

GPDx Dxpedition to the islands of Flores and Corvo

Participation in the IOTA Contest 2014 - CR2V

By invitation of our good friend Antonio Madeira, CU8AS, GPDx - Portuguese DX Group, through CT1EGW, CT1EEQ, CT1EKD and CT4NH, traveled to the Azores arch, to participate in the IOTA Contest 2014 from Flores Island (Ref IOTA EU -089) with the callsign **CR2V**

This group has been participating in the IOTA Contest from many years now, having decided to replace the mainland for the Atlantic islands, turning now the attention to the Azores.

Team CR2V was then composed of:

CU8AS Antonio, HB9CRV (CU8FN) Hermann, DL2HYH Sigg, DL8MLD Lutz, CT1EGW (CU8AU) Arlindo, CT1EEQ (CU8AV) Luis Rodrigues, CT1EKD Pedro Namora, CT4NH (CU8NH) Luis Teixeira and with the special participation of CU2CE Jose Melo, and 'chef' Pedro Barbosa.

After some little 'problems' we got there to Flores Island on July 21th, with the usual local weather: rain and fog ... the island is beautiful and still one evergreen oasis lost in the Atlantic. Heading into the location of the Contest , Antonio station, next to the lighthouse Albarnaz in the extreme west of the island (photo 1)



Photo 1 - View of antenna farm and view to SE

The station was fully assembled on the land close to the Albarnaz Lighthouse and ... one cliff hundreds of feet to the ocean (view from the station to the south - photo 2)



Photo 2 - View from the edge of the cliff and antenna farm to Southwest



Photo 3 - late afternoon in Albarnaz view the shack CU8AS

In the small shack existing in one end of the antenna farm , next to the access road to the Lighthouse, everything was ready, or almost!, For the warm-up and 'grand opening ceremony'

of the new indicative of two of the elements of the team, CU8FN (Hermann Stein, HB9CRV) and CU8NH (Luis Teixeira, CT4NH). The modest antenna farm consisted of:

- 1 Delta Loop for 40 m mounted on the Spider Beam mast with about 24 m high
- 1 Vertical with elevated radials for 80 meters, also a Spider Beam mast with about 25 m high
- 1 Force 12 C3 (which took the first steps in 3B6 (Agalega Isl)!) To about 6 m above the ground I 'manual' rotator
- Cushcraft A3S mounted on a tower @ 15 m with rotator
- 6 el. 6 m beam with rotator is about 6 m above the ground.

As would later note masts Spider Beam can be very good for holiday dxpedition in the Caribbean or similar expeditions, but when the real wind blows ☹ Also, directional antennas on Flores only low at very height

In fact the weather remained extremely and strangely serene yet that day, which allowed us to complete some adjustments in the antenna farm, and make some QSOs later in the day. For us coming from continental Europe, propagation from there is quite different from what we find here in CTs. The signer had been there 25 years ago (September 1990) an expedition also IOTA (CU8IOTA) and confirmed that the 'propagation windows ' are very short, to add to the weak solar cycle, which would help our very difficult task, especially without Internet! NO INTERNET at ALL!

Later that day we decided to vote for an activation of CORVO Isl. the next day (July 22).

After a 'tight' vote was decided to go. Selected antenna equipment (Kenwood TS480SAT + G5RV).

Members of the expedition: CU8AU, CU8AV, CU8NH and DL8MLD (Lutz) ... and of course Peter, our cameraman and 'chef'!

Gastronomically also have not neglected the credit for others' hands' ... and we get to Ponta Delgada (one small village distant about 5 km from Ponta do Albarnaz) where we would do daily to regain 'strength'. At Restaurant PESCADOR ("chez" Meireles). Good choice. It was like we were at home ... the prices of the continental Europe, make no mistake ☺

The next day, after some difficulty in booking the tickets for the boat that takes you across to CORVO Isl. - we recommend that you do so in advance - and having a wonderful time, we got there on a semi-rigid (Zodiac) boarding the 'skipper' Carlos Toste, with our usual stuff. Excellent crossing, groundswell, many dolphins. Excellent.

Arrival to CU9 land, expected by the sole active amateur on the island, the solicitous João Camara CU9AC, who immediately guided us to the best site for the operation, given that we had only about 6 hours to show what we worth ☺. The site selected was near the 3 windmills which are adjacent to the airport.

Was chosen the most rustic of 3, and the G5RV rose at a glance caught the wheel of candles of the windmill ! Excellent system! Table and chairs ' borrowed' from one local restaurant nearby, and the there we go!

Not before lunch at local restaurant, of course!



Photo 4 - Arrival of CU8AU (CT1EGW) to Corvo Island ...



Photo 5 - CROW Isl (EU-089) our 'mast' antenna and shack! View to South

CU8NH / P initiated the hostilities and at glance around 150 QSOs were made ... followed CU8AU / P, CU8AV / P and CT8/DL8MLD/P ...



Photo 6 - CU8AV (CT1EEQ) controlling the pile-up...



CU8NH (CT4NH), Luis giving one new IOTA (EU-089)



Photo 6 – CT8/DL8MLD/P (Lutz) @ CORVO Isl.



Foto 7 – CU8AU (CT1EGW) @ CORVO Isl.

The weather was magnificent and reluctantly we returned to the boat at 17 UTC. The G5RV and the coaxial cable were left there, may be that João (CU9AC) will be more active from this forgotten island. It was a promise to return and 'burn' the island from good! 😊



Photo 8 – CU8AV, CT8/DL8MLD, CU8NH, CU8AU e CU9AC

On the return trip our 'skipper' toured the beautiful coast of the Flores Island, but the sea was already 'raised' ... announcing the storm ...





Photo 9 – DL8MLD (Lutz) and CU8AV (Luis) returning from CORVO Isl.

In fact the night of 22th to 23th July mother nature showed us all the harshness of life in the Islands ... winds were 'Cyclone' for us but for residents was 'more a normal night' The results have been immediate: ALL our antennas were destroyed, unless Force 12 C3 and 6 m beam that were about 6 feet tall ... (Photo 10, below)

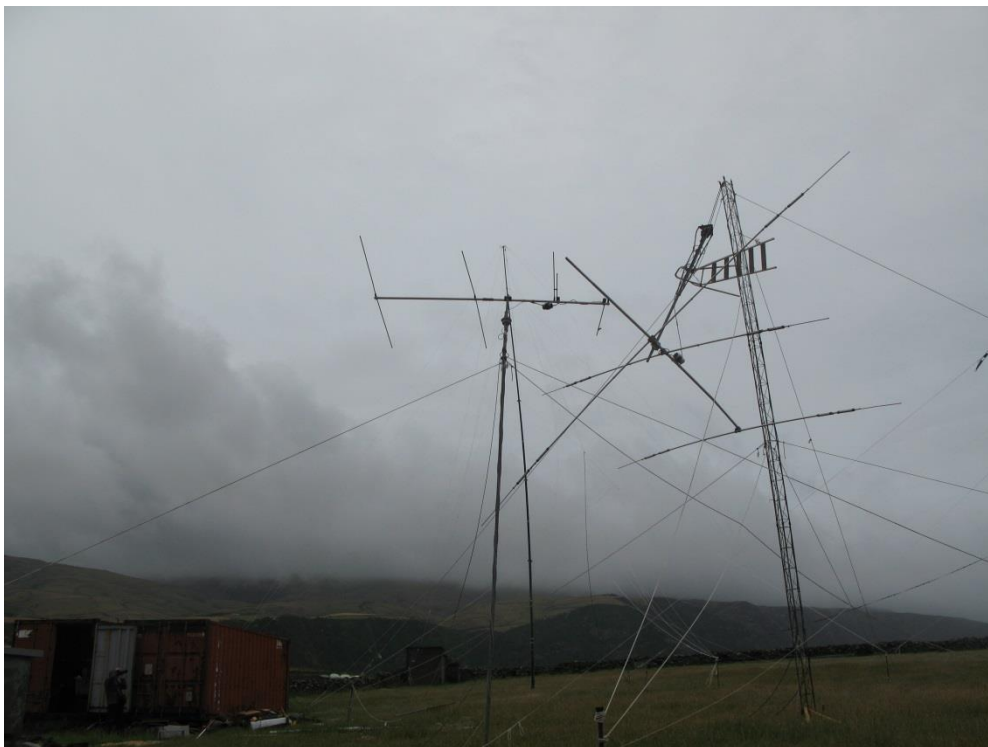




Photo 11 - "... and all gone with the wind ... 'Here, even the containers ... are guy wired!

And after much work ... (yes!" what 's up there is in fact one ladder!!!)



Photo 12 - Everything more or less right ... and comes the calm ..



Photo 13 - Calm returned, the constant presence of the ocean and the island of Corvo

All this within a few hours of the Contest start...

Saturday July 26th 12:00 local (= UTC), **QRZ CR2V!** In the photo (14) below, Sigg (DL2HYH) in multipliers shack, excellent CW operator!





Photo 15 - CT1EKD in the control , SSB, Run station



Photo 16 - DL8MLD, Lutz also an excellent CW operator



Photo 17 – Hermann Stein, HB9CRV/CU8FN in the multiplier station



Photo 18 - Arlindo, CU8AU (CT1EGW), the rest of the warrior ...



Photo 19 - Our 'chef' Pedro Barbosa, in its 'environment' ...



Photo 20 – CU2CE , José Melo and CT4NH (CU8NH), Luis



Photo 21 – DL8MLD, Lutz and CU8AU, Arlindo



CT4NH, CT1EGW, HB9CRV, DL2HYH, DL8MLD, CT1EEQ, Pedro Barbosa, CU8AS, CT1EKD, CU2CE

The final score will be up to Hermann, trustee of our logs, and sent by him to the IOTA Contest Committee.

CR2V valid for : IOTA EU-089, WLOTA 947

Grid Locator (Flores Isl.): HM49jm

Grid Locator (Corvo Isl.): HM49kq

A special thanks to CU2DX, Francisco Gil, SATA man, and to my particular friend Zeca Toste for the unique experience that provided me aboard the Bombardier 400 SATA airplane !



CU8AS, Antonio Madeira, in his 'environment' ... 10' after the end of the Contest!!

**A final word to our host, CU8AS, Antonio Madeira.
Outstanding !**

**Many Thanks Antonio for everything ! ...
and btw ... where do we go next?**

73 from GPDx - Portuguese DX Group