

HISTORY
of
160 METER DX
by
WLBB

This HISTORY is presented to you, by WLBB, in the hope that it will be found useful, and interesting, in connection with your 160 meter activities.

Please advise of any corrections, errors, or omissions noted. Your help in this respect will be very much appreciated.

Best of luck, and HAPPY HAMMING to you always!!

B.C. N. U. on 160 !!!

73!

de

WLBB

HISTORY
OF
160 METER DX TESTS
(Dx vs W/Ve)

(The following data for the period from 1931 to 1946 is taken largely from an article by Austin Forsythe, G6FO, Editor, in SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, for April 1946.)

- 1931 DECEMBER G to European Continent contacts. Up to 10 watts power. OK3SK made it with 5 watts power.
(3)
- 1932 JAN-MAR G to European Continent, Almost as good as 7mc.
DECEMBER Gs organized tests -- W1DBM with 450 watts, directional 360' antenna on tip of Cape Cod -- Heard s5 to s7 up to 0800 GMT. Peak period 0530-0730.
- 1933 FEBRUARY G6FO using 9 watts and 66' antenna with counterpoise, worked W1DBM 0600-0715 for FIRST Transatlantic Crossing. GW5WU also heard in USA
- 1934 FEBRUARY Several more Gs worked Across.
- 1935 JAN-MAR G6FO-G2PL-G2II-G6YQ, and GW5WU worked across. VE1EA worked G2II and GW5WU first time he ever tried 160 Dx.
- 1936 JAN-MAR No scheduled 160 meter Dx tests -- However, FIRST USA/AFRICA 160 meter QSO made by W1BB/FA8BG on 2/23/36. VE1EA worked G2II - G2DQ and G6UJ
- 1937 JAN-MAR No scheduled 160 meter Dx tests -- However G2PL/W1BB made FIRST 5-B.T.O.C. within 24 hours, working on 160-80-40-20-10. VE1EA worked across on 160 to G2PL W2EQS heard in Wales with 30 watts.
- 1938 FEBRUARY G6FO - Short Wave Magazine, arranged series of tests. Heard W1BB but could not work across to W/VE - Conditions poor.
- 1939 JAN - FEB Band cracked wide open Jan. 8-15-22 and Feb 4 & 16 between 0500-0830. Fifty stations worked across including G-GI-QW-HB-F-FA-SM-OZ-W1-W4-W8. W phones were heard and also identified, but not worked. Interest mounted high. W1BB outstanding W station. Gs across were: G2DQ-2PL-2RC-2CF-2MI-2AO-3GH-3JU-5MP-5RI-5JO-5XH-5QY-6MK-6WY-6QM-6QH-6SQ-6XL-F8ZP-GW2IP-GW8HI-FA8BG.
- 1940 WAR --- Band Closed
- 1941 WAR --- Band Closed
- 1942 WAR --- Band Closed
- 1943 WAR --- Band Closed
- 1944 WAR --- Band Closed
- 1945 WAR --- Band Closed
- 1946 Band opened up in "G" band 1800-2000 kc. Local working. No Dx. Loran QRM. Band closed in USA

(The following data from the year 1947 on from the notes of W1BB, other interested Dx Hams , and SWLs.)

- 1947 Local G working -- no Lx. Band closed in USA.
- 1948 Local G working -- No Dx. Band Closed in USA.
- 1949 JAN-MAR Gs heard across again. --- April 9th 1949 W band opened up again by FCC 1800-1825 Kc and 1875-1900 Mc. -- Also other bands for Western USA - See FCC notice.
- DECEMBER VELEA heard G6BQ and G5JU 12/17/49 11.19PM EST -0415 GMT. G3PU and W4NNN made First Post War crossing 12/18/49 with QSO. GD3UB and VELEA made second post war crossing 12/19/49
- 1950 JAN-MAR -Unorganized tests by leading G and W/VE stations, indicating that band had potentialities for D.x.
-G2PL and G3PU outstanding Dx stations. Other Dx stations working across were: G3FAB-G6BQ-G6GM-G8NF-GD3UB-KV4AA-G2YS. Heard across were GM8UM and EK1AC
-Of special interest - W1BB repeatedly heard very weak signal - almost but not quite identified- called "QRZ QRZ QRZ G6?N G6G?N G6G?N - a number of times -- this was later identified as G6ZN with only 3 watts power!!!!
-VELEA - W1BB - W4NNN outstanding W/VE stations. Other W/VE stations working across were 10E-3IU-3LII and W2WFZ.
-Of special importance was first G/W two way phone contact on 160 meters between G2PL and W1BB
-W1BB-W4NNN-VELEA signals heard by FA8BG and EK1AO in Africa.
-FIRST 3 element 160 meter beam tested by W2WFZ with G3PU and with excellent results.
-Eighteen Gs worked EK1AO Jan. 22 -- KV4AA heard by G4LX -- ZB1AR worked several Gs -- HZ1KE worked GM2HIK-GD3UB-G6AB-G6BQ
-W4NNN (Now W6NW) worked HC1PK during 1950 ARRL DX contest for FIRST USA/South America 160 CW QSO. (Per QST July 1953)
-HZ1KE QSO'd by G. First G-HZ??? First Asiatic??
-TA3FAS QSO'd by G2pl - FIRST G-TA on CW and PHONE.
- 1951 JAN-MAR -Organized tests -- by G6FO Short Wave Magazine - and W1BB announcements by QST.
-This was a very successful season, summerized by the following "Outstanding events" from W1BB's report as follows:
- #1-First crossing this season by VELEA working G6BQ on Dec. 31, 1950. G6BQ 349 and VELEA 449
 - #2-First N.W./Africa Postwar QSO VELEA/EK1AO Jan 7 - both RST 449
 - #3-FIRST!!!! Contact between Asia and N.A. on record. between VELEA and HZ1KE Jan. 14 1951 - 229 both ways.
 - #4-VELEA has worked 4 continents - 8 countries Post War - total of 10 countries all time.
 - #5-W1BB also worked 4 Continents - 8 Countries post war total of 11 Countries all time.
 - #6-W1BB worked South America HC1JW Jan. 21 '51 BB was 469 and HC1JW was 567
 - #7-W2UKS QSO'd N.A./S.A. same date 349 - W8BKH also. w/HC1JW
 - #8-W1BB and W9CVQ both heard in NEW ZEALAND by ZL1AH Ex G6AH and ZL1MP Ex GW6AA-Ex G2II of early 160 meter DX fame. These reports confirmed. Also an unconfirmed report of W2QHH being heard by ZL1HM. Howy using 20 watts and 12' high antenna.

#9-A number of Phone/phone and CW/Phone QSOs were made.
G2PL/WLBB p/p F8PJ/W8FNS p/p W1LYV/GW3ZV p/p W1LYV/G2PL
cw/p

- #10-OUTSTANDING and Most Consistent DX station EK1AO - 300 Watt
#11-Also EXCEPTIONALLY OUTSTANDING for 10 Watts!!!! GW3ZV
using miles of wire for an antenna!! Signals up to 589 at
times!! This performance deserves a lot of credit.
#12- More US districts worked than ever before!!! W-1-2-
3-4-8-9- VE-1-3

-DX working across were: G2PL-YS-IX-ACV-FLK-DA G3PU-SU-DIY
ERN G5HB-RI-UB-KM-JU-GU-VB G6GM-QB-BQ-LB G8JR-NF GD3UB
EK1AO HZ1KE GW3ZV-FSP HC1JW F8PJ KV4AA.
Heard but not worked were the following stations: G2DPV, NP and
G3GGM

-W/VES working across were: WLBB, EFN, PLO, ORP, ZE, LYV, BEU, SAN,
SS, KDX, DVS, RQR, BEU, NRE, AXA, MQB --- W2PTV, ESO, UKS, EQS, BFA, BLR,
PEO --- W3LII, FNF, PMG, LOE, EIS --- W4KFC --- W6WV, FES --
W9PIM, CVQ, PNE, -- VE1EA -- VE3AAZ. Heard also were the
following: W1AW - W2WC - W2KZX W3OKU, AAA, JAA -- W8FIR, FLH,
FLV and W0TQD.

-FIRST!!!! W9CVQ worked ZL1AH December 31, 1951 RST 229 both
ways - after a series of tries and schedules, making FIRST
W/ZL 160 meter QSO on record!!!!

-This was an outstanding year -- But??? The SUNSPOT cycle in
on the down grade - lets see what happens next year!!

1952 JAN-FEB

-Band was very much poorer than last year -- Due to Sunspot
cycle being on downgrade????
-Outstanding events were as follows:

#1-VE1EA made first crossing working G3PU Nov. 25. 1951

#2-WLBB, W9NH, W2QHH and KV4AA heard in New Zealand by
ZL1AH and ZL1HM during tests. SPECIAL NOTE!! W2QHH
using 6L6, 17 watts, 270' wire 12' high at one end and
3' at the other heard by ZL1HM and CONFIRMED!!!

#3-W1LYV was heard in RUSSIA - received SWL card!!

#4-VE1EA worked HZ1KE for second N.A./AFRICA 160 QSO.

#5-FIRST!! W9/G QSO on record when W9CVQ worked
G5JU and GW3FSP December 23rd. 1951 -- but included
in 1952 "Season" report here

#6-W2QHH made FIRST VP4 QSO w/VP4LZ on February 23. (Again
using only 17 watts.)

#7-W2ESO, Gene Black put weekly reports of test results on
Voice Of America broadcasts with special note of
FIRST W/ZL QSO

-Dx stations working across were: G2PL, AJ. - G3PU, ERN, COJ, DIY.
G5JU - G6GM, BQ- GW3ZV, FSP. - EK1CW - KV4AA - ZL1AH - VP4LZ.
ALL Dx heard was worked except GM3OM who was heard and not Wkd.
-W/VES working across were - WLBB, LYV, SS. - W2TRK, EQS, K2USA -
W2RGO - W9CVQ, NH - VE1EA and VE2WW
-It will be noted that while there were several outstanding
events, contacts to Europe were way down, and it was seriously
considered giving up the tests for 1953. It was WLBB's suggestion
that they be continued to see what would happen.

1953 JAN-FEB

-In spite of poor conditions, there was a lot of activity and
interest and good contacts were made. This was due in some
measure to better antennas, better receivers and MORE ACTIVITY.
-The OUTSTANDING EVENTS for 1953, were as follows:---

- #1-WLLYV made first crossing for season Nov. 9th 1952 working G6BQ, GW3FSP, G3HYG and G3CGN.
- #2-FIRST!!! W5/G QSO between W5ENE and G5JU January 4th. G6GM and G3PU were also heard by W5ENE.
- #3-FIRST!!! ~~NORWAY~~/USA QSO between OH3NY and W1BB JAN. 11th 0600GMT. W1BB using KYTOON (Balloon) antenna 260' vertical BB/449 NY/339
- #4-NEW COUNTRY, EI9J on for the first time - Thanks to W2QHH - with outstanding signal and worked many W/VEs - Had special permit from his government for operation during the 160 meter DX tests.
- #5-W1BB, W3EIS heard in South Africa by ZS3K
- #6-W1BB, EFN-W2EQS-W3EIS-W9PNE-W9NWX all heard by ZL1AH varying RSTs 229/259 - and various dates during tests.
- #7-W1BB experimenting with 260' vertical KYTOON - (Helium Balloon) supported antenna - slightly better than HORIZONTAL ANTENNA - BUT NOT OUTSTANDING - WEATHER too much of a factor to make it practical. Hope to run further tests for confirmation.
- #8-FIRST !!! ASIA/USA QSO on record - W1BB worked ZC4XP on March 8th.
- #9-VE1EA worked ZC4XP for his third ASIAN QSO - having previously worked HZ1KE twice.
- #10-Several QRP contacts of note were made:
 - (a) G6ZN with 3 watts worked K2ANR
 - (b) W2QHH and W1LMU with 17 watts each worked across
- #11-A number of phone stations were heard and worked across
- #12-First Post War W/EI contact - W2WWP/EI9J Jan 11th.
- #13-First Post War VE/EI contact VE1YW/EI9J
- #14-W9NH completed FIRST 160 meter "WAS" - #Worked all USA States - on record. !!!

-Dx working across were: G2HDT, FGD, SU, JF-G3PU, GGN, BKF, FGT, GZK, ATU, GLW, -G5RI, JU, TN-G6GM, CJ, LB-G8KP, JR. Other countries working across were EI9J - GI2ARS-KP4DV-KP4KD-VP4LZ-GW3FSP-OH3NY-KV4AA

--Heard across were G2PL-G3GKQ-G3US-G5VB-G3HVX-G3FEW.

-W/VEs working across were:- W1BB, LYV, LNU, AHX-W2EQS, WWP, QHH, WC. W3EIS - W5ENE - W9PNE - VE1EA - VE1HJ - VE1YW.

-W/VEs heard only were - W1QJM, HSC, AYG, SS, TCR, OJM, FYS, QCA, RQR, DWO, AW, OE - W2KNZ, JPW, HCW, ESO, AMC, NC-W3HL, AVL, TBG - W4VFL, LRN W8NJC, HFG, GDQ - W9NH, MFV, FIM, CZT, BQQ - VE2AIE.

-January 11th was the outstanding day of the tests - Dx was good - QRN was low -- later tests were QRN'd out with terrific QRN, coinciding with the great hurricane and floods in Britain and Holland.

APR-SEP

-SPECIAL NOTICE!!!

- In April W2WWP received word from ZL1WW via ZL2ACV on 40 Cw that 160 meter faint signals were being heard, and asking for schedules.
- On May 3rd W2WWP 1899 Kc QSO'd !!! ZL1WW 1904Kc RSTs WWP/349 WW/239, for SECOND ZL/USA 160 meter QSO on Record!! (See W9CVQ Dec. 1951 for FIRST ZL QSO) -- This was FIRST W2/ZL QSO! - Times were 0900-1030 GMT -- Sunrise this end -- early evening ZL time.

Thereafter W2WWP worked ZL1WW a number of times.

- W2WWP invited W1BB and W9NH to join in on further tries.
- W9NH heard first ZL on July 1st 119rst
- W9NH next worked ZL1WW on July 29th 1022 GMT - NH/449, WW369
- On the same date W2WWP also worked ZL3RB.
- W1BB worked ZL1AH Sunday August 16th at a different time, 0605 for a short "Contact" type QSO. (Suggested by ZL1AH)

- W1BB worked ZL1WW, ZL3RB and ZL1AH all on the following Wednesday August 19th 0945-1030. ZL1WW was a solid QSO. RB and AH short "Contact" report QSOs.
- W2WWP the same morning, as signals were unusually good, almost had a phone QSO with ZL1WW when signals peaked - they heard each others modulation but no phone QSO -- CW QSO again OK..
- W1BB exchanged reports with ZL1NX on August 23rd - also Wkd WW
- Tests are continuing (At the time of this typing during the summer months and fall of 1953 to see if enough can be learned to establish regular tests in which it would be worth while for all Hams to participate - lots of lost motion this summer.
- Many Many thanks to ZL1WW, ZL2ACV and W2WWP for starting this thing off.
- FIRST !!! 160 meter "WAC" on record made when W1BB QSO'd ZL1AH, ZL1WW, ZL3RB, ZL1NX.

- W2WVP the same morning, as signals were unusually good, almost had a phone QSO with ZL1WV when signals peaked - they heard each others modulation, but no phone QSO resulted. CW qso again OK.
- W1BB exchanged reports with ZL1NX on August 23rd - also worked ZL1WV
- Many Many thanks to ZL1WV, ZL2ACV and W2WVP for starting this ZL wk.
- Thus the FIRST!!! 160 meter "WAC" - (Worked all Continents on 160) on record was made when W1BB, QSO'd ZL1AH, ZL1WV, ZL3RB and ZL1NX.

1953 OCT-DEC
1954 JAN-MAR

- This "SEASON", the organized tests were held per G6FO, Short Wave Magazine, and W1BB with announcements in QST/CW and "Break-in".
- There was more activity than ever on 160 - more C ountries, and all 6 Continents heard from.
- Much DX was worked in between the "Organized" tests, and it looks now as though, through these "organized" tests, that the band is being opened up more and more to general operation, and year/round DX efforts.
- Summary of this seasons OUTSTANDING EVENTS from W1BB's log follow

- #1W3RGQ arranged special tests starting October, and the FIRST CROSSING this season was on Oct 4th when W3RGQ worked G3PU. W1LYV Contacted G3PU later the same evening/ Signals 239/449
- #2. FIRST!!! ZL/G QSO!!! - 12,000 Miles, October 10th 1953 0640GMT. ZL1AH worked G6GM. AH339, GM339 Half Hour QSO. On the following night, OCT 11th another QSO was made, this time 559 both ways. On Oct 21st G6GM QSO'd ZL3RB - RB439/GM449 -ZL1AH QSO'd G6GM again also.
- #3. FIRST W/HB QSO on record -when W1BB worked HB9CM Dec 20 '53 W1BB 449 HB9CM459 0637 GMT.
- #4. FIRST ~~W/HB~~ Canal Zone/W QSO on record!!! When W3RGQ worked KZ5DE, January 16th 1954
- #5. LOWEST POWERED G QSO this season. G2HKU, 5 watts worked W1BB Jan 3rd. 0640GMT - Isle of Sheppy. HKG/329 BB 579
- #6. FIRST Hawaiian/New Zealand QSO. KH6MG/ZL1WV March 24th 1000 GMT
- #7. Some FIRST KP4KD QSOs. - EI9J Jan 31st. G6BQ, Jan 31st. VP4LZ Feb 21st -VP6EB Jan 31. - VP7NM Jan 31 - VP9BDA, Feb 28th - KZ5DE Feb 7th VE 1EA Feb 14th.

- In general, the first part of the TESTS had better conditions than the last.
- An unusual phenomenon was observed in that the path seemed to shift from good E -W conditions early, to a more NE -SW path, as evidenced by Canal Zone QSOs with W and G stations

- #8. FIRST G/C anal Zone QSO when G3PU worked KZ5DE on Jan 16th

- We had TWO FAKES this season VR2BJ and LU4DM who fooled several.
- DX WORKING W/VE, were:-G3PU,ERN - G5JU,KM,RI - G6GM,QB,BQ,GJ - G2HKU - G6JR - GC3EML - GW3ZV - EI9J-HB9CM-HB9T-KZ5DE-KV4AA-KV4BB-KP4KD-VP4LZ-VP7NM-VP9BDA.
- DX HEARD were G3HVX and G3BKF.
- W/VE WORKING DX were:- W1BB, DBE, LYV, TMA, VDB, EFN, AQE, UJP, ZL -- W2GGL, EQS, AMC, FC, K2ANR, BWR, QHH, WH, PP, UKS - W3RGQ, EIS-W4KFC-W9PNE W4NWV-VE1EA-VE2AIE9VE2WW.
- W/VEs HEARD only by DX were:- W1AHX, LMU, QCA-W2JIL, MCU, TRK, AMC HEY, KV -, W3FWF, TBG, HL, PA.-W4BRB, POB, KMS-W5ANO-W8GDQ, HQ, IKN, EJJ - W9EWC, CZT, NH.
- SWLs!!!!!! - Special Mention should be made of the splendid work done by the SWLs. To list a few of the most consistent ones, -- (next page)

-Norman Smith, BRS20601 -- ROBERT IBALL BSWL 4648 --- George Allen BSWL 4588 -- C.L. Bradbrook G3692 --- William Iball, BRS-20410 -- Mike Birch ISWL/DL2-4832 --- Jack Burgess, ISWL 2561 -- E.M. Hainsworth --- John Whittington ISWL-G3719.BRS 19771 -- Gerald Heslop RSGB All67/ISWLG4555 --- Ian S Davies RSGB/All82 --- John L Hall, BSWL/2333. There were others. -These very factual and accurate reports assisted greatly and added much zest to the 160 meter TESTS. Many many thanks to these cooperative, and fine fellows - the "SWLs" !!!

#9. FIRST!!! - GC/W QSO on record, when GC3EML made contact with W1BB December 17th, 1953. GC 3EML rst 229 - W1BB rst 459.

1954 SEP-DEC
1955 JAN-APR

-This "SEASON" there was a variety of DX, with the North/South path predominating.
-LORAN became more of a problem, with a new station moving in permanently on 1900Kcs, and an intermittent station on 1850. This causes considerable QRM, and gives a high artificial noise level that many weak stations cannot get through.
-Summary, of the OUTSTANDING EVENTS from W1BB's log, follow:-

- #1. Season's FIRST USA/Oceania QSO when W8ANO worked ZL3RB Sept. 5th
- #2. On Sept 5th G3PU heard W3RGQ 239-349 - and then on Sept. 19th W3RGQ almost worked G3PU for a first season's QSO - when they heard each other briefly through static Crashes, but did not call it a QSO.
- #3. First Transatlantic QSO of the 1954/1955 season when Y2EQS and G6GM worked each other October 10th 0532GMT. Second QSO of the season - same date - when W1BB worked G6GM 0607gt
- #4. G6GM and G6CJ worked ZL3RB again in Mid-October
- #5. FIRST VO/W QS O!!! When W3RGQ hooked W4KVM/VO6.
- #6. FIRST LU/W QSO!!! When W1BB worked LU3EL November 28th at 0707 GMT. EL/559 BB/569. This was followed by LU QSOs with W8GDQ, W9PNE, W0CVQ, W6NWX, W4ZQ and W3FBX.
- #7. FIRST YV/W QSO!!! - Was between YV5DE and W9FIM November 20 1954/ -- Then followed QSOs with W8GDQ, W9PNE, W1BB in order, the next day Nov. 21st. We are grateful to "Mick" for QSOs.
- #8. First HB9/KP4 QSO when "Ev" QSO'd HB9CM on 2/20/55 - this makes 17 Countries for "Ev"
- #9. FIRST (So far as we know) USA/S.A. Phone QSO, when W6NWX worked YV5FH March 13th.
- #10. DXPE DITION!!!! TI9MHB, provided a thrill on 160 and another First, when opening up from COCOS ISLANDS 2/20/51 0500-0800 GMT, the following were worked. A new Country, with W6NWX for a FIRST!!! - He also worked in order -- W4KFC-3EIS-1BB-3DUY-9NH-8ANO-9PNE-3KLA-2QHH-12L-TI2BX-9FIM-9CVQ-6KIP/6- YV5DE and 3RGQ.
- #11. First YV/g - or YV/Europe QSO February 2 6th 1955 when YV5DE and G5JU QSO'd.
- #12. FIRST!!! USA/Columbia QSO, Mar h 20th when W1BB worked HK4DP at 0540 GMT, followed by W1ZL and W8ANO. Incidentally, this was HK4DPs First EVER QSO on 160 meters.
- #13. FIRST!!! USA/HONDURAS QSO March 27th. W1BB/HRLW at 1015 GMT through terrific QRM. Followed by W3RGQ at 0447. This was also "Loui's (Hrllw) First CW Contact - and also First QSO EVER on 160.
- #14. FIRST!!! USA/FAR EAST QSO, when W6KIP/6 worked VS6CQ April 3rd 1955 5.05-5.25 AM PST, at DAWN. VS6CQ using only 10 watts has been trying for USA QSOs 3 years - the only 160 meter signals heard in that time were VS6CZ, a ZL and then W6KIP/6

- #15. FIRST "WAS"/PHONE made by W8GDQ - F.B.!!! This is Second 160 WAS. (See No. 14 1953)
- #16. SECOND CW "WAS" - and THIRD all time WAS, Made by V2QHH

-W/VEs working DX were:-- W1BB, AHX, VDB, LYV, ZL, ORP, SFE/1, ERX, UXS, YAA, ME, BIL, WY. -W2EQS, GGL, VHH, WWP, K2EDL -W3EIS, RGQ, KLA, DGM, VAN, FBX, W4VNE, KPC, ZQ, LXA, INV, LCV - W6KIP/6, VBY -W8GDQ, ANO, KIA, NSF/9, PEV, DUY, PCS, WCL - W9PNE, FIM, CVO - W6NWX -VE2WK, VW .

-Other W/VEs HEARD only by DX were:--W1BMW, WM/2, CF, LQ and VZE -W2MX, P, PP, HX, SKE, K2BWR, BVN, WH, WZ, CF, DLO -W3LRN, KMS, RTH/4, H1H - W5CZ - W8 W8PCS, BMJ, SHP/1 - W9CZT, NH - VE2NI - VE3AAZ

-DX working W/VE were:-- G2AJ, PL, HX, NX, NN -G3PU, GGN, JOJ, JVI, BKF, ERN, JEA -G5JU, RI - G6GM, QB, LB -KP4KD, KP4CC - KV4AA-HB9CM-OK1HI, LM, AJB -OK3AL, VV, DC -OK2AG -ZL3RB, ZL -ZL1BY -EI9J -GI3IOS - TI2BX - TI9MHB- LU3EL - YV5DE, FH-V03X - V4KVM/V06 - VP7NM, NG.-HK4DP -HR1LW XE 20K-KH6IJ

-DX HEARD only by W/VE ---G3HRV, G6QB, LB -OK3VV -YULGM -TI2WR -

1955 JUN-AUG -SUMMER 160 meter DX!!!! -Some of the boys believed that they could dispel the myth that DX on 160 was not possible during the summer months. (ZL schedules had been successfully worked in the summer)

-G3JOJ, G3GGN and G3ERN started the ball rolling to test this out, by writing several Ws for skeds during June July August.

*The Ws responding were W1BB, K2BWR, 3RGQ, 9PNE, 9NH.

-On July 3rd W1BB's signals were heard by G3JVI at 579 at Sunrise time G land Sunday Morning. G3JVI's signals were weakly heard.

-The following Tuesday morning K2BWR worked G3GGN 1830KCS for the FIRST!!! summer crossing on record.

-On July 12th K2BWR worked G3GGN again.

-On July 13th K2BWR and W3RGQ worked G3GGN

-On Sunday morning W1BB worked G3JVI at 0325GMT/Heard G3GGN weakly.

-~~W1BB's~~ W1BB's signals were heard regularly EVERY Sunday morning for EIGHT weeks at Strengths from 349 to 589

-G signals were heard and worked only on 3 mornings. Faint signals on two other occasions.

-The high static level kept the weak 10 watt Gs from coming thru.

-Sunrise time - G land , as in the winter, was found the ideal time for signals to peak and make QSOs

1955 SEP-DEC -This "SEASON" instead of "Tests" every other week end or so, it was decided in cooperation with ShortWaveMagazine and W1BB to have the "Tests" EVERY Sunday morning - then, if the in-between Sunday happened to be an excellent one for DX it wouldnt be missed. This through December to Mar h 1956.

1956 JAN-APR -During SEP-November, VS6CQ, VS6CW, VS6CZ ran special tests with W8GDQ and W1BB to try and see if QSO could be made. While these schedules were kept regularly every week, no contact or signals were heard. VS6CQ "sparking" these tests has now gone back to G.

1955-1956
SEASON

- SUMMARY of this seasons OUTSTANDING events, follows, and is noteworthy for the large number of FIRSTS!!!

- #1 - "FIRST!!!" - DL/W QSO when "Shely", W3RGQ worked DL1FF, (Who secured special permission to operate on 160 from Dec. thru Feb - December 8th at 0510 GMT!! -- Followed by W3FBV, W8GDQ, W1BB same morning -- DL1FF was on whole season, with other DLs.
- #2 - "FIRST!!!" - YN/W QSO, December 15th when W2QHH worked YN1AA, (100 Watts) for FIRST Phone/CW QSO, on 1805 Kcs. YN was #59.
- #3 - ZL1AH worked the long distance to G6CJ three times, on Oct. 13, 14, & 15 - ~~W2QHH worked ZL1AH on Oct. 13, 14, & 15~~ Sigs weak.
- #4 - "FIRST!!!" - HE/W QSO on February 12th when ~~HB1CM/HE~~ HB1CM/HE, Liechtenstein, (HB9CM on DxP~~EDITION~~) worked W1BB at 0505 GMT, after a previous unsuccessful attempt. HB1CM/HE's signals came thru repeatedly and unexpectedly at 0505-0600, rst 229-449. This was an unusual performance on HB9CM/HE's part, and he is to be congratulated. (See separate story, which has been written on this for the magazines, with photos.)
- #5 - "FIRST!!!" - W/VP2 160 meter QSO ever with TOROOLA, British Virgin Islands, LEEWARD Group, when Howey, W2QHH worked FP/BAK/VP2 (W2BBK) on 1801 at 4.40 AM EST March 5th 1956 to receive 449 just as he was packing up to conclude DxP~~EDITION~~.
- #6 - "FIRST!!!" - Barbados to USA ever QSO, April 6th 1956, when VP6RG, "Ron", a high school boy, snagged W1BB on April 6th for a report of 429x, BB being 569x. This represented a lot of hard work, perseverance and good planning on VP6RG's part. Of special interest is the fact that the pole supporting one end of the long wire antenna was out in the sea, quite a few feet from shore so that quite a part of the antenna was OVER salt sea water -- NICE !!!
- #7 - "FIRST!!!" - Recorded USA/CUBA QSO on 160. W1BB and CO2BL worked it May 31, 1956 at 0700 GMT through heavy QRN. BB, 559 - BL, 449. "Doc" very cleverly and quickly "Converted" an 40 meter antenna for use on 160 - and it worked out -- well, well enough!!!
- #8 - W1BB's signals were heard, for FIRST SWL report - by Ernest Sprock, in SUFINAM, PJ2CK, South America, on July 1 1956. This is interesting news from a Country rarely heard from.
- #9 - An unusual "FIRST" was made, when after a series of schedules, the team of OM/XYL, ZS2GE/ZS2KZ got across to W1BB on July 11th at 0505 GMT, also September 8th 0400-0440 GMT for the very "FIRST" ZS/W QSO on 160. (A special SUMMER BULLETIN to ~~magazines~~ magazines, covered this event in detail)
- #10 - Another important, and RARE, "FIRST" !! was made by CP5EQ, Bolivia, S.A. putting that country on the 160 Dx map, by working W1BB, July 22nd at 0800 GMT to receive RST 119-349 on QSB, with bb at 449
- #11 - "FIRST!!!" - British Guiana/W QSO by "DAD", VP3AD 119/339 - W1BB the same, on Sept. 12th. The previous week when contact was ~~was~~ about to be established "Dad"s xyl announced the expected Jr. Opr. would arrive, and the schedule was QRT just in time, but fast!! - A fine little fellow did arrive!! Congratulations!!!

- These summer FIRSTS by W1BB, are the result of testing out his theory that when it is Summer up North, it is WINTER down South, and conditions would be best for the Southern Countries & it worked out that way - but meant a lot of "EAR DRUM BUSTING" by static, for W1BB to keep these schedules.
- In general it was thought that the EAST/WEST conditions were not as good this year as last - believed due to sun-spot cycle - However, as will be noted - a lot of DX WAS worked, and some have the feeling that 160 meters is the least affected band of all.
- PARTICIPATION was good --Totaling 16/1s, 24/2s, 16/3s, 17/4s, 6/5s, 3/6s, 2/7s, 23/8s, 15/9s, 8/0s - one each VE1, 2, 3. --- Dx as follows: Gs-26/1s, 3/2s, 5/5s, 4/6s, 1/8 --- 3/KZ, 4/KP, 2/TI, 2/GM, 2/HB, 3/ZL, 3/VS, 1/EI, 6/VP, 1/EL, 3/GI, 1/OA, 9/DL, 3/XE, 2/YN, 5/OK, 1/GD, 2/KV, 1/SP, 1/HR, 2/GC, 1/HE, 1/KH, 1/CO, 2/ZS, 1/CP and one VP/3.
- WORKING Dx were W/VEs,,, W1BB, AHX, EPE, BMW-W2EQS, QHH, K2BWR/W3RGQ, EIS, FBV, TBG, DGM, MSK-W9PNE-W8IL---HEARD only by Dx - K2JIO. ----- W5CGT
- WORKING W/VEs were - G3PU, GGN, KKP, IGW, JEQ, ERN, JVI, FPQ-G5RI, JU, CV, NS G6GM-G8JR-KZ5PB, DE, FA-KP1SD, KP, CC, DH-VP7NG, 4LZ, 9BM, 6RG, 3AD-DL1FF, DA-XELA, OK-YN1AA-GD3UB-KV4AA-HR3HH-KH6IJ-ZS2GE, KZ-CP5EQ-CO2BL --- HEARD only by W/VE were G3HWI, ILO-TI2BX-EI9J