

3W3MD Vietnam - MDXC Dxpediton 2015 .

In April, 2015 the leader IZ8CCW and the co-leader Gabriele, I2VGW announce the 2015 official destination of the annual DX expedition of the Mediterraneo International DX ClubTeam (MDXC). It will be Vietnam with 3W3MD as callsign.

The chosen dates are from October 31st till November 10th with a multinational team of 19 European operators and 4 Vietnamese operators, who will take place into beach resort along a coast of China sea in the South of Da-Nang city in middle of the country. An activation on the island of Cham is also planned during the stay.

The organization of all DXpediton is underway. Licenses flies and reservations settlements are made, equipment verified and packed. The study of the topology of the location and the acquired experiences of the past activities lead to decide to install stations into 2 different locations distant from about 600 meters to avoid the mutual disturbances. SSB and digital modes in camp 1 in the North of the resort, the CW camp at the other end of the beach.

The problems of networking of all the stations are resolved by the use of the win-test software for the first time in an expedition of the MDXC. Unfortunately a few days before departure Alain F6ENO forced to cancel his participation in the expedition and new friend Fulvio HB9DHG joins the group on his place.

As usual according to the tradition a big Pasta party is organized the day before the departure at IQ2VA Busto Arsizio ARC. The opportunity to see again lot friends met during previous expeditions and to know new operators who join the team. The adventure of 3W3MD begins here!

On Friday morning of October 30th everybody reach the airport of Milan Malpensa for final check and boarding all of the equipment. At 12:20 am flight CX234 of Cathay Pacific towards Hong-Kong then after a short stopover a last fly of Dragon-air lands on the international airport of Da-Nang.

The problems of customs entrance of equipment resolved we arrive at the AGRIBANK Resort at the end of morning when a wide banner welcomes us. After a very short meal the material of the stations is distributed between 2 camps, the effective teams quickly installing the first spiderbeams and 40 meters antennas so that at least there is a station active.

The assembly of all the equipment will not be finished before night but it is possible to begin the traffic in good conditions. On October 31st, 2015 at 1:52 pm UTC the first 3W3MD CQs are on the air and pileups began.

The following morning at 1:00 am UTC with about 1100 QSO in the log stations are stopped to continue all the antennas and stations setup.

In the CW camp antennas up are 1 Spiderbeam 5 bands, a VDA 12 and 17 meters, Comet HA-422 10, 15, 20 and

40 meters, Bazooka dipole for 30 meters, vertical MOMOBEAM 80 meters and L inverted for 160 plus 500 meter BEVERAGE toward 45 degrees. 1 Elecraft K2 and 1 Icom IC-7000 with Acom 1011 amplifiers.



In the camp SSB / Digital 3 Spiderbeam 5 bands, 1 J-POLE 30 meters, 4 square 40 meters, Butternut HF2 + vertical fo 80 meters, 4 elements Quad for 6 meters and a 200 Meters BEVERAGE to the direction of 45 degrees. 1 Elecraft K3, 1 Kenwood TS-590, 1 Icom IC-7000 and 2 Icom 7200 with Acom 1011 and HAL-1200 amplifiers.

For the CW and SSB stations QSO are logged on laptops Thinkpad with Win-Test in network, through the VPN WtTunnel. For the digital modes Logger32 is mainly used.



The weather report was not very favorable during most of the time of the stay of 3W3MD in Da-Nang. The big rains of the end of the monsoon went on later than usually. Fortunately days for the assembly and the dismantling of antennas time were dry and hot. Antennas suffered from strong wind of the extreme humidity and daily work to repair the installations were permanent during the activity.

High part of the Spiderbeam fiberpole which supported 160 L inverted was broken, installed antennas on the

beach fell or slept by the strong wind. The antenna HA-422 passed out and unusable, the dipole Bazooka not working correctly were replaced by wired vertical 30 and 40 meters supported by bamboo poles.



The propagation was not great and tremendous during our activity. Especially in the morning until middle of few day where bands were empty or with just some QSO on logs. The best bands were 15, 20, 17 and 12 meters. Europe and Asia were the main contacted continents.

We are paying attention to North America every time it was possible even if the conditions were not still very favorable. As announced to focus our attention on the low bands we made every effort to work on antennas efficiency and be present on these bands at night and in grayline. Fortunately the AGRIBANK Resort being outside the urban area in an electrically quiet place. The S/N was fortunately often very good on the low and even middle bands, until 12 meters where Beverage antenna were used into CW station.

We were received by the people Vietnamese. In spite of the difficulties of language people are kind pleasant and ready to help you on every situations. The schedule

operating planning leaving a day of freedom to each of the operators we were able to visit Hoï-An, Da-Nang and neighborhood. There are very numerous temples and markets absolutely worth to discover. Lot of restaurants serve an excellent varied and delicious food.



November 10th at 00 am and 45 seconds on 18070 VE7HAA is the last QSO of 3W3MD 2015 DXpedition. Stations are unsettled and gathered. In the middle of the day we began a very long process to fill the formalities for our return back towards Europe.

Thanks to the local and foreign operators who supplied us a very effective support to solve the numerous administrative problems which appeared in 3W3MD DXpedition. To regrets we have leave some antennas in Vietnam to avoid exorbitant cost of overweight. At 6:40 pm the flights KA 227 Da-Nang - Hong-Kong then CX 233 returns everybody and the main part of the equipment to Milan Malpensa.

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