

## FT4GL - Glorioso Island 2024

After 24 months in Mayotte with call sign FH4VVK, Radio club FH4KS and expedition to the Glorieuses FT4GL - Glorieuses 2024, I'm back in Europe. A new page is ready to be written ...

I'd like to tell you about this unique FT4GL experience, No. 7 among the most sought-after DX boats,

As soon as I arrived on La Grande Glorieuse, on the morning of May 24, I installed the first Hexbeam towards EU and NA and the Dx Commander to start traffic the same day, the second Hexbeam to be oriented towards Oceania and Asia, and the 6m elements were installed on May 25 and 26.

This same antenna will be rotated many times in the direction of the Caribbean and South America, to give as many OMs as possible a chance.

The L inverse 80 and 160m will be installed on the eighth day of activity. Initially, radio activity was to take place from 10 to 40m, as we had a lot of restrictions when it came to installing and deploying antennas.

The team asked me to go the extra mile and install 80m and 160m to please the community, without forgetting that the main aim of this ONE-MAN SHOW expedition was to give away as much ATNO (All Time New One) as possible.

Traffic started on the HF bands in FT8 and SSB. I soon encountered computer problems on one of the computers for FT8 mode, and it wasn't easy to fix them remotely. The secure links between me and the team were not of the desired quality (messaging only, no WhatsApp calls possible...).

By mutual agreement, the team and I decided to do as much radio as possible at first, until I decided to slow down after 10 days, because every human being has his limits.

Day after day, activity was sustained, with WHOs from all over the world congratulating the arrival on the air of such a sought-after entity, DXCC N°7 of the Most Wanted. Signals were very good from 10 to 40m.

On 6m, the magic band, we had to wait for an opening, so we constantly listened to the band on the 3rd TX, but unfortunately there weren't many openings. Pilots received numerous e-mails every day, bordering on harassment, as radio amateurs couldn't understand why they were hearing Mauritius and not the Glorieuses. You just have to bear in mind that the 2 islands are about 1500 km apart and the propagation conditions are totally different.

Perseverance paid off in the end, not without difficulty, but I was able to make over 300 QSO's on 50MHz.

On the other hand, although we (staff and I) already knew it, 160m was going to be a completely different challenge. We tried and tried, but none of the robots or SDR's could decode the signals on 160m, so this band was a frustrating failure for the whole team.

Traffic on 80m, although a little easier in theory, also gave us a hard time, with some 350 QSO's possible.

In the middle of the expedition, I wanted to try a bit of RTTY, but here too, we had to deal with computer problems, which didn't allow us to make many QSOs in this mode.

At the end of the activity, and again in an attempt to keep everyone happy, I decided to do some FT4 for fans of this mode.

A word on the SSB part, and it's worth mentioning it, because the behavior of some OMSs was counterproductive and disrespectful, which strongly impacted my night traffic and especially the NA openings during this period.

And once again, a big thank you to the sponsors who picked up the torch at the last minute and did everything they could to ensure that this activity could take place.

If we look at the statistics, we can see that South America doesn't have a high percentage of QSOs, because it's blocked by Europe, but if we compare other shipments, like the Maldives for example, we can only see the same thing, which suggests that the path in this direction isn't the best, whereas the rest of the globe had nothing to complain about, with a final result of some 61,000 QSOs in the log.

Thank you all for following this adventure,

Many thanks to all the STAFF for their commitment, time and efforts in making this expedition a success,

Many thanks to our friends in MS: Bartek SQ1K, Andrzej SP6STG,

Many thanks to the OM's who respected DX EXPEDITION HAM SPIRIT,

And a big thank you to my wife who supported me all along the expedition,

73,

Marek F4VVJ