

## VK6ISL - Sandy Islet OC-294 - Sept. 2014

### Cezar-Ioan Trifu

Sandy Islet is a 700 m long by 60 – 120 m wide sandbank in the pristine Scott Reef Nature Reserve, located 450 km north of Broome, Western Australia. Access to the islet, including overnighting and radio operation, required the approval of the Department of Parks and Wildlife of Western Australia. At the end of a three-year-long process, the permit established compulsory logistics, resulting in exceptionally high cost of transportation.



Just off Sandy Islet: (L to R) Cezar, Bob, Johan and Craig

The operating team included Cezar (VE3LYC), Craig (VK5CE), Johan (PA3EXX), and Bob (KD1CT). They employed the services of Reel Teasers, whose crew included Ross, Tracey, and Marcus. The team used a 64 ft power boat for the ocean trip, and a fiberglass dinghy to navigate to and from the sandbank.



On the way to landing; last two on the right are Ross and Marcus from Reel Teasers

The camp was setup mid-distance between the remains of the weather station and the southern tip of the sandbank (or 100 m from each). The team ran two stations simultaneously, using Icom IC-7000 rigs with 100 W each, operating on all bands from 10 to 40 m, SSB and CW. The antennae included 15 and 20 m single band vertical dipoles for the SSB station, as well as multi-band verticals for each of the SSB and CW stations. Extreme heat and humidity during the daytime were a serious challenge. After dark, different types of crabs

roamed the island, while giant green turtles crawled slowly on the sand in search of nesting spots. The turtles avoided the tents and antennae, but accidentally took down one of the antennae a few times by digging out an anchor.



Starting to set up camp



SSB (left) and CW (right) teams are setting the antennae up



Giant green turtle visiting the sandbank

At high tide during the night, the ocean waters almost reached the anchors of some antennae.



The camp was 100 m from the remains of the weather station



Cezar (VE3LYC)



Johan (PA3EXX)



Craig (VK5CE)



Bob (KD1CT)

The operation took place between September 15 and 19. During this period of time we logged 9324 QSOs with 5557 stations from 110 DXCCs in 33 CQ zones on 7 continents. The band distribution of contacts was 3, 12, 24, 3, 38, 13, and 7% on the 7 bands from 10 to 40 m, respectively. About 43% of the contacts were in SSB, and 57% in CW. QSOs with EU stations represented 63% of all logged, those with AS 22%, NA 10%, OC 3%, AF 1%, SA 1%, and there were two QSOs with a station from AN. See Tables 1 and 2 for QSO details.

Band	CW	SSB	Total	%
40	707	0	707	7
30	1181	0	1181	13
20	1922	1626	3548	37
17	231	18	249	3
15	769	1514	2283	24
12	418	685	1103	12
10	92	161	253	3
Total	5320	4004	9324	100
%	57	43	100	

Table 1. Number of QSOs per band.

#	DXCC	QSO
1	JA	1685
2	I	992
3	DL	869
4	K	812
5	UA	714
6	UR	362
7	F	296
8	SP	295
9	OK	242
10	UA0	236

Table 2. Top DXCCs by number of QSOs.

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