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The Most Wanted NA & Caribbean Countries *2007*

by

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(We thanks G3ZYY, K5AND, W3CMP, W6JKV)

We have prepared a little survey hoping it will be useful for those enthusiastic operators organizing DXpeditions to the Caribbean area.

We haven't considered all the possible countries but if you have any plans to organize a DXpedition in a country not listed in our work, you are welcome to send us an email and we'll prepare an amendment for you.

You can write to: ik0fta@sixitalia.org

Foreword

A little foreword for less experienced six metre operators:

If you are considering organising a DXpedition to the Caribbean area, with the intention of working a lot of hams not only from the eastern USA and Caribbean area but also from other zones (Europe, West Coast USA, South America) you need to consider that the right time of year - from now until 2009 when solar activity will hopefully increase again – is the sporadic-E multi-hop season from June 15th to July 15th, with the best opportunity normally noted during the 'window' from June 20th to July 5th.

When the sun is very active again (2009 - 2013) and F2 propagation mode is available again on the 'Magic Band', the best periods for a six metre-oriented DXpedition will be mid-October to mid-November and again during the month of February - but this is another story!

Such six metre friends of ours as (in alphabetic order) K5AND, N0KE, N4VHF, NN9K, N6XU, W3CMP, W6JKV, W7XU and WZ8D (we are sorry for all those we may have omitted) have done a great job on the six metre band over the years, allowing a large number of hams fellows (particularly in Europe) to contact some rare countries on the six metre band.

How the tables have been composed

When a station is on the air, usually it is spotted in the cluster. We believe that analysis of that information may lead to important knowledge about any country activity, and we started comparing DX spots with the actual number of QSOs.

First we gathered some information about spots of six metre activity from rare NA and Caribbean. Three tables have been created, which are described below.

General summary table: This was created using data from the OH2AQ web cluster search engine. We know that not all the spots sent into the world wide cluster system appear on this specific node, but this unique source was retained as it is a good reference for Europe and the single sourcing provides a coherent set of data for all the DXpeditions considered. From our experience, we estimate that missing spots are in the order of the 10% and this can be retained as the leading error source for the confidence interval. The fact that some stations are not spotting or that some others are spot-o-holic does not make any difference as we will be relating the observation to the actual number of contacts made.

Calculating the number of spots, within the limit of what is achievable, we have tried to exclude those making reference to beacons or just carrying messages like “no signal here”, “PSE beam to ...” and “QSL arrived...”. Raw data can be always extracted from the OH2AQ cluster or requested from me (ik0fta) for verification.

Going through the columns:

Resident Ham: Y means the presence in the country of resident 50MHz operators

Country data: The years when activity was present are reported over the last eight years (spots for the year 2006 were counted up to August 15th).

Spots found on the OH2AQ clx: The grand total of spots registered on this cluster node (the sum over the seven years considered) with a further sub-grouping between spots from Europeans and “rest of the world”.

Spots 01/01/06-15/08/06: Only report the spots in indicate period.

“% of spots per area”: The proportion in percent of the spots coming from EU and the ones coming outside EU, with the last column being the ratio between these two numbers.

Summary table of spots: These tables provide an indication of the probability of EU, non-EU and worldwide six metre DXers, based on the spot recurrence over the eight-year observation period. In the first table there is the inferred ‘most wanted’ list for Europe, in the second the same is done for the ‘rest of the world’ and in the last the global numbers are provided. The EU list also shows the average range of the DX country to Europe (average range approximately falling in Germany).

Feasibility table: This last table provides an indication of the feasibility of the listed DX countries of EU interest, this time computed for several different European country capitals. Combining the average distance and the interest of the country, an evaluation of ‘how fun could be a DX-pedition here’ has been attempted, giving stars to each entry. The way stars have been computed depends on interest, related to number of EU spots (left side of bottom table 3) minus a “criticality” figure, provided by the range of the country (i.e. the further, the more critical).

Validation

If it’s practically impossible to define exactly how many QSOs were made per single spot on the cluster, we can certainly try to use statistics based upon some recent DXpeditions (only EU and K and VE spots were considered) from 2004 until 2006. For our purposes we have considered PJ7M, J79KV, J3/K5AND and V31IV, HH/W3CMP, VP2V/W7XU.

PJ7M 2004 – (source PJ7M QSL)

- **QSO:** (EU-NA) 1174; EU 613, NA 536;
- **SPOTS:** 425 – EU 230, NA 195;
- **RATE: Total 1/4 -- EU 1/3 -- NA 1/3.**

J79KV 2004 – (source J79KV QSL)

- **QSO:** (EU-NA) 1105; EU 470, NA 635 (really he made 1137 WW QSO and 470 from EU, to compare all info’s we had reduce the total amount of not EU QSO by +- 5% (32 non EU QSO)
- **SPOTS:** 388 – EU 212, NA 176;
- **RATE: Total: 1/3 -- EU 1/2 -- NA 1/4.**

J3/K5AND 2005 – (source: expedition web site)

- **QSO:** (EU-NA) 1100; EU 650, NA 490;
- **SPOTS:** 316 – EU 188, NA 128;
- **RATE: Total: 1/3 -- EU 1/3 -- NA 1/4.**

V31IV 2005 – (source V31IV QSL)

- **QSO:** (EU-NA) 305; EU 7, NA 295
- **SPOTS:** 98 – EU 7, NA 90;
- **RATE: Total: 1/3 -- EU 1/1 -- NA 1/3.**

HH/W3CMP 2006 – (source: W3CMP)

- **QSO:** (EU-NA) 244; EU 44, NA 198;
- **SPOTS:** 82 – EU 17, NA 65;
- **RATE: Total: 1/3 -- EU 1/3 -- NA 1/3.**

J3/K5AND 2006 – (source: K5AND)

- **QSO:** (EU-NA) 1658; EU 610, NA 1031;
- **SPOTS:** 432 – EU 237, NA 195;
- **RATE: Total: 1/4 -- EU 1/3 -- NA 1/5.**

Using this comparative list we can say that, consistently, one spot corresponds to between three and four QSOs.

Now we shall interpret the tables and draw some conclusions.

GENERAL SUMMARY TABLE - See Text

Country Data			Country Active in Year Y/N								Activity Years		Spots in OH2AQ CLX					Spots %		
Prefix	Country	Resid Hams	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 until Aug. 15 th	99-06 (x/8 yy)	04-06 (x/3 yy)	Spots 1999-2005	Spots 01/01/06 - 15/08/06	Total from WW	from EU	from non-EU	%from EU	% from non-EU	% Ratio
KP1	Navassa Is.	N	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,0	0,0	0,0
KP5	Desecheo Is.	N	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,0	0,0	0,0
HK0	S. Andreas & P.	N	n	y	y	y	y	n	n	n	4	0	23	0	23	3	20	13,0	87,0	6,7
J8	S. Vincent	N	y	y	y	y	n	n	n	n	4	0	265	0	265	139	126	52,5	47,5	0,9
YV0	Aves Is.	N	n	n	n	n	n	y	n	n	2	1	27	0	27	0	27	0,0	100,0	0,0
CY0	Sable Is.	N	n	n	n	y	n	n	y	n	2	1	107	0	107	11	96	10,3	89,7	8,7
V2	Antigua	N	n	y	n	n	y	n	n	y	3	1	159	70	229	55	174	24,0	76,0	3,2
VP2V	British Virgin Is.	N	n	y	y	y	n	n	n	y	4	1	223	432	655	305	350	46,6	53,4	1,1
CY9	S. Paul Is.	N	y	n	n	y	y	n	y	n	4	1	624	0	624	49	575	7,9	92,1	11,7
J3	Grenada	N	n	y	y	y	y	n	y	n	5	1	551	0	551	253	298	45,9	54,1	1,2
HH	Haiti	N	n	y	y	y	y	n	n	y	5	1	47	82	129	26	103	20,2	79,8	4,0
YN	Nicaragua	Y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	n	6	1	114	0	114	0	114	0,0	100,0	0,0
4U1UN	4U-New York	N	n	n	n	n	y	n	y	n	2	2	54	0	54	0	54	0,0	100,0	0,0
VP2E	Anguilla	Y	y	y	n	n	n	y	y	n	4	2	168	0	168	52	116	31,0	69,0	2,2
VP2M	Montserrat	N	y	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	6	2	343	132	475	91	380	19,2	80,0	4,2
KG4	Guantanamo	N	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	n	6	2	189	0	189	35	154	18,5	81,5	4,4
J7	Dominica	N	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	7	2	429	0	429	201	228	46,9	53,1	1,1
V4	S. Kitty & Nevis	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	7	2	113	591	703	369	235	52,5	33,4	0,6
J6	S. Lucia	Y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	7	3	306	5	311	133	178	42,8	57,2	1,3
FS	S. Martin	Y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	7	3	739	68	807	186	621	23,0	77,0	3,3
9Y	Trinidad y Tobago	Y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	7	3	649	113	762	238	524	31,2	68,8	2,2
HR	Honduras	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	317	2	317	24	293	7,6	92,4	12,2
HI	Dominican R.	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	617	1063	1690	599	1091	35,4	64,6	1,8
V3	Belize	N	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	421	5	426	9	417	2,1	97,9	46,3
8P	Barbados	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	432	38	470	139	331	29,6	70,4	2,4
VP9	Bermuda	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	804	208	1012	188	824	18,6	81,4	4,4
CO	Cuba	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	1172	475	1647	183	1464	11,1	88,9	8,0
KP2	American Virgini Is.	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	477	198	675	239	436	35,4	64,6	1,8
VP5	Turks & Caicos	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	786	157	943	227	716	24,1	75,9	3,2
PJ2	Netherland Ant.	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	648	139	787	161	626	20,5	79,5	3,9
P4	Aruba	Y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	1107	279	1386	414	972	29,9	70,1	2,3
PJ7	Sint Martin/Saba	N	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	8	3	492	47	445	226	266	50,8	59,8	1,2

SUMMARY TABLE OF SPOT – See Text

European spots of N.A & S.A. Countries				
Prefix	Country	QRB (KM) EU Average	Spots from EU until 15/08/06	Spots from EU until 31/12/05
4U1UN	4U-New York	6632	0	0
YV0	Aves Is.	7740	0	0
KP5	Desecheo Is.	7802	0	0
KP1	Navassa Is.	8371	0	0
YN	Nicaragua	9688	0	0
HK0	S. Andreas & P.	9242	3	3
V3	Belize	9378	9	9
CY0	Sable Is.	5468	11	11
HR	Honduras	9581	24	24
HH	Haiti	8152	26	9
KG4	Guantanamo	8246	35	35
CY9	S. Paul Is.	5328	49	49
VP2E	Anguilla	7562	52	52
V2	Antigua	7496	55	34
VP2M	Montserrat	7550	91	58
J6	S. Lucia	7748	133	133
8P	Barbados	7117	139	117
J8	S. Vincent	7761	139	139
PJ2	Netherlands Ant.	8419	161	93
CO	Cuba	8515	183	134
FS	S. Martin	7511	186	164
VP9	Bermuda	6571	188	127
J7	Dominica	7602	201	201
PJ7	Sint Martin/Saba	7511	226	214
VP5	Turks & Caicos	7849	227	162
9Y	Trinidad y Tobago	7986	238	191
KP2	American Virgini Is.	7630	239	145
J3	Grenada	7882	253	253
VP2V	British Virgin Is.	7618	305	68
V4	S. Kitty & Nevis	7547	369	9
P4	Aruba	8460	414	270
HI	Dominican R.	7983	599	73
Color Code		Color Code		
VERY HI Interest	> 9000 Km	< 50	< 25	
HI Interest	8000-8999	50-100	26-50	
Good Interest	7000-7999	100-150	51-75	
Fire Interest	< 7000	150-200	76-100	
Normal Interest		> 200	> 100	

Non European spots of N.A & S.A. Countries			
Prefix	Country	Spots NON-EU until 15/08/06	Spots NON-EU until 31/12/05
KP5	Desecheo Is.	0	0
KP1	Navassa Is.	0	0
HK0	S. Andreas & P.	20	20
YV0	Aves Is.	27	27
4U1UN	4U-New York	54	54
CY0	Sable Is.	96	96
HH	Haiti	103	38
YN	Nicaragua	114	105
VP2E	Anguilla	116	116
J8	S. Vincent	126	126
KG4	Guantanamo	154	154
V2	Antigua	174	125
J6	S. Lucia	178	168
J7	Dominica	228	221
V4	S. Kitty & Nevis	235	104
PJ7	Sint Martin/Saba	266	231
HR	Honduras	293	291
J3	Grenada	298	298
8P	Barbados	331	293
VP2V	British Virgin Is.	350	155
VP2M	Montserrat	380	285
V3	Belize	417	412
KP2	American Virgini Is.	436	314
9Y	Trinidad y Tobago	524	436
CY9	S. Paul Is.	575	575
FS	S. Martin	621	532
PJ2	Netherlands Ant.	626	539
VP5	Turks & Caicos	716	616
VP9	Bermuda	824	658
P4	Aruba	972	837
HI	Dominican R.	1091	519
CO	Cuba	1464	1015
Color Code		Color Code	
VERY HI Interest	< 150	< 50	
HI Interest	151-200	51-100	
Good Interest	201-250	101-150	
Fire Interest	251-300	151-200	
Normal Interest	> 300	> 200	

WW spots of N.A & S.A. Countries			
Prefix	Country	Spots from WW until 15/08/06	Spots from WW until 31/12/05
KP5	Desecheo Is.	0	0
KP1	Navassa Is.	0	0
HK0	S. Andreas & P.	23	23
YV0	Aves Is.	27	27
4U1UN	4U-New York	54	54
CY0	Sable Is.	107	107
YN	Nicaragua	114	105
HH	Haiti	129	47
VP2E	Anguilla	168	168
KG4	Guantanamo	189	189
V2	Antigua	229	159
J8	S. Vincent	265	265
J6	S. Lucia	311	301
HR	Honduras	317	315
V3	Belize	426	421
J7	Dominica	429	422
PJ7	Sint Martin/Saba	445	447
8P	Barbados	470	410
VP2M	Montserrat	475	343
J3	Grenada	551	551
CY9	S. Paul Is.	624	624
KP2	American Virgini Is.	675	459
VP2V	British Virgin Is.	655	223
V4	S. Kitty & Nevis	703	113
9Y	Trinidad y Tobago	762	627
PJ2	Netherlands Ant.	787	632
FS	S. Martin	807	696
VP5	Turks & Caicos	943	778
VP9	Bermuda	1012	785
P4	Aruba	1386	1107
HI	Dominican R.	1647	592
CO	Cuba	1690	1149
KEY		KEY 2005	
VERY HI Interest	< 200	< 100	
HI Interest	201-300	101-200	
Good Interest	301-400	201-300	
Fire Interest	401-500	301-400	
Normal Interest	> 500	>>400	

FEASIBILITY TABLE – See Text

QRB from EU Area and Media													
Country	Prefix	CHOICE / CHANCES (FOR EU)	Total WW Spots	Spots only from EU	QRB (KM) EU Average	QRB from Lisbon im58kr	QRB from London io91cm	QRB from Roma jn61gv	QRB from Berlin jo62qm	QRB from Stockhol m jo99ai	QRB from Warsaw ko02mg	QRB from Athens km17ux	QRB from Bucarest kn34bk
Nicaragua	YN	2 stars	114	0	9688	8070	8585	9839	9593	9653	10098	10882	10784
Honduras	HR	2 stars	317	24	9581	8018	8478	9700	9476	9510	9976	10808	10684
Belize	V3	2 stars	426	9	9378	7881	8258	9584	9239	9234	9730	10632	10469
S. Andreas & P.	HK0	2 stars	23	3	9242	7578	8147	9365	9167	9268	9677	10403	10333
Cuba	CO		1690	183	8515	7027	7388	8716	8373	8389	8868	9763	9599
Aruba	P4		1386	414	8460	6626	7420	8475	8464	8706	8985	9482	9522
Netherland Ant.	PJ2		787	161	8419	6569	7387	8422	8432	8688	8954	9424	9476
Navassa Is.	KP1	2,7 stars	0	0	8371	6684	7372	8400	8300	8438	8815	9510	9450
Guantanamo	KG4	2,8 stars	189	35	8246	6590	7144	8364	8167	8289	8679	9404	9328
Haiti	HH	2,9 stars	129	26	8152	6437	7072	8200	8106	8272	8623	9273	9234
Trinidad y Tobago	9Y		762	238	7986	6042	7015	7912	8055	8404	8575	8878	9006
Dominican R.	HI		1647	599	7983	6230	6908	8046	7946	8141	8466	9073	9055
Grenada	J3		551	253	7882	5956	6901	7800	7943	8280	8464	8798	8911
Turks & Caicos	VP5		943	227	7849	6172	6751	7953	7779	7926	8294	8991	8927
Desecheo Is.	KP5	3,2 stars	0	0	7802	6023	6745	7800	7787	8008	8307	8872	8874
S. Vincent	J8	1,3 stars	265	139	7761	5838	6773	7705	7816	8149	8337	8683	8789
S. Lucia	J6	1,3 stars	311	133	7748	5841	6747	7705	7791	8110	8313	8691	8782
Aves Is.	YV0	3,3 stars	27	0	7740	5870	6716	7726	7761	8048	8284	8726	8786
American Virgini Is.	KP2		675	239	7630	5811	6580	7650	7624	7874	8146	8665	8688
British Virgin Is.	VP2V		675	305	7618	5797	6569	7636	7613	7865	8135	8651	8675
Dominica	J7		429	201	7602	5703	6596	7565	7641	7955	8163	8556	8638
Anguilla	VP2E	2,5 stars	168	52	7562	5730	6519	7572	7564	7825	8086	8585	8617
Monserrat	VP2M	2,5 stars	475	91	7550	5677	6527	7532	7572	7866	8095	8533	8594
S. Kitty & Nevis	V4		703	369	7547	5689	6517	7540	7562	7844	8085	8545	8595
S. Martin	FS		807	186	7511	5665	6474	7512	7519	7792	8041	8520	8561
Sint Martin/Saba	PJ7		445	226	7511	5665	6474	7512	7519	7792	8041	8520	8561
Antigua	V2	3,6 stars	229	55	7496	5622	6474	7478	7519	7815	8042	8478	8539
Barbados	8P	2,8 stars	470	139	7117	5114	6204	6980	7227	7655	7740	7918	8095
4U-New York	4U1UN	4,4 Stars	54	0	6632	5439	5476	6913	6402	6335	6873	7945	7673
Bermuda	VP9	1,5 stars	1012	188	6571	5013	5441	6715	6457	6577	6967	7762	7638
Sable Is.	CY0	5 Stars	107	11	5468	4220	4319	5719	5286	5313	5777	6579	6529
S. Paul Is.	CY9	5 Stars	624	49	5328	4188	4152	5593	5087	5064	5566	6623	6351

Choice/Chances Star Key (More Stars more Interest and QRB chances)		Total Spot Nr.	Eu Spot Nr.	QRB (Stars)
EU Spot < 50 = + 5 Stars	5 - 4 PSE GO	< 100	< 50	> 9000 Km (- 3 Stras)
EU Spot 50-100 = + 4 Stars	HERE!	101-200	51-100	8001-9000 Km (from - 2,0 to - 2,9 Stars)
EU Spot 101-150 = + 3 Stars	3 - 2 It's a Good	201-300	101-150	7001-8000 Km (from - 1,9 to - 1 Star)
EU Spot 151-200 = + 2 Stars	Idea!	301-400	151-200	7000-6001 Km (0,9 - 0,1 Star ; Down 6000 = 0
EU Spot > 200 = + 1 Star	< 2 Dx Holiday!	>400	> 200	Note: No reduction for qrb lover than 7000 Km and maximum (-3) for qrb over 9000 Km (step 0,1 each 100 Km).

Conclusions

If you are in the process of deciding which will be the 'best place' to go next summer for a happy six metre summer-DX holiday, we do not have a unique answer because there are many variables.

For correctly interpreting the tables, and for best selecting the country that should be activated next summer, the most appropriate method could be based on the following rationale:

From Table 1:

- to verify whether a resident operator exists in the country;
- to count how many times the country has been activated in the last 8 and 3 years.

From Table 2:

- to count the number of European and North American spots, also taking into account the main dx-expedition target (continental or intercontinental).

From Table 3:

- if the main target is Europe, one should look at the column showing the number of stars, and then use that column as the main selection criterion.

In conclusion it would seem to us that, for a year-2007 expedition, the more interesting countries for Europeans should be CY0, HH, KG4, CY9, VP2E, V2, VP2M (having excluded those never or hardly activated or the too distant ones, that is KP1, KP5, HK0, YV, 4U1UN, V3, HR).

Conversely, taking into account the most wanted countries for North Americans, one could conclude that, overall, the most interesting countries are (in order of preference): **1) CY0, 2) HH, 3) VP2E, 4) KG4, 5) V2.**

Good DX on Six!

Sixitalia Team - IK0FTA, I0JX, I0WTD, N5KME