	WA004S	9,248	Fixed	F-2nd
W7VKB	WA007L	8,742	Fixed	F-3rd

WV Islands Contest Log Sheet

Please print lighter! All logs and score summary sheets must be received by September 13 to end@vahlunds.org

Call Used: VA3PCJ GDN: KYLMEI ISLAND, ON-295 Page no: 3 of 1

BAND	MODE	DATE	TIME	CALL	REF Tx	REF Rx	QTH	POINTS	NEW MULT
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1335	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1335	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1341	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1341	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1348	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1403	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1410	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1417	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1424	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	1
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1430	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1433	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1438	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1438	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1442	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1450	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	1
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1500	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1502	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1510	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1534	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1561	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1562	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1562	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1562	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1562	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1564	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1567	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1567	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1568	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1568	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1568	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1568	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
40m	SSB	18-08-20	1568	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
40m	SSB	18-08-20	1600	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
40m	SSB	18-08-20	1602	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
40m	SSB	18-08-20	1605	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
40m	SSB	18-08-20	1611	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
40m	SSB	18-08-20	1611	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
40m	QRP	18-08-20	1620	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	1
40m	QRP	18-08-20	1631	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
40m	QRP	18-08-20	1631	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
40m	QRP	18-08-20	1637	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
40m	QRP	18-08-20	1638	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1644	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1650	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1656	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1656	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1656	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	QRP	18-08-20	1656	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	2	2
20m	SSB	18-08-20	1657	VA3PCJ	SS	SS	VA300S	1	1
								SS	SS

Unfortunately, QRP participants were still not differentiated from the rest, and a 7th position out of nine "Expedition" participants was the final outcome.

Amateur Radio Field Day 2017 - June 24-25, 2017

See also <https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2017/07/03/va3pcj-field-day-1c-one-qrp-afloat-from-the-ottawa-river/>.

For a number of years, VA3PCJ wished he could participate in the ARRL Field Day from the deck and cabin of his boat. A major conundrum concerned the "class" of his station: would it be a "1B" (i.e., portable) or a "1C" (i.e., mobile) class station? According to the ARRL Field Day rules:

- Class "B" pertains to "one or two persons portable."
- Class "C" is for stations "in vehicles capable of operating while in motion and normally operated in this manner. This includes maritime and aeronautical mobile."

A vessel swinging at anchor, while not "underway", is nevertheless very much "in motion" and Sassy Gaffer is clearly "normally operated in this manner." Hence, the class seemed closer to

"1C" than to "1B". Furthermore, operating QRP/P from inside a small sailboat feels closer to operating "marine mobile" than "portable" from land. In addition, a precedent was found: in Field Day 2016, Bill WB2HLM successfully operated a "1C" Field Day station from a Catalina 22 moored at the Otsego Sailing Club marina in Cooperstown, NY. The cove at Pinhey Point was chosen as the ideal anchorage for VA3PCJ's "1C" class station:



The sailing to Pinhey Point was ideal: beam-reach to close-reach, in a port tack in steady SW 10-knot winds:



This time radio operations would be "portable/afloat" with the W3EDP Jr. deployed as an inverted "V" within the rig of Sassy as the multiband antenna of choice:



After some seven hours operating CW in the 40M and 20M bands, 46 QSOs had been logged:

ARRL
AMATEUR RADIO

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Call Used: VA3PCJ Exchange Sent: 1C ONE

Frequency	Mode	Date	Time (UTC)	Worked	Exchange Received
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1820	W5HP	4A MI
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1829	NK0G	1A EPA
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1840	W0DXA	2A OH
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1843	K1GG	3A EMA
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1848	W0USA	1A OH
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1852	VE3MGY	1E ONT
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1858	W8HN	4A OH
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1901	VE3HB	2A GTA
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1913	K2BAR	5A NJ
7000 CW		2017-06-24	1959	N1ME	2A ME
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2009	N2SF	4A ENY
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2014	K1GG	1D NH
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2029	W4XD	3A VA
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2040	AD6J	1E NC
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2055	AH6AX	3F MDC
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2100	KZ4N	3A NJ
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2113	AA3S	1E MDC
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2124	W8CWO	2A WV
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2128	KZ4M	4A CT
14000 CW		2017-06-24	2142	W1LY	2A RI
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2327	W3TSG	3A DE
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2336	K1S	4A NH
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2343	N0RD	1D EPA
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2348	VA1MM	1D MAR
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2350	W0LV	5A NJ
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2352	VE3YRA	5A GTA
7000 CW		2017-06-24	2359	N0TWT	5F EPA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1015	W4HOG	4D NC
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1019	W0LJ	3A NJ
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1022	N6AT	2A MN

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ARRL
AMATEUR RADIO

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Call Used: VA3PCJ Exchange Sent: 1C ONE

Frequency	Mode	Date	Time (UTC)	Worked	Exchange Received
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1025	W1EE	3A CT
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1033	K3RN	3A WV
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1041	K0ZP	2E NJ
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1044	W1MA	3A EMA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1047	K4PH	1A KY
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1049	W0LE	1D NJ
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1057	W4ML	1D VA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1100	AA2BJ	1D EPA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1110	W1QI	2A CT
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1116	W2MMO	6A NJ
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1121	K4LRG	5A VA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1123	K1R	3A NH
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1128	VE3SME	6A ONT
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1131	W1HP	1A EMA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1139	KP4ES	2A PR
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1143	W9AA	3A IL
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1147	VE1FO	2F MAR
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1151	W4UG	4A VA
7000 CW		2017-06-25	1154	K3RN	2A IL

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This effort was awarded a handsome 11th position out of 58 entries in the C class.

Unfortunately, ARRL dismissed VA3PCJ's claim for the use of "emergency power" (the KX3 was powered during the entire event by the 12Ah Li-ion P-Box seen behind it in the picture above, at the top-right), which would have moved the final placement several positions up.

But the adventure was not over yet: the forecast for Sunday was for conditions much different than those the day before, and early in morning it was prudently decided to weigh anchor. While cruising back to the marina the winds and waves picked up and interesting cloud shapes were observed:



Then, just a few minutes after Sassy reached the docks, two squalls with winds reaching above 30 knots (as registered by the instruments of the Nepean Sailing Club) blew across Lac Deschênes.

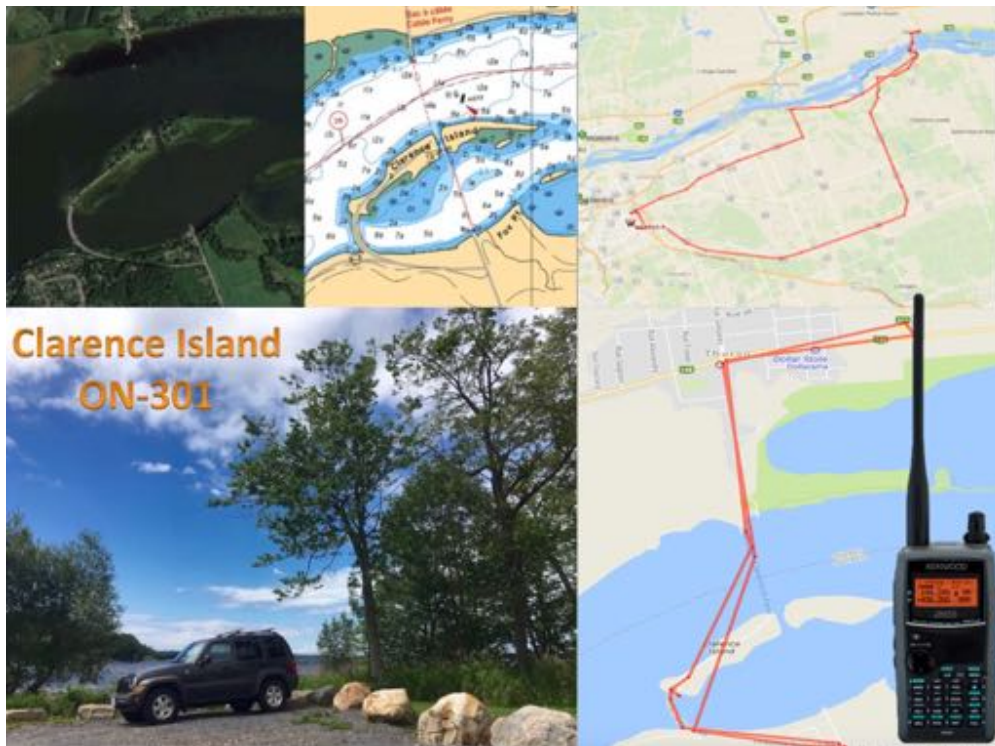
An article entitled "Portable Afloat: Bringing Together Amateur Radio and Small-Bot Inland-Water Sailing", summarizing VA3PCJ's "portable afloat" experience, was published in the

September-October issue of The Canadian Amateur (TCA) of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):



With the permission of the TCA Editor (thank you, Alan) here is the complete article:
https://thewakesileave.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/jose_campione_portableafloat.pdf.

Qualifying of Clarence Island (ON 301) - August 5 2017



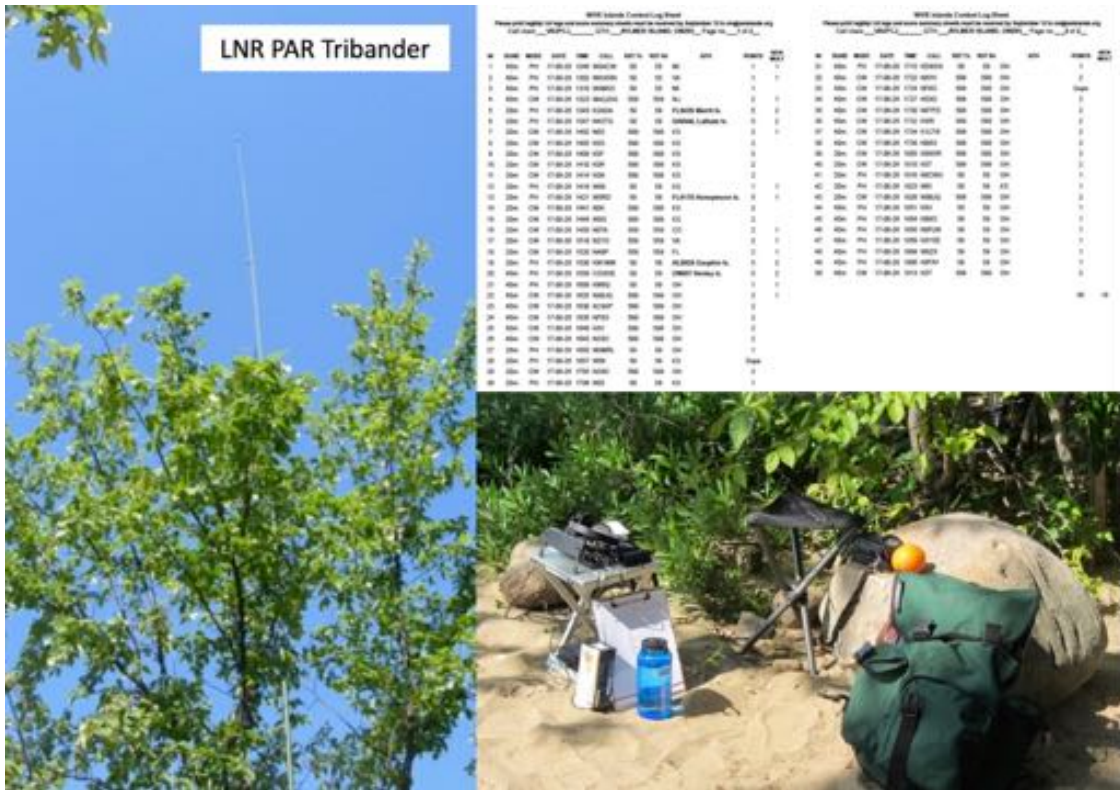
Although it was not needed, since Clarence island is readily accessible by land, the electric "Ecolos" Ferry was taken to "cruise" to Clarence Island. Operation was QRP/P (from inside the Jeep) using the LNR Par EndFedZ Tribander hoisted via the S9v.43 telescopic pole against the tree behind the vehicle. After some five hours, 36 QSOs had been logged in two DXCC's (W and VE), which resulted in Clarence Island being entered in the CIA database as ON-301.

An attempt was made later on that same summer for VA3PCJ to qualify his fifth island: Clifford Allen Island in the Rideau River (downriver from Carleton University campus, across the Billings Bridge Plaza). The ground of the island was found to be very soggy. Nevertheless, the landing was successful (having launched the Sevylor from the SE corner of Brewer Park). The PAR Tribander was deployed against the huge silver maple at the NW corner of the island. However, no signals were heard and after an hour, it was decided that Clifford Allen Island would be best left in the custody of its elegant current dwellers:



W/VE Islands 2017 QSO Party - August 26 2017

Back to ON 295 for the W.VE Islands QSO Party:



After five hours of continued operation, 50 QSO were logged. While most were in the Kansas or Ohio QSO Parties, five were island-to-island (FL 043S, GA 044L, FL 017L, AL 002S and ON 007 - Henley Is.). In 2017, for the first time, QRP stations were separately acknowledged, and VA3PCJ attained a handsome 2nd QRP Expedition position behind Bill VE3FI.

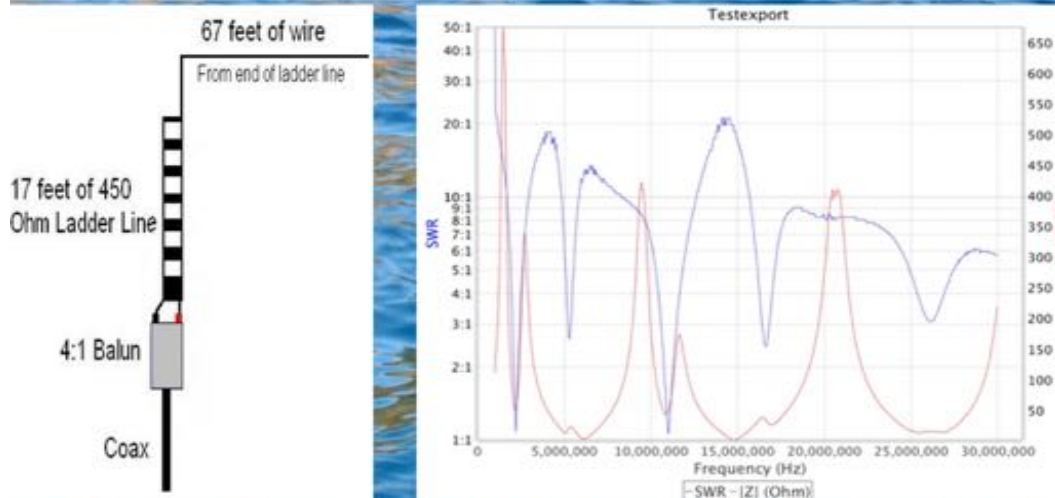
Reflecting back on the "Bucket List", and taken together his experience as an island activator, VA3PCJ has put together the following pieces of advice:



The W3EDP antenna in its different versions

W3EDP Antenna

- From an article in QST, March 1936 (pp. 32-33).
- Authored by Yardley Beers, W3AWH.
- The antenna described in the article was developed using "the cut and try method" by H. G. Siegel, W3EDP, probably around 1934.



The clear advantages of a W3EDP antenna for portable QRP operations lie on its multi-band tuning ability as well as on the fact that no counterpoise cables are needed on the ground. Using TV twin-lead a "flimsy" full-length version of the W3EDP antenna was constructed, which performed well in 80 meters (<https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2016/05/22/a-flimsy-w3edp-portable-antenna-la-manquita/>). It was then reasoned that a half-size version (W3EDP Jr.: <https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2016/08/15/a-42-portable-multiband-hf-antenna-with-no-wire-on-the-ground-the-w3edp-jr/>) could be suitable for as low as 40M, and a one quarter-size version (W3EDP mini: <https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2016/09/27/the-mini-14th-w3edp-a-special-design-for-a-balcony-down-south/>) for as low as 20M. The half-size version was found particularly suitable for deployment from the rig of the SunCat (<https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2016/08/24/wires-in-the-rigging-junior-and-the-suncat-a-perfect-match/>) and the quarter-size, for deployment from the front of the 3rd. floor apartment in

Uruguay, from where VA3PCJ operates as CX7RT

(<https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2017/11/27/mini-contesting-from-rio-de-la-plata-qrp-p-in-the-cqww-dx-cw-with-the-mini-w3edp/>).

CX7RT from Uruguay

Over the last five years, more than 400 QRP/P QSOs have been logged while operating as CX7RT from Piriápolis, Uruguay:



With the W3EDP mini rigged as an inverted "V" in the front of a 3rd. floor apartment QSOs have been completed with stations as remote as Japan and South Korea. Also, CX7RT holds several CX (Uruguayan) "SOQRP 15M" records in CQ world contests (https://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/index_cq_contests.html):

- CQ WW DX CW (2017)
- CQ WW WPX SSB (2017)

- CQ WW DX RTTY (2016)

<p>JF8EVE</p> <p>Kazuo Enomoto 242, Higashi-zen, Aza-Kamishihoro, Kamishihoro-cho, Kato-Gun, Hokkaido 090-1408 Japan</p> <p>Rig FTdx-9000 Output 20-100W IC-7400 Output 10-100W Ant 7M DP 15Mh 10M DP 17Mh 14M-28M 4Ele YAGI 16Mh</p> <p>ZONE 25 JOTA, AS-078 JCG#01019 GL, QN13PF</p> <p>To: CX7RT This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO Date: November 29, 2017 Time: 23:48 UTC Band: 17m UR Sigs: -21</p>		<p>Station</p> <p>Call Sign CX7RT DXCC URUGUAY (144) CQ Zone 13 ITU Zone 14 Grid GF25ID</p> <p>Worked Station</p> <p>Worked HL2CFY DXCC REPUBLIC OF KOREA (137) CQ Zone 25 ITU Zone 44 Grid PM36NX Date/Time 2014-11-16 00:08:00 Mode CW (CW) Band 10M Frequency 28.01870 QSL 2014-12-11 15:50:05</p> <p>Record ID 632612992 Received: 2014-12-11 15:50:05</p>
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SM5/VE3DTI from Storvreta, Sweden

In November 2015, using the Alexloop PY1AHD indoors, VA3PCJ was able to operate QRP/P from Storvreta, Sweden as SM5/VE3DTI:

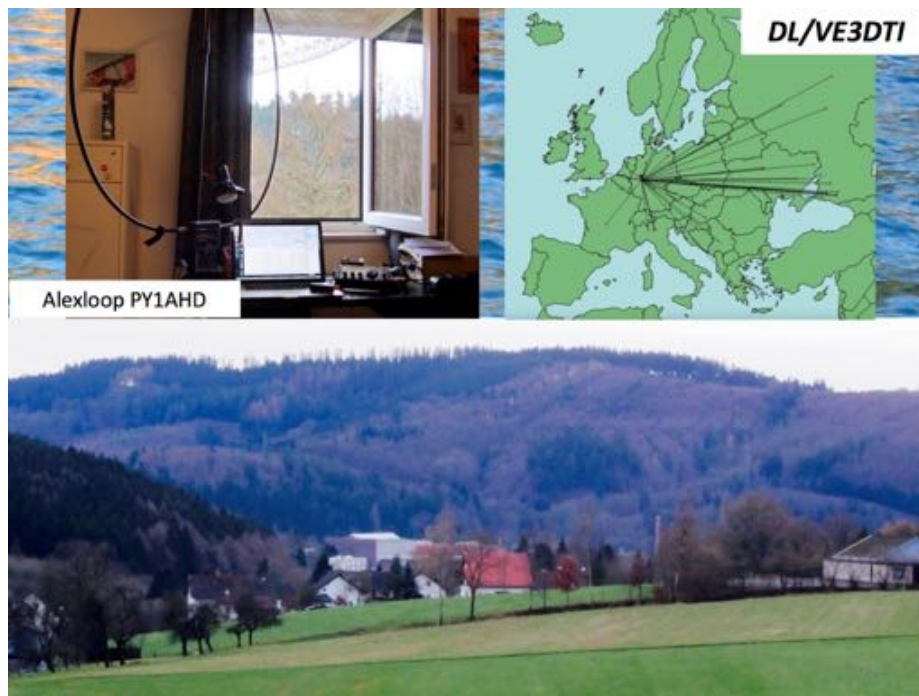
Alexloop PY1AHD

SM5/VE3DTI

SM5/VE3DTI QRP QSOs in the 30m band - November 18-28 2015 from Storvreta, Sweden
Scatter vs. time of the day



DL/VE3DTI from Müsen, Germany

The following month, the same was possible while operating as DL/VE3DTI from Müsen, Germany:



VK2/VE3DTI from Armidale, NSW, Australia

And in January-February 2019, a few QRP/P QSOs were completed while operating QRP/P as VK2/VE3DTI from Armidale, New South Wales, Australia. On this occasion the W3EDP Jr. antenna was deployed horizontally, albeit at a short distance from the ground (abt. 2 meters). (<https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2019/02/18/back-from-a-month-in-vk2-land/>):





Sl	Date	Time	Callign	Band	Frequency	Mode	Tx	Rx	Loft	sg	GRCC	CQ	ITU	Ch
1	2019-01-29	0835	FK8IK	20m	14,010.0	CW	599	599	X	X	FK	32	56	Oc
2	2019-01-31	0925	VK7CW	40m	7,054.0	CW	559	539	X	X	VK	30	59	Oc
3	2019-02-01	0513	ZL1MVL	30m	10,137.3	FTB	+04	-17	S	S	ZL	32	60	Oc
4	2019-02-01	0545	VK7BO	30m	10,138.4	FTB	+12	-03	S	S	VK	30	59	Oc
5	2019-02-02	0454	E51BQ	30m	10,136.0	FTB	-10	-15	S	S	E5/S	32	63	Oc
6	2019-02-02	0617	ZL3GAV	30m	10,136.3	FTB	-05	-14	X	X	ZL	32	60	Oc
7	2019-02-04	0543	3D2AG	30m	10,106.0	CW	599	599	S	S	3D2	32	56	Oc
8	2019-02-05	2315	VK3AHR	40m	7,097.0	SSB	59	55	S	S	VK	30	59	Oc
9	2019-02-06	0231	ZL2IFB	17m	18,100.0	FTB	-01	-05	X	S	ZL	32	60	Oc
10	2019-02-06	0257	YB1BML	20m	14,075.3	FTB	-01	-16	X	S	YB	28	54	Oc
11	2019-02-06	0518	VK7DD	30m	10,137.1	FTB	+14	-03	S	S	VK	30	59	Oc
12	2019-02-06	0604	JH7DFZ	20m	14,075.1	FTB	-07	-24	X	S	JA	25	45	As
13	2019-02-07	0612	FK8OX	40m	7,075.1	FTB	+07	-12	S	S	FK	32	56	Oc
14	2019-02-09	0631	JH1LET	20m	14,104.5	RTTY	599	599	S	S	JA	25	45	As



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