

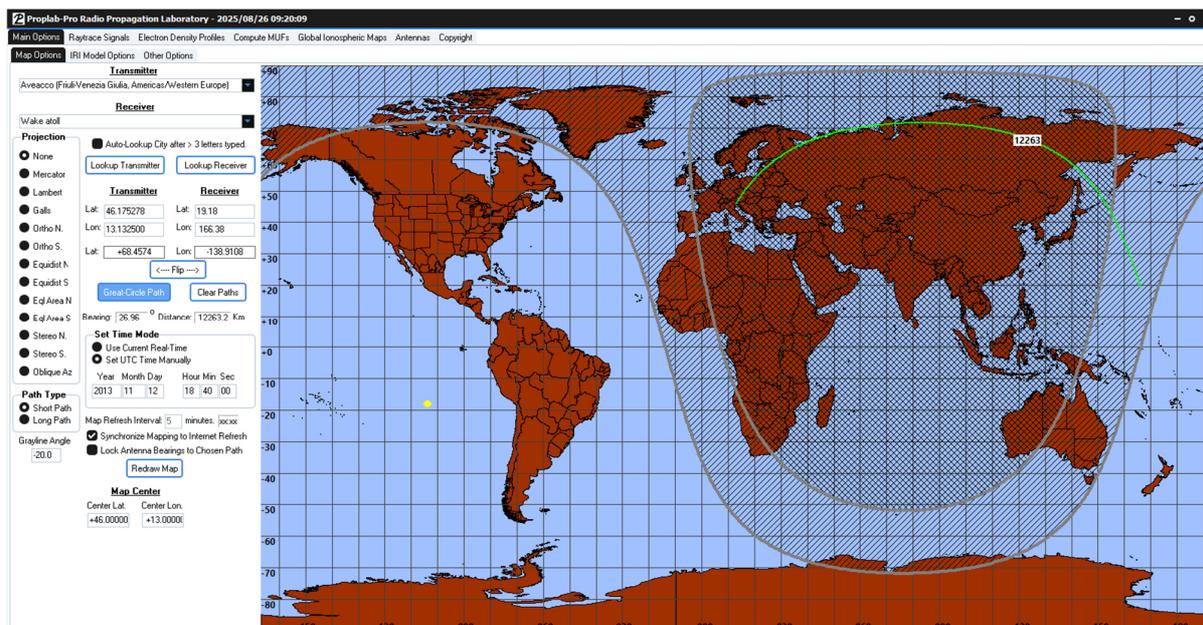
November 2013: K9W – Wake is. U.S. DXpedition.

by Pierluigi “Luis” Mansutti, IV3PRK



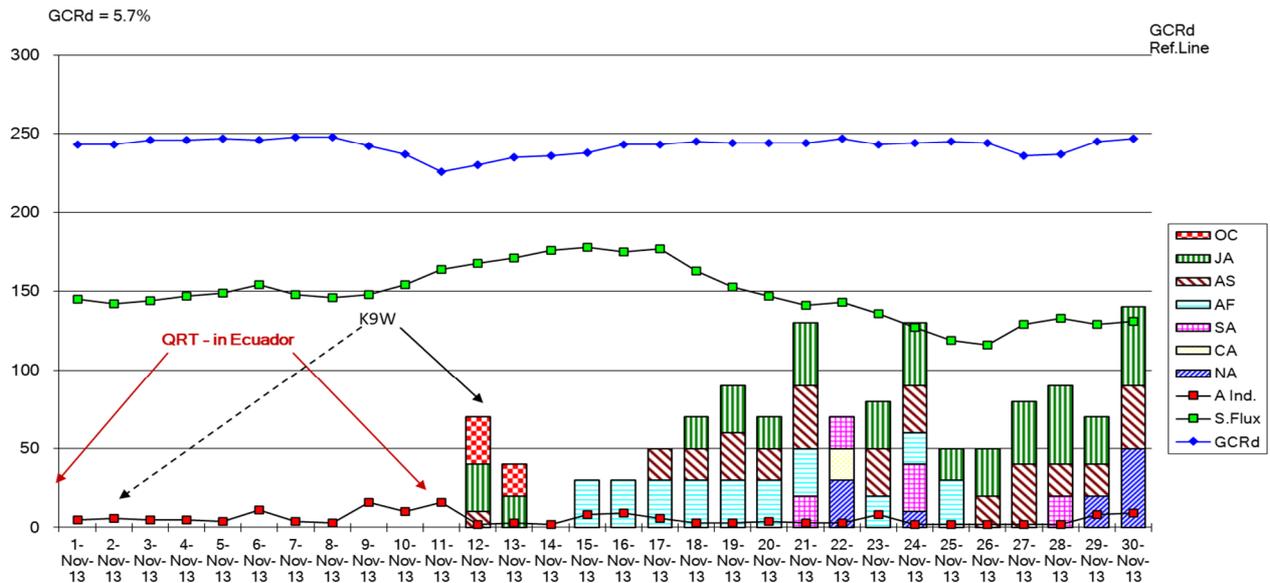
Wake Atoll is an active military base in the in the North Pacific Ocean, located about two-thirds of the way between Honolulu and Guam, at 19.18N – 166.38E, and access is extremely limited. The United States Air Force allowed a 12-Operator team to enter the island between November 2 and 15, 2013, for a commemorative DXpedition. The team declared « Our prime objective is to honour the lives and contributions of the Forgotten 98 civilian contractors who lost their lives on Wake during WWII» and included: Joe -AA4NN, John-K6MM, Craig-K9CT, Mike-K9NW, Ralph-K9ZO, Lou-N2TU, Jim-N9TK, Mark-NA6M, Dick-W3OA, Joe-W8GEX, Hal-W8HC, and Jerry-WB9Z.

Most of them were known expert low-band operators and thus they should have given a good opportunity to work this rare country on 160 meters also from Europe. The path is a challenge for sure, being over 12.200 km. long at 27 degrees, with several high latitude hops over lossy ice ground, but not impossible like some of those to Central Pacific.



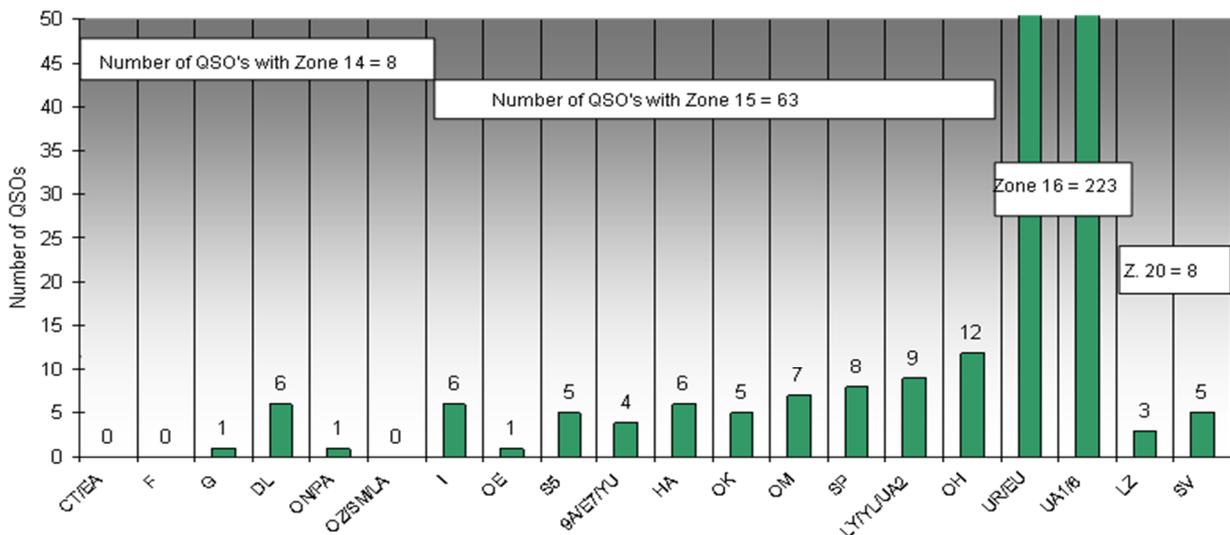
But unfortunately, I was in Ecuador since October 27 to supervise the construction of our new residential house near Quito. I came back home on November 12 in time for the last two days of operations, but I didn't manage to work them. Before leaving I had dismantled the double DHDL antennas used for VK9LL chasing and retired all cables and stuff outside of my fence, so only the rotatable Flag was left. Just arrived, I start to hear K9W pretty weak at 17.25z, peaking 449 at 18.40, I gave a couple of calls... but no reply. Even worse the last day, on 13th, when I heard them a only a few minutes at 18.50z; later on, also the Japanese were weaker.

Daily 160 m. DX conditions from IV3PRK - November 2013



Probably, the best period has been the first week, because the geomagnetic field was disturbed the last days, with Ap index at 16 on Nov. 9 and 11. I went on Club Log site to investigate and, through statistics and log search, made the following graphs:

K9W Wake is. DXpedition November 2013
160 meter QSO's with Europe



In two weeks of operations, the K9W crew made 100k QSOs, 2.100 of them on 160 m., but only 303 with Europe, 223 of which with European Russia and Ukraine.

The table displays a grid of call signs and dates, representing QSO logs. The grid is organized by date (rows) and call sign (columns). Many cells are highlighted in pink, indicating successful QSOs. The call signs are grouped by country/region, such as JP (Japan), KP (USA), IO (Italy), and UA (Ukraine).

Only seven stations were worked in zone 14: besides the five Germans, congratulations to John, G3PQA, and Kees, PE5T, as the westernmost in the log, but also to Dado E74AW, Dan S50U and the other Slovenians, and the five Italians who made it: I4EAT, IK4GME and IK4WMA from their usual JN64 location, plus the more southerly IZ0AEZ and Dom, IZ8JAI.

Sorry, I don't know the date of their contacts, and I'm afraid this is going to be my last Pacific DXpedition analysis, due to the changes in my life.

November 2013

Luis IV3PRK