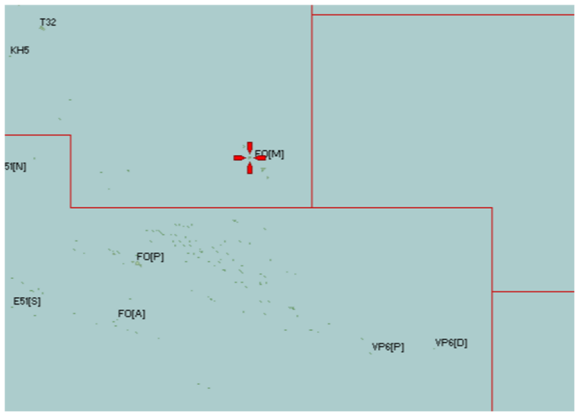
October 2011: TX7M – the Ukrainian-Russian DXpedition to Marquesas is.

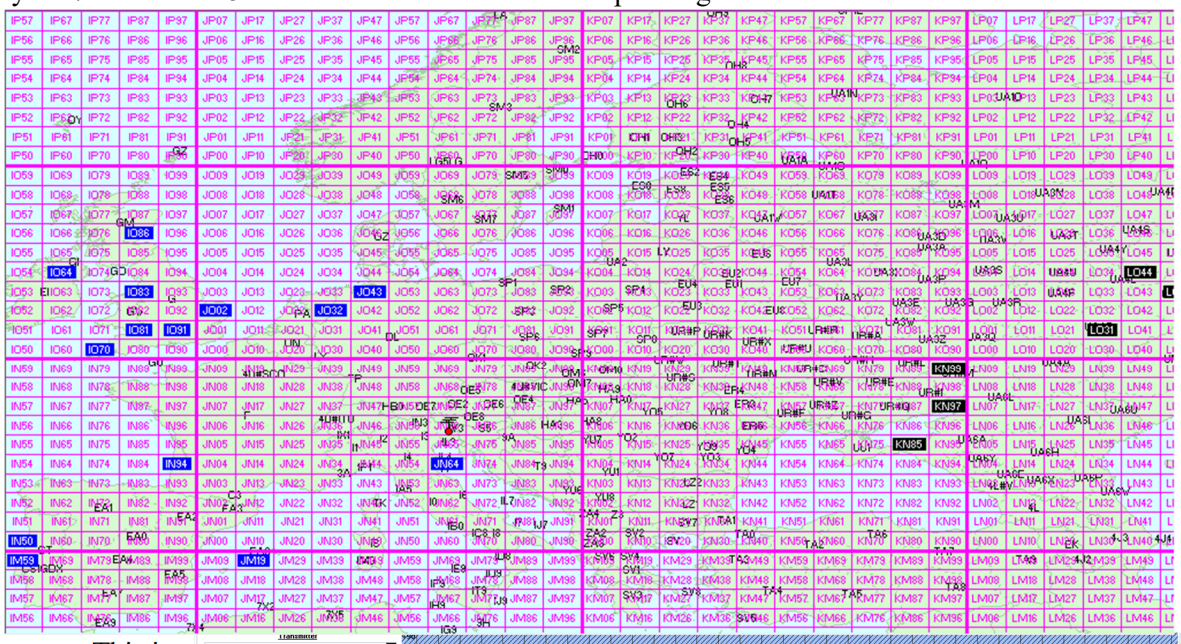
by Pierluigi "Luis" Mansutti, IV3PRK

This has been another Pacific DXpedition in October 2011 by a group of Russian – Ukrainian dedicated and well equipped low-band operators. They operated from the island of Nuka Hiva (8.51S - 140.08W) in the Marquesas Group.

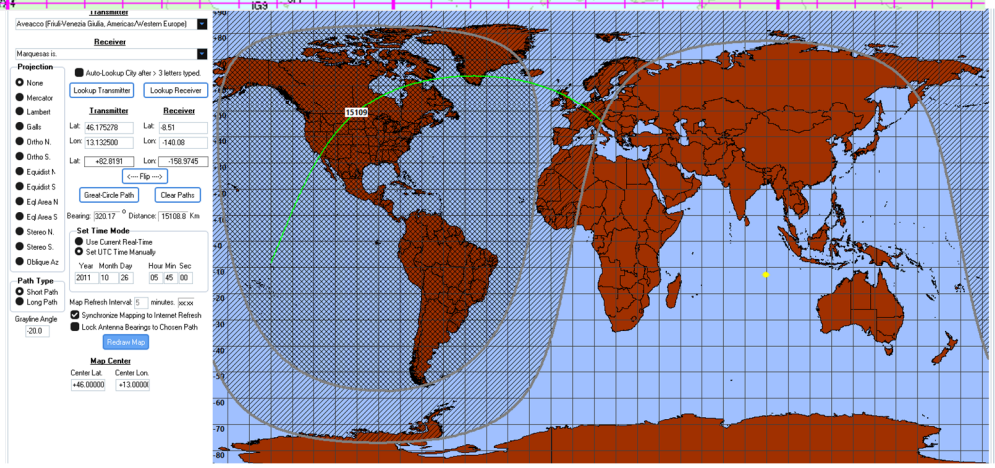


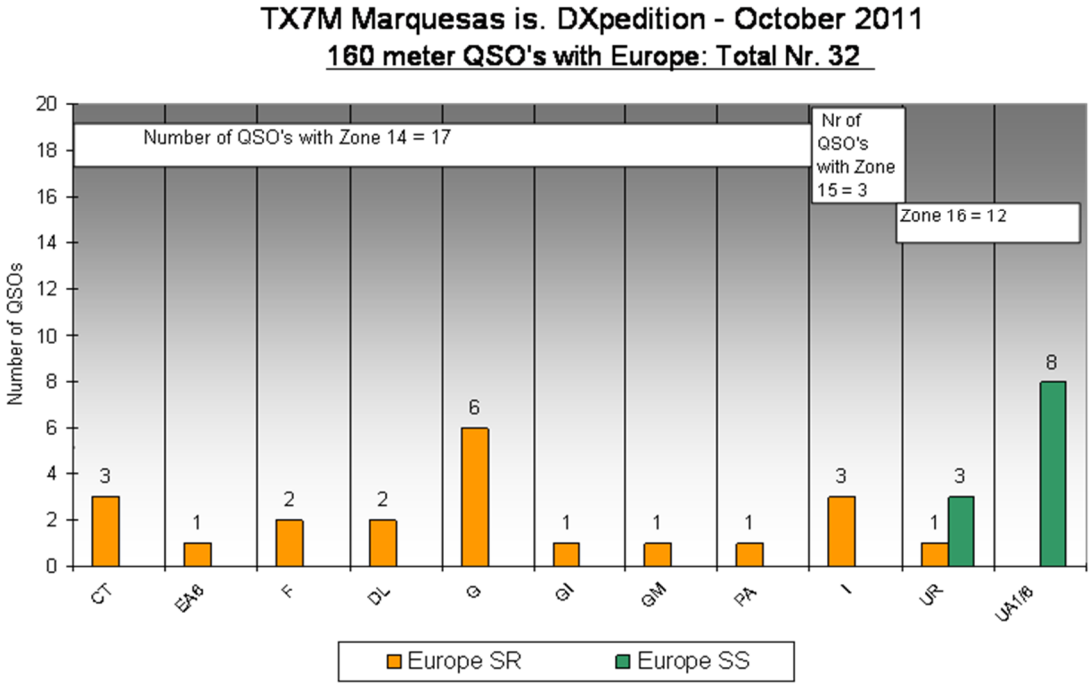
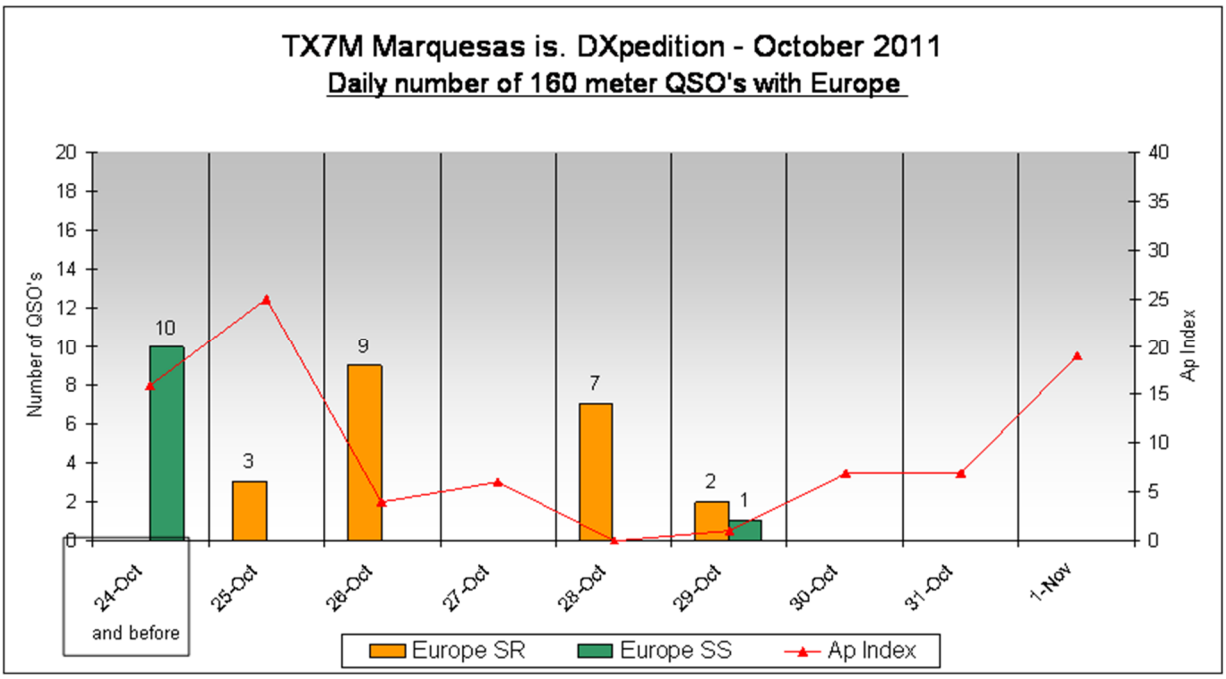
It should have been not a prohibitive path - 15.100 km at 320 degrees – not very far from other DXpeditions worked in that area (Pitcairn, Ducie and Austral islands) but, in any case a tough one over California. But the West Coast is not every day reachable, especially in the year 2011, as we had to wait one more month for the first openings to W6 and 7's. Anyway, I was following also this DXpedition every day: never a beep from them, nor a pile-up on, but at once, on Oct. 26 at 05:45, I heard a couple of I4/IK4 calling and giving RST.

Lucky boys, they were I4EWH, IK4GME and IK4WMA from the well-equipped low-band station in the countryside, to which they had to drive early in the morning. It was the only station worked by TX7M in zone 15 – as shown in the DX Atlas map - congratulations!



This is the path from my QTH to Marquesas is. at that time - 05:45 - really possible, but not a whisper was heard in JN66!



The TX7M DXpedition made from Oct. 20 to November 1st 81.744 QSOs, with 729 on 160 meters. 621 of these 160 m. contacts were made with NA, and only 32 with Europe.

It was not difficult extract such a low number of callsigns from *Club Log search/statistics* to match with their own grid squares for DX Atlas map and to build the following self-explaining graphs.