

# 5A7A: Achieving Incredible Success in Libya

## Our Trip to Libya Was Incredible

The most gratifying part of a DXpedition is the real-time feedback you get from the Amateur Radio community while on the DXpedition and the magnitude of e-mails and letters sent by operators as well as short-wave listeners stating "Job Well Done." It was clear the 5A7A Team did a great job!

After 23 months of planning, our exotic trip to Libya, November 15-29, 2006, has come and gone. The 5A7A DXpedition certainly met and exceeded the expectations of the experienced and less skilled operators.

As a comparison to the most elite DXpeditions, 5A7A ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in QSOs completed using three fewer stations and operating 6 to 10 days less than the highest ranked trips. Typical data related to prior major DXpeditions are shown in Table 1.

Our team was led by Andreas Lürer, DJ7IK, and assisted by our Arabic area coordinator, Mustapha Landoulsi, DL1BDF, who both did a great job getting our team in and out of Libya safely. Volkmar Junge, DF2SS, and support team did an excellent job with logistics and acquiring the much needed supplies for the trip. Key equipment donations by ICOM (seven IC-746PRO HF radios) and ACOM (seven ACOM-1000 HF amplifiers) along with numerous other commercial and financial contributors made this trip possible. The loaned equipment



Two guides met Jan, DJ8NK, at the Tripoli airport.

performed in an effective manner without fault, as we made over 112,000 QSOs with 232 countries.

I believe the incredible success of the 5A7A DXpedition boiled down to effective leadership, communications and operations planning, operator skill, generous donations, supplier involvement and most of all, a patient and understanding international DX community.

## Departing Frankfurt

Our team met at 7 PM at the Frankfurt International Airport on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 in order to pre-board our equipment and supplies for the next day. On Wednesday morning, our team of Amateur Radio operators from 11 countries boarded the 9 AM flight to Tripoli, Libya on Libyan Airlines from Frankfurt, Germany.

Tripoli is located on the north central coast of Africa between Tunisia and Algeria to the west, Egypt to the east, and Niger and Chad to the south. This time of year, we expected the temperatures to be approximately 70°F during the day and 50°F during the night. We were blessed with warm and clear weather except for one day toward the end of the trip.

## Arrival in Libya

We arrived in Libya at 2:10 PM on November 15, 2006 and were greeted by our Libyan sponsors, Milad M. Matoug and Heythem Hashem, 5A1HA, and two young ladies dressed in Libyan attire from the airport's tourist council. Their smiles and warm greetings put our group at ease.

Our team paid the 80 Euro (100 Dinar) required as a visa fee as the equipment completed the customs requirements in about an hour and a half. By 3:45 PM we exited the airport front door placing our equipment on a flat bed truck and then team members boarded a tourist style bus headed for our hotel in Janzour, located about 30 km west of Tripoli on the Mediterranean Sea.

## Opening Meeting

That evening Mr Matoug, Professor and President of Libyan Assaker Amateur Radio Club, led the opening meeting. All our team members were required to attend the meeting where Libyan greetings and the rules for the operation were communicated.

By David Collingham, K3LP

Table 1

Rank	Call	DXCC Entity	Length Days	Dates	Year	QSOs with Dupes	Unique Call Signs	No. of Stations
1	D68C	Comoros Is.	20	Feb 8-28	2001	168,722	45,315	10
2	3B9C	Rodrigues I.	24	Mar 19-Apr 12	2004	153,113	37,040	10-12
3	4O3T	Montenegro	24	July 20-Aug 13	2006	120,000		
4	<b>5A7A</b>	<b>Libya</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Nov 16 - 29</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>112,232</b>	<b>31,212</b>	<b>7+1 (6 m)</b>
5	ZL9CI	Campbell Is.	17	Jan 7-24	1999	96,004	30,271	6+(1)
6	3Y0X	Peter 1 Is.	12	Feb 8-19	2006	86,888	26,449	8+1
7	K1B	Baker Is.	9	Apr 28-May 7	2002	86,000		6
8	VU4AN	Andaman Is.	9	Apr 17-25	2006	86,000		
9	A52A	Bhutan	10	May 3-13	2000	82,087	25,039	6+1 (RTTY)
10	K5K	Kingman Reef	9	Oct 22-31	2000	80,841	17,863	5+1 (6 m)



DL8YHR installs a 2 meter Yagi.



From the left: K1LZ, Ali and K3LP.



From the left: K1LZ, VE6OH, DJ7IK, 5A1HA and K3LP.

Milad made it clear that the Libyan government and his organization wanted us to know that we were safe and welcome to travel in Libya without constraint. The Libyan people were happy to see us as displayed by their openness to share, kind words and actions. During the meeting, a few rules regarding when ac power could be first applied to the radios and when the first QSO would be made were communicated.

### Operations Planning

Starting at 7 o'clock the next morning, Franz, DK1HL, and I co-managed the Operations Planning by setting up camp with many team members to make adjustments and finalize the 5A7A Operations Plan.

It's impossible to document all the efforts of each team member, but I assure you that each team member made valuable contributions and worked without hesitation to achieve our team objectives.

### Getting on the Air

Just before noon on the second day, Andy, DJ7IK, and Mustapha, DL1BDF, gave the authorization to make the first CQ on the 20 meter band. The Spiderbeam installation guys were present as we all gave greetings from Libya to DK6ZZ at 1037Z on November 16. Andy, DJ7IK,

Mustapha, DL1BDF, and Ali (5A1A op) joined us to officially announce to DK6ZZ, DJ6OV and the DX community that the 5A7A DXpedition was ready to begin. The pileup was loud and wild! This put a smile on all our faces – finally we were on the air.

### Wireless Network, Web Site and Logs

Mitch, VE6OH, effectively handled the wireless network installation for laptop PCs, and Rein, PAØR, ensured that laptop PCs were configured and daily logs were collected and uploaded to our online Web site log search function. Andy, DJ7IK, prepared and maintained our team Web page keeping the DX community informed of our team's efforts each day. Andi, DL9USA, accepted the responsibility for handling the QSL Manager duties for our team.

### Antenna Installation

We were grateful to have a team of resourceful and hardworking Spiderbeam antenna installation guys. They were led by Andi, DL9USA, and Markus, DJ7EO, and included Andy, DL5CW, Oliver, DI1EJA, and Günter, DJ9CB. Mitch was in charge of the rotator operation effort. Our success is much due to their hard work and in getting the four multi-band Spiderbeam antennas installed in a prompt and effective manner.

Table 2

Band	CW	SSB	RTTY	PSK	SSTV	FM	WSJT	FSK441	QSOs
160 m	6344	928	283	98	0	0	0	0	7653
80 m	10397	7243	377	4	0	0	0	0	18021
40 m	13018	11984	1273	222	0	0	0	0	26497
30 m	7553	0	490	9	0	0	0	0	8052
20 m	8351	9920	1490	11	71	0	0	0	19843
17 m	4231	4598	802	55	0	0	0	0	9686
15 m	6388	8846	205	0	0	0	0	0	15439
12 m	1872	1616	0	0	0	0	0	0	3488
10 m	1893	1318	0	0	0	0	0	0	3211
6 m	41	8	0	0	0	1	2	0	52
2 m	2	6	0	0	0	0	63	210	281
70 cm	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	9
Mode	60091	46473	4920	399	71	1	67	210	11232

The breakdown of QSOs by continent:

Item	Continent/Area Location:	% QSOs by Area
1	Europe	67%
2	North America	20%
3	Asia	9.7%
4	South America	2%
5	Africa	1%
6	OC	0.3%

## Living Arrangements

We stayed at the Tourist Village in the town of Janzour, 30 km west of Tripoli on the Mediterranean Sea, phone: 0021821-4809430. Here is some information to give you a trip cost perspective:

### Hotel

Single Room — 25 Dinar

Double Room — 35 Dinar

### Currency Exchange Rate

1 Euro = 1.7 Dinar

1 Euro = \$1.29 USD

### Food

Breakfast (included in room cost)

Drink (Coke) 1.5 Dinar

Bottle Water 1.5 Liter — 1 Dinar

Alcohol Free Beer — 3 Dinar

Full Lunch — 18 Dinar (salad, bread, soup and meat, drink and water)

Soup — 4 Dinar

Salad — 4 Dinar

Dinner — 18 Dinar (salad, bread, soup and meat, drink and water)

## JH1NBN with K3LP



From the left: DL1BDF, DJ7IK, DL5CW, DJ7EO, K3LP and 5A1HA.



RA9USU/N2OW running 40 meters.

I'm glad to say we had no antenna damage or injuries to any of our crew.

The key player for the 160 meter operation and vertical installation was led by Rudi, DK7PE, and supported by Volkmar, DF2SS, while Krassy and Franz, DF6QV, led the 40 and 80 meter four square antenna installation effort supported by Dima, N2OW, Markus and I. All three of these antennas were extremely effective. I remember working the USA West Coast on 80 meter SSB at 9 AM Libyan time and the signal was still S9 or better. The 2/6 meter and 70 cm operation and antenna

installation was led by Frank, DL8YHR, and supported by Andi.

## Camp Locations and Equipment

Campsite 1 had four separate operating stations each equipped with an IC-746PRO HF radio and ACOM-1000 amp. The stations were used for 80 meters, 40 meters, and two stations for 10-40 meters. The two 10-40 meter stations had a G5RV dipole for 40 meters and two five-band Spiderbeams, while the 40 and 80 meter stations had the four square antennas.

Campsite West was divided into two separate beachfront condos. The first condo had the Digital Station and a separate 10-40 meter station. There was a five-band Spiderbeam and three-band Spiderbeam for 20, 30 and 40, and one Butternut multi-band vertical dedicated to these stations. Both stations included an IC-746PRO HF radio and ACOM-1000 amplifier.

The second condo included the 160 meter station with the Titan 1/4 wave vertical and two phased pennant antennas (150 feet apart) with an RX-Amplifier for reception. In addition, the 2/6 meter and 70 cm station had a dual band 70 cm (27 elements) and 2 meter (12 elements) beam, and a separate 6 meter (6 elements) beam.

Yuki, JH1NBN and Franz, DK1II, efficiently completed the job of preparing coax, and configuring the seven amplifiers and radio power supplies for 240 V ac.

## DXpedition Operation Statistics

We were able to make 112,232 QSOs with 223 DXCC countries. The QSOs by band, mode and continent are shown in Table 2.

## Completion of the DXpedition

The final QSO was logged, with US7LM, on November 29, 2006, 06:42 GMT, on 20 meters SSB. Our complete team was sad to see the trip come to a close after 14 days as any great trip end comes too fast. I'm grateful to be part of the 5A7A Team and an Amateur Radio operator with friends all over the world.

When we arrived home, we were all pleased to receive numerous e-mails with nice comments and support. Here is an example of an e-mail I received from Mark Lunday, WD4ELG: "So the DXpedition is over with 110k QSOs. Probably one of the best DXpeditions I ever encountered in my 30 years of hamming. I was able to work 80 meter CW twice...once on the 26th and the other time during the contest (first call halfway into the contest, NOBODY calling!) Dave, K3LP, FB by you and all the other ops. This is how it should always be done!"

We were blessed with a great team and gracious suppliers and supporters that made this trip possible.

See the 5A7A Web site ([5a7a.gmx-home.de/](http://5a7a.gmx-home.de/)) for more information.

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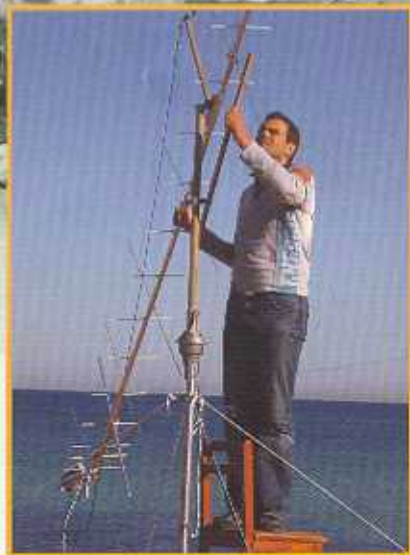
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## YEARBOOK 2006

*Inside this Issue: 3YØX,  
Team Libya-5A7A, Gitmo,  
2006: The Year-in-Review,  
and more!*



DXCC Yearbook

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