



February 28 – March 24, 2018

Republic of Equatorial Guinea – Annobon and Bioko

Hello dear radio friends! After successful first recce expedition to 3C in the late 2017, it was time for our next much larger expedition.

This time the team initially consisted of eight operators - 3 from Latvia and 5 from Ukraine. As we were getting ready to set for this journey - we timely booked all our flights and hotels, submitted all applications for visas, and did all other necessary work for the expeditions preparation phase. Without much struggle we Latvians acquired the visas, however, Ukrainian team members had some



Team: Kaspars YL1ZF, Yuris YL2GM, Girts YL2KL

problems and the grant of visas got delayed and delayed by the responsible embassy till that point where it could not wait any longer and unfortunately we could not go with the full team. After this setback, we continued with smaller team than planned. It was only three operators - Yuris YL2GM, Kaspars YL1ZF and Girts YL2KL.

TEAM

Operators: YL2GM, YL1ZF, YL2KL
Coordinator: Kaspars Pētersons
QSL manager: YL2GN
Graphic designer: YL2KA
Webmaster: YL2VW
Technical advisors: YL3DW

EQUIPMENT

Transceivers: 3x Elecraft K3
Power amplifiers:
*2x SPE Expert 1.3K-FA
*Juma PA1000
Antennas:
*160/80/60/40/30m bands – 18m high vertical with capacity hat RA6LBS
*20-10m bands – Folding antenna
*20-10m bands - Spiderbeam
*40/30m bands – 3 phased vertical
*Beverages for receiving
Generator: Honda EU20i

EXPEDITION DIARY

Day 1 - Monday, 26th of February

At 6 AM we arrived to Riga airport. We were asked by airport personnel to re-pack one of our generators, as the airport security did not let it through due to smell of gasoline. Even though, I did leave it working until all the gas was used up and the generator stopped, there still was some drops left behind, enough to create the smell. After re-packing, we continued with the check-in procedures with our entire luggage.

The flight from Riga to Paris went by very quickly and connection in Paris was only 1 hour and 40 minutes. We had to change terminals, everything went smooth and we were on board of our next flight with A330 to Malabo. The total travel time was around 8 hours with an



On the way to Malabo: Kaspars YL1ZF, Girts YL2KL, Yuris YL2GM

in-between stop in Cameroon for refueling and disembarking some passengers as they reached their destination. Onwards to Malabo the flight was only 45 minutes and we were only about 20 passengers left on the very big airliner.

We arrived in Malabo airport around 7 PM local time. We passed Passport and security control without any questions, however, while waiting by the baggage belt, we found out that that one of our suitcases and one of the generators was missing. We filled out all necessary paper work at lost and found and we assured that our things should arrive with tomorrow's flight. Customs representatives were very kind and it was enough to let us through just by showing our papers.

Day 2 – Tuesday, 27th of February

In the morning, I went to the Ministry of Telecommunications and new technologies to acquire the licenses. I already knew where to go and whom to approach. Director kindly met with me and promised to arrange the permits as soon as possible. He also told me what more paper work I have to prepare as the regulations have changed since the last time I was here. We agreed on meeting next morning 11AM in his office.

Our local friend Jesus helped us with the enquiry about our next flights to Annobon and he booked the tickets for us. Travel Company promised that the flight would be on next Tuesday, on March 6. This looked great but as we know from our experience

- these flights tend to change frequently so we can only be sure when we will be on the plane.

In the evening, we went back to the airport to find out about our missing luggage. Suitcase was there, but the generator was not. We turned to Air France office for some more information, but they said we should ask this to Riga Airport. In the end, it turned out that the generator was not loaded in Riga due to a smell of gasoline, so we remained with just one generator.

Day 3 – Wednesday, 28th of February

Next day we found out that the Minister has changed, with him also the regulation for applying for the licenses have changed. Locals kindly help us to solve these questions and we receive the license without much problems.

In the afternoon, when we returned to our hotel in Trocadero, we set up two verticals and started to operate. First QSO was on 30 meters with S52GP.



Receiving the license in Ministry

Day 4 – Thursday, 1st of March

From the very morning we start to set up all other antennas – Spiderbeam, Folding antenna, 18m vertical for 160/80/40/30m with RA6LBS capacity hat and 2 phased verticals for 40m.



Day 4 -11

We actively work on air with two stations. Every second day I go to Malabo internet café to upload QSOs in Clublog. On the 7th of March, while on the way to upload next logs, I was waiting for a bus and taking some pictures of the local market, when suddenly my "adventures" begun.

Police officer approached me and asked for my permission to take pictures, which of course I hadn't. How it turns out - tourists are not allowed to take photos unless they have bought special permission for this. Who could imagine that tourists have to buy such a permission to take pictures in the city? Anyways, the police officer took me to the station where I had to wait for several hours while the police chief arrived. They took my phone and started to check every picture I had taken and asked me numerous trivial questions. When they finally allowed me to make a phone call to my contact in the Ministry, then with brief discussions everything got sorted out. They set a payment for tourist permission to take pictures and I could go. I asked the police chief if I can take pictures in tomorrow's manifestation in honor of women's day; he said – ok, but only if I go together with him.

After this incident I did not want to go to Malabo again, I'd better stayed in Trocadero and worked on the air.

Next day we were visited by delegation of six people. We demonstrated them how we work and told about amateur radio. They are favorable to us and did not have any claims against our work.



Team breakfast in Trocadero hotel

Day 12 – Friday, 9th of March

In the morning, we make our last QSO with EA3QP on 40m CW with this finishing our work from Trocadero hotel. In total we made 30 323 QSOs.

After breakfast, we take down all remaining antennas and hardware and move to a hotel in Malabo.



Boarding the plane to Annobon

Day 13 – Saturday, 10th of March

In the airport we have to wait for our flight to Annobon because it's delayed due to bad weather conditions. In addition, we get invited to the office of airport chief to explain who we are and what are we carrying. It takes around one hour and without a call to my friend in Ministry, again we could not proceed.



Around 4PM we land in Annobon airport. We rent the same house that we rented during our previous expedition. In the evening, we set up Folding antenna and vertical and during the night we make first 1500 QSOs.

Day 14 – Sunday, 11th of March

We check the surroundings and realize that in the previously planned place for RA6LBS vertical antenna has grown 1 meter long grass, so we hired local farmers who cut the grass and we could proceed.

Day 15 – Monday, 12th of March

Today we visited the Governor of the island. We have already met once before during our previous expedition. He kindly welcomes and invites us to visit the island again in future.

Later we set up RA6LBS vertical and Spiderbeam. We also set up our second position that is approximately 40m away in another house.



Local electricity is turned off twice a day, from 6AM – 10AM and 4PM – 7PM and the grid voltage is ~160V. SPE Expert PA works perfectly in these power conditions, however it is not the same with Juma PA1000. During the day as power source we

use our Honda 20i generator. This is the only 2kW generator that ensures our requirements and weights only 23kg. This generator ensures the power for one station and for the second position to work we have to reduce the PA power.



In the evening, our neighbor drops by and says that we use all the electricity and because of that his fridge cannot function

normally and all his fish is going bad. We have to find a compromise so we give him grid autotransformer that ensures 220V.

Day 19 – Friday, 16th of March

Beverage antenna gave good results and we made 150 JA QSOs on 80m.

Day 20 – Saturday, 17th of March

During the day we tuned the 3,5 SSB sub band RA6LBS vertical on 60m and during night we made 230 QSOs on 60m.

Kaspars was taking part in RDXC with 3C0W. That was a surprise for many operators when they heard our call and in total we made 900 QSOs in this contest.

We could not get access to internet, so we could upload the logs only after the expedition.

Day 23 – Tuesday, 20th of March

During the last 24 hours we have set our expedition record - 5748 QSOs. During the night, we worked also on SSB 80m and 160m.

Day 26 – Friday, 23rd of March

Tomorrow is Saturday and our flight back to Malabo, so for today we have planned “Hams with hearts” activities. In total, with the donations left over from previous 3C0L/3C1L expedition and the donations made by amateurs during this expedition, we together have raised 1422 EUR.

Our local friend Eduardo arrived from Malabo with the first package - school bags,



Kaspars YL1ZF



Girts YL2KL



Yuris YL2GM



At 1PM we met with the children and teachers in the local school. Children's songs and smiling faces was gratitude for our support. Common photos on the memory of the meeting.

After that, we had a small excursion on the island and some more common photos on the memory of our wonderful journey.



exercise books, pencils and other school things. We also managed to buy some more presents in the local shop on the island, even though, it is the only shop on the island and the supplies there are very limited. We still had 980 EUR so we decided for the remaining money to buy stationary goods when we will be in Malabo and ship them to island with the help of our friends.



Day 27 – Saturday, 24th of March

In the morning, we make our last QSO on 40m. In total from Annobon during this expedition we have made 54 267 QSOs. We take down all remaining antennas and equipment.

At 2 PM our friends drive us to the airport. During security check we are forbidden to take the generator with us on the plane, so we have to leave it with our friend Eduardo for our next expeditions.

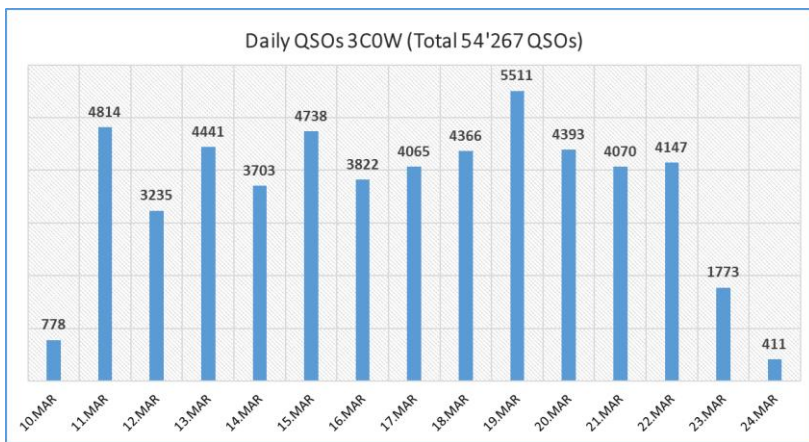
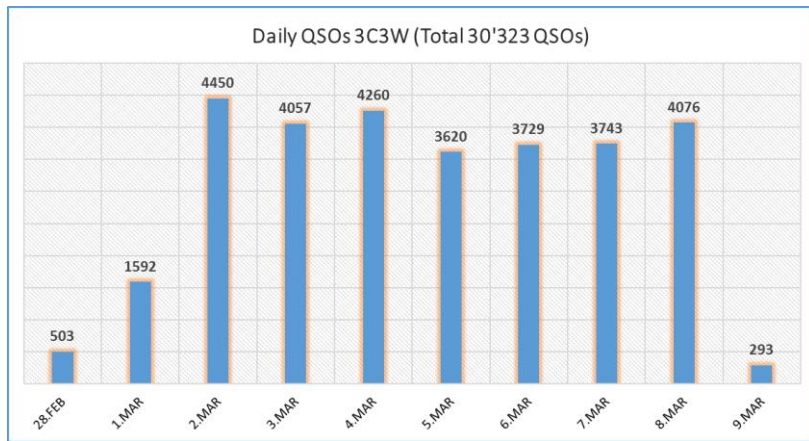
Day 28-30

In Malabo, together with Alida and her sister, we visit shops to buy school things for “Hams with hearts” program. We pack them and ship to Annobon by sea, as by air it is not possible due to its weight. Our friends Eduardo and Alida finalized this action by giving these presents to school and children of Annobon.

Thanks to everybody who supported “Hams with hearts” program and helped the children of Annobon.



STATISTICS



Band/Mode breakdown 3C3W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	0	330	0	330	1.1%
80	48	1720	0	1768	5.8%
60	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40	1101	3314	509	4924	16.2%
30	0	2714	748	3462	11.4%
20	1949	5554	468	7971	26.3%
17	700	5361	718	6779	22.4%
15	444	4075	424	4943	16.3%
12	0	143	3	146	0.5%
10	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Totals	4242	23211	2870	30323	100.0%

Band/Mode breakdown 3C0W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	3	489	0	492	0.9%
80	215	1404	56	1675	3.1%
60	0	321	0	321	0.6%
40	2212	4163	715	7090	13.1%
30	0	5755	735	6490	12.0%
20	4367	7969	842	13178	24.3%
17	2977	7896	1020	11893	21.9%
15	2825	7007	350	10182	18.8%
12	593	1562	63	2218	4.1%
10	68	660	0	728	1.3%
Totals	13260	37226	3781	54267	100%

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown 3C3W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total
160	0	36	0	36
80	18	72	0	72
60	0	0	0	0
40	64	86	44	92
30	0	80	44	81
20	80	95	48	108
17	42	100	51	110
15	47	89	49	92
12	0	27	3	28
10	0	0	0	0
Totals	100	128	71	138

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown 3C0W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total
160	3	49	0	49
80	35	63	19	66
60	0	39	0	39
40	82	88	51	106
30	0	96	47	96
20	100	108	54	124
17	81	117	62	120
15	104	119	54	133
12	52	80	15	85
10	16	47	0	52
Totals	128	137	80	150

Continent by Mode 3C3W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	54	118	21	193	0.6%
AN	0	1	0	1	0.0%
AS	261	2641	329	3231	10.7%
EU	2202	14715	1888	18805	62.0%
NA	1643	5442	604	7689	25.4%
OC	9	48	1	58	0.2%
SA	73	246	27	346	1.1%
Totals	4242	23211	2870	30323	100.0%

Continent by Mode 3C0W

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	159	217	34	410	0.8%
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	590	4400	375	5365	9.9%
EU	9195	21593	2466	33254	61.3%
NA	3036	10238	842	14116	26.0%
OC	18	97	5	120	0.2%
SA	262	681	59	1002	1.8%
Totals	13260	37226	3781	54267	100%

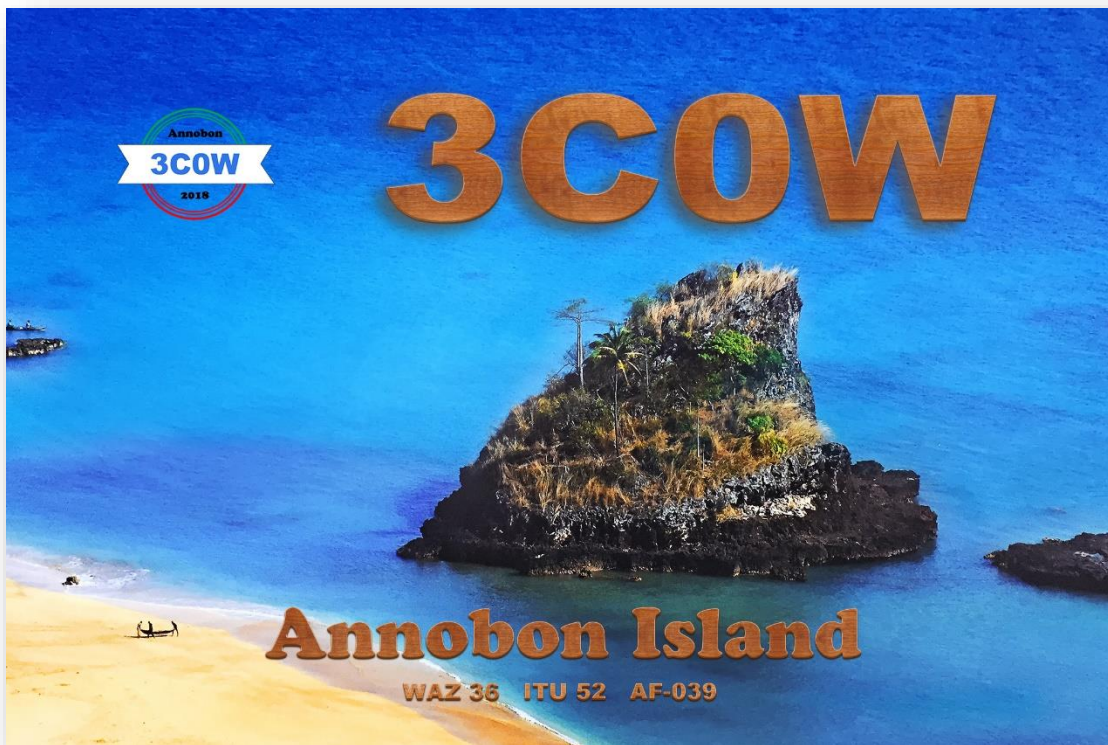
Continent by Band 3C3W

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	2	13	0	22	17	52	55	30	2	0	193	0.6%
AN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0%
AS	13	129	0	617	916	976	493	86	1	0	3231	10.7%
EU	262	1160	0	2333	1906	4336	4767	3908	133	0	18805	62.0%
NA	52	431	0	1864	580	2523	1369	862	8	0	7689	25.4%
OC	0	3	0	10	8	12	17	8	0	0	58	0.2%
SA	1	32	0	78	34	72	78	49	2	0	346	1.1%
Totals	330	1768	0	4924	3462	7971	6779	4943	146	0	30323	100%

Continent by Band 3C0W

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	2	11	8	31	31	96	70	102	42	17	410	0.8%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	24	217	2	1101	1586	1243	665	495	21	11	5365	9.9%
EU	393	1109	218	3083	2690	7330	8905	7275	1667	584	33254	61.3%
NA	66	297	86	2733	2085	4323	2089	2000	372	65	14116	26.0%
OC	0	1	0	12	15	17	29	43	2	1	120	0.2%
SA	7	40	7	130	83	169	135	267	114	50	1002	1.8%
Totals	492	1675	321	7090	6490	13178	11893	10182	2218	728	54267	100%

QSL CARDS

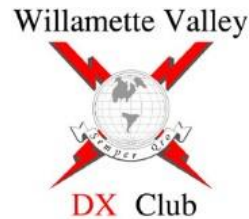


EXPEDITION SUPPORTERS

Clubs and associations



INDEXA



Equipment and corporates

www.eantenna.es



Individual supporters 100\$+

K7GEX

LA2IR

W6SZN

N5MOA

W2LO

W8LRL

CONCLUSION

In total we established 84 590 QSOs. We hope that many amateurs were very happy that they were able to make QSOs with 3C for one more time in case they missed 3C0L/3C1L in 2017.

Thanks to all our supporters and thank you for reading this story.

73, Yuris/YL2GM/, Kas/YL1ZF/, Girts/YL2KL/

You can find more information on expedition webpage: http://www.lral.lv/3c0w_3c3w/