

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- ARRL DX CW Contest
- March Program
- Fly our Flag on Con Co?
- DX Contests
- Short Skip
- Sponsorship Request—Iraq DXpedition

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

ARRL DX CW Contest

By Tom Russell, N4KG, SOAB(A) HP

WOW ! What an amazing combination of Good Low and High Band Propagation!

15 Meters appears to have opened to Europe at Local Sunrise and closed shortly after the Sun Set across Europe with good rates until 1700Z or so. Reports on the 3830 website indicate that ALL of Europe was able to work ALL of the USA and Canada on 15M.

It was refreshing to find 10 Meters open to the Caribbean and Central America along with the usual opening to South America at 1800Z. The short-range openings on Sunday were not as good as Saturday. 6Y1LZ was heard weakly via Backscatter and ZF2AM was not audible here in Alabama.

I found 40 Meters Wide Open to Europe 2 hours before my Sunset, behaving more like 20 during higher sunspot levels. My 40M contact and multiplier totals were compromised by devoting several hours on end to the outstanding conditions on 80 and 160M. Signals from Europe on 160M didn't seem that strong but they were hearing well, most likely due to NO thunderstorms in EU, and I was Busting Pileups

to EU which is NOT a regular occurrence on 160M from Alabama. The only Single Operators I found with more than my 51 multipliers on 160M -K1ZZ, K3WW, NN3W- were using all using a Second Radio versus my Single Radio.

Long Ago, I realized I could never compete with the High Contact Totals achievable from the East Coast, but I could compile a Good Multiplier. As a Long Time All Band Dx'er I enjoy hunting Multipliers and typically operate SOAB Assisted in Search and Pounce mode, especially when the Sunspots are Low.

After the first 24 hours with only 4 Hours OFF (0830-1230Z) my totals were 789 contacts and 320 multipliers. Sunday morning while tuning across 20M, I heard a UA2 call someone near 14080. I moved up 2 and started CQ'ing in hopes he would call me. No such luck but one hour and 110 contacts later, I decided I needed to check 15 Meters. After tuning through the band I heard another multiplier call someone and found myself CQing well above 21100 with a steady stream of callers. Alternating between 15 and 20 meters seemed to work well at this level of sunspot activity.

Cont'd on p. 2

Ham Radio Deluxe

Program by Steve Werner, AG4W

You do get something for nothing: Ham Radio Deluxe! Not just a rig controller, not just a logging program, not just a packet spot program, not just a digital mode program, not just an award tracking program. It's integrated and it works well. It's the Microsoft Office of Ham Radio, but it's fast and free.

I will show you how to use this program with your contest logging software to increase your contest score in assisted mode. No more search and pounce, just pounce!

Come see it in action.

73, Steve, AG4W



The LongPath Staff

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Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

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The last 3 or 4 hours of the contest can be an interesting and productive time to chase multipliers from 10 through 80 meters. I found CX7T, ZM1A, ZL1ALZ on 10M after 20Z, TX4T/FO at 2231Z, several new Europeans on 40, and several new JA's on 15, followed by 5W00U who graciously moved to 20M for me for multiplier #399. TO4D on Guadeloupe made #400. After seeing EA9EU spotted on 80M I quickly QSY'd there for my last multiplier and several new Europeans, including my 3rd band with F5MUX/QRP.

My plan called for 3 hours sleep Friday Night (actually the 3 hours before sunrise Saturday) and 6 hours Saturday, with a nap/rest period sometime after Noon Sunday. In actuality, I ended up getting only 2 hours sleep the first night as it took me an hour to 'calm down' enough to get to sleep. Saturday Night was just 'too good to leave 160M'. I did end up with 4 hours sleep, awaking just before Sunrise Sunday morning, in time to pick up JA3YBK on 160M, several JA's plus TX4T, UA0DC, and 5W00U on 80M, along with several more JA's and Caribbean stations on 40M before going to 20. My afternoon nap turned into a 30 minute walk with my dog to stretch my legs and get some

fresh air and sunshine.

This was a FUN Contest and I was pleased with how productive my Band Plan worked out, even if it required short-changing the Outstanding Conditions on 40M. What Can I Say, I Love the Low Bands!

Station:

Icom 746 w/cascaded 500 Hz filters, VBW + Audio Peak Filters B&W PT2500 Amplifier (pr. 3-500Z) at 1000 to 1200W output.

Antennas:

160M Inverted L - East, Elevated GP - NW, Common Reflector 80/40 = 140 ft Dipole between 130 ft towers NE/SW

80/40 = 100 ft Dipole with ends at 90 ft SE/NW 20/15/10 = TH7 at 40 ft +Dipole.

ALL of my MonoBanders are broken or damaged, primarily due to 30 years of tree growth. Beverages were NOT used or needed.

Tom N4KG in North Alabama

Miscellanea

By the LongPath Staff

The NADXC bank account holds \$3580, reflecting 2010 dues received from the following members in good standing:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| KY4F | W4WEG | K4XQ | K4MLR |
| W4NBS | N4KG | KY5R | KF4BOG & AG4W |
| N4BCD | KG4TEI | K4SAV | N4NM |
| N4NO | N5DF | | |
| K0BS | K4XH & K4JD | | |
| KG4CUY | NR4F & N4HIX | | |

Ryan's change to buffet-only at night has some wondering if we need to think about changing our meeting location. Kevin, KG4TEI has looked at Beauregard's at Holmes and Jordan Lane, and will tell us about it Tuesday.

We almost exceeded our page limit for this issue. Thank you, contributors!

Fly our Flag on Con Co Island?

[Below is an email exchange between Paul Schreier, AA1MI/HB9DST and Tom Duncan, KG4CUY regarding the upcoming 3W6C DXpedition of which the NADXC is a sponsor. This DXpedition is scheduled for April 10-18.—Ed.]

Dear Paul,

I believe the NADXC would like to take advantage of this opportunity to fly our flag. For today, I'll give you a very probable "yes". We have a meeting next Tuesday, Feb. 9th, at which time this will be brought up for a vote, and I'll get the results back to you the following day.

Looking forward to the opportunity,

73 de KG4CUY and the North Alabama DX Club

-----Original Message-----

From: PGSchreier
[mailto:PGSchreier@swissonline.ch]

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 10:10 AM

Cc: MAllphin@aol.com

Subject: tks from 3W6C -- and can we fly your flag?

Hello OM,

First, I would like to thank you very much for your contribution to the 3W6C Con Co Island DXpedition, which departs for Vietnam in little more than a month. It is only thanks to the extreme generosity of groups and clubs such as yours that it is possible to even consider such an undertaking.

We would like to show our thanks by literally "flying your flag" at the DXpedi-

tion if you would be kind enough to supply us with one.

At our headquarters (which doubles as the RTTY shack) we will use the antenna mast and guy wires to fly the flags of our supporters. We hope to make this a spectacular display which we will want to include in many photographs.

The recommended size is 70 x 100 cm (roughly 27 x 40 inches), but your size may vary depending on what you have available. It would be helpful if the flag had grommets or holes on one side; if not, we'll be practical hams and will improvise something to get the flag hung.

To get your flag flying on Con Co Island, we need you to do two things:

1. Notify me ASAP (aa1mi@3w6c.qrv.ch) of your intentions to send us a flag so we can be on the lookout for it.
2. Send the flag so it arrives to one of the following two addresses.

The deadline for it to ARRIVE at one of these two addresses is WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, so please send it in time to meet this deadline.

You have your choice of the following two addresses:

1. Paul Schreier, HB9DST
Alte Landstrasse 101
CH-8800 Thalwil
Switzerland
2. Bob Allphin, K4UEE
4235 Blackland Dr.
Marietta, GA 30067

Thank you again for your support, and we hope to see many of you in our log!

73,

Paul AA1MI / HB9DST
Club Sponsoring for 3W6C

DXpedition Sponsorship Request—Iraq

Hello North Alabama DX Club:

Request a sponsorship for a expedition in April, 2010.

Entity Name / Call Sign: Republic of Iraq YI9PSE

Planning a multi-national DXpedition to Northern Iraq (Kurdistan) for April of 2010.

Web page: <http://www.yi9pse.com/index.html>

Team leader / number of members:
Paul N6PSE (09) (Multi-national Team)

- N6PSE - Paul Ewing

- N6OX - Bob Grimmick
- JH4RHF - Jun Tanaka
- AH6HY - David Flack
- N2WB - Bill Beyer
- YI1UNH - Heathem Sabah
- K3VN - Al Hernandez
- K3LP - Dave Collingham
- WØUCE - Jack Ritter

Date of Dxpediton: SPRING - April 2010

*WEBMASTER: EA2RY Roberto Filloy

DXpedition Sponsorship Request—Iraq (cont'd from p. 3)

Cont'd from p. 3

QSL manager / QSL route QSL via N6NKT

George Williams
3600 Springbrook Dr
San Jose, CA 95148
USA

The Pilots Stations.....

- AA6G - Chuck Vaughn - (West Coast Pilot)
- N1DG - Don Greenbaum - (East Coast Pilot)
- JA1ELY - Toshikazu Kusano - (JA Pilot)
- MMONDX - Col McGowan - (EU Pilot)

Budget estimated for Dxpediton \$55,000 (++) total.

Position on most wanted list:

First Major Dxpediton to Kurdistan....

2009 Most Wanted Countries-Mixed Modes, North America" #58

2009 Most Wanted Countries-Mixed Modes, North America-Eastern Time Zone: #97

2009 Most Wanted Countries-Mixed Modes, North America-Mountain Time Zone: #25

2009 Most Wanted Countries-Mixed Modes, North America-Pacific Time Zone: #27

2008 Ranked #92 AF,OC, SA Mixed Modes

Hardest areas: JA, VK, ZL and West Coast of NA.

Much demand for 80M and 160M. Will be on 160M - 10M and with CW, SSB and RTTY.

We will work all HF bands/modes. We will make every effort to work the low bands as well as to provide YI to the US West Coast, KH6, ZL, VK and JA ama-

teur community.

Landing permit/operating permission:

Approved. YES/LIC Callsign - YI9PSE (License Approved by ARRL-DXCC Desk)

Last time this entity was activated:

2009 (Military) One Person, small set-up, limited time, etc...

Typical interval between activations: 1 year.

Anyone planning to activate this entity before your DXpedition. NO

Objective / Strategy: See web page....<http://www.yi9pse.com/index.html>

Initiating request: Paul Ewing-Team Leader-YI9PSE

E-mail Address: paul@n6pse.com

Funding amount requested: \$100+

Send Funds to:

Banking Account: Kurdistan 2010 DXpedition, C/O Paul S Ewing N6PSE

Paul S Ewing
3052 Wetmore Dr
San Jose, CA 95148

Group logo on QSL cards? Yes

Group logo on web page: Yes <http://www.yi9pse.com/sponsors.html>

Additional comments: * First major Expedition to Iraq in many years. 09 members - International team - 10 Day Operation.

** First Dxpediton to Kurdistan.

*** Will be on the LOW bands (160M/80M) as well. Rigs are Elecraft K3 and Icom IC-7600, Acom 1010/1000 Amplifiers. Gain antennas.

If Military Forces pull out, will be some years before next DX Operation in Iraq.

***To assist the team, in which Band/ Mode do you need YI9PSE? Take the survey on our web site:

<http://www.yi9pse.com/survey.html>

Thank you.
Sincerely:

William Beyer N2WB (WILD BILL)

YI9PSE Kurdistan 2010 TEAM

**From the Internet
By Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI**

Hello all. I have a few interesting links for you this month. The first one I will lead off with is a bit of a building project. This site: <http://timelesson.blogspot.com/>, by Andy, UU1CC, has many different articles to choose from, but one of the things that caught my attention was using the guts from a dead hard drive to make an iambic paddle.

The next site I have is a brief amount of info about the *Radio Boys Series*. *Starting in the early 1900s until the late '20s and early '30s these stories glamorized using radio for communication. If any of you have seen these stories I would love to hear about them.* <http://www.keeline.com/Chapman/>

The final site I have is from one of own local hams. Gary Dion was recently featured on <http://hackedgadgets.com/> for his WiFi radio project which can be found here: <http://garydion.com/projects/wifiradio/>. As Gary pointed out to me, there is more to radio than QRP and DX; there's music too.

That is all I have for this month. I am always looking for new sites to feature in this article. If you have something that you would like to see posted here or, you want to give me some feed back about the sites I have featured please feel free to email me at my callsign [@gmail.com](mailto:kg4tei@gmail.com).

73,
Kevin KG4TEI

N4KG's ARRL DX CW Contest Statistics

Cabrillo Statistics (Version 06g) by K5KA

Contest: ARRL-DX-CW

Callsign: N4KG

Category: SINGLE-OP-ASSISTED ALL HIGH CW

Hour	Q	S	O	R a t e			S u m m a r y		
	160	80	40	20	15	10	Rate	Total	Pct
0000	0	0	0	30	0	0	30	30	1.9
0100	0	0	64	3	0	0	67	97	4.3
0200	0	0	39	2	0	0	41	138	2.6
0300	0	41	0	0	0	0	41	179	2.6
0400	21	10	0	0	0	0	31	210	2.0
0500	0	45	0	0	0	0	45	255	2.9
0600	9	10	1	0	0	0	20	275	1.3
0700	2	0	33	0	0	0	35	310	2.3
0800	2	5	1	0	0	0	8	318	0.5
0900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0.0
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0.0
1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0.0
1200	1	4	10	0	0	0	15	333	1.0
1300	0	0	4	58	20	0	82	415	5.3
1400	0	0	0	0	69	0	69	484	4.4
1500	0	0	0	42	5	0	47	531	3.0
1600	0	0	0	12	33	0	45	576	2.9
1700	0	0	0	0	23	9	32	608	2.1
1800	0	0	0	0	0	32	32	640	2.1
1900	0	0	0	43	0	0	43	683	2.8
2000	0	0	0	13	11	6	30	713	1.9
2100	0	0	0	0	16	1	17	730	1.1
2200	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	745	1.0
2300	0	0	37	4	3	0	44	789	2.8
0000	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	803	0.9
0100	0	16	5	6	0	0	27	830	1.7
0200	9	18	0	0	0	0	27	857	1.7
0300	18	0	0	0	0	0	18	875	1.2
0400	7	18	0	0	0	0	25	900	1.6
0500	3	3	3	0	0	0	9	909	0.6
0600	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	916	0.5
0700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	916	0.0
0800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	916	0.0
0900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	916	0.0
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	916	0.0
1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	916	0.0
1200	1	7	8	12	0	0	28	944	1.8
1300	0	0	0	27	27	0	54	998	3.5
1400	0	0	0	32	24	0	56	1054	3.6
1500	0	0	0	110	0	0	110	1164	7.1

N4KG's ARRL DX CW Contest Statistics

(cont'd from p. 5)

1600	0	0	0	7	107	0	114	1278	7.3
1700	0	0	0	34	35	4	73	1351	4.7
1800	0	0	0	77	0	0	77	1428	5.0
1900	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1429	0.1
2000	0	0	0	0	13	3	16	1445	1.0
2100	0	0	11	12	0	0	23	1468	1.5
2200	0	0	16	0	13	1	30	1498	1.9
2300	0	12	0	3	17	0	32	1530	2.1

 Total 80 189 232 557 416 56 1530

Gross QSO's=1553 Dupes=23 Net QSO's=1530

The best 60 minute rate was 125/hour from 1609 to 1708
 The best 30 minute rate was 146/hour from 1610 to 1639
 The best 10 minute rate was 168/hour from 1621 to 1630

The best 1 minute rates were:

- 4 QSO's/minute 5 times.
- 3 QSO's/minute 60 times.
- 2 QSO's/minute 243 times.
- 1 QSO's/minute 844 times.

There were 53 bandchanges and 2 (0.1%) probable 2nd radio QSO's.

Number of letters in callsigns
 Letters # worked

3 8
4 441
5 633
6 422
7 14
8 8
9 3
11 1

Multi-band QSOs

1 band 783
2 bands 122
3 bands 51
4 bands 32
5 bands 30
6 bands 12

The following stations were worked on 6 bands:

J38XX 8P3A V31RR P49V P40L PJ2T KP2M
 KH6LC YN2WW PJ4X KL7RA TX4T/FO

---- Single Band QSO's ----

Band	160	80	40	20	15	10

QSOs	27	70	93	348	219	26

Summary:

Band QSOs Mults

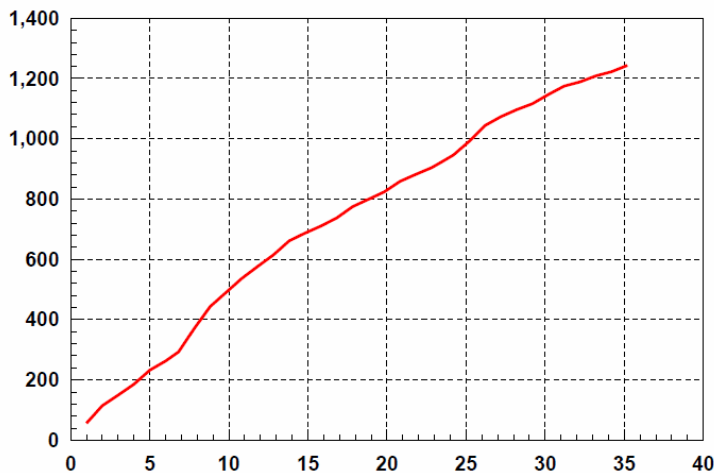
160: 80 51
80: 189 67
40: 232 79
20: 556 96
15: 416 86
10: 56 22

Total: 1529 401 Total Score = 1,839,386

ARRL DX Contest QSOs/Hour

Submitted by Jerry Cross, N4NO

Jerry "dr. no" Cross, N4NO submitted the following graph of his cumulative QSOs (vertical axis) by hours into the ARRL CW DX contest. From a distance, it's very uniform indeed, but close inspection reveals some very fast hours (7-8 for example), and some tailing off toward the end.



Short Skip

By Tom Homsley, N4WBS

DX on the air

A sampling of notable DX in March - until the 17th SV5/DJ7RJ: Dodecanese (EU-001), until the 20th 5X1NH: Uganda 975, until the 26th XR9JA: South Shetlands (AN-010), until the 27th PJ5NA: St. Eustatius (NA-145), until the 31st 6W2SC (Senegal) and J5UAP (Guinea-Bissau) (425 DX NEWS)

Solar Update.

As of February 26 we had 36 continuous days with sunspots. The unbroken string of sunspots featured two new groups - 1050 and 1051. Have a look at SOHO images here <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime/realtime-update.html> (ARRL)

10 and 15 meters

We've noticed an increase in reports of 10 and 15 meter activity with the increase in sunspots. A local ham said last weekend on 15 meters was the best he had heard in a long time.

Radios with Computer Interfaces

The N1MM team has compiled a long [list of radios with computer interfaces](#) and discusses the limitations of each. (ARRL Contest Update)

March Contests

ARRL International DX-Phone, from Mar 6, 0000Z to Mar 7, 2400Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: RS and state,

province, or power. Also this weekend, the High Speed CW Contest-CW, from Mar 6, 0900Z to Mar 6, 1100Z and Mar 6, 1500Z to Mar 6, 1700Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5-28. Exchange: RST and HSC nr or "NM". Also see [WA7BNM's Contest Calendar](#) and [SM3CER's Contest Calendar](#) (ARRL)

[So long 'til next time. .](#)



de N4WBS

DX Contests for March

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL International DX Contest, (SSB), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 6, 0000Z to Mar 7, 2400Z

Exchange: RS & State, Province or Power

See page 78, Mar QST or www.arrl.org/contests

RSGB Commonwealth Contest, (CW), 80 - 10 meters

Mar 13, 1000Z to Mar. 14, 1000Z

Exchange: RST plus serial #.

See page 78, Mar. QST or www.rsgbhfcc.org

Russian DX Contest (CW/SSB), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 20, 1200Z to Mar 21, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial # or Oblast

See page 78, Mar. QST or www.rdx.org

BARTG HF RTTYContest, (RTTY), 80 - 10 Meters

Mar 20, 2200Z to Mar 20, 2200Z

Exchange: 3 digit S.N. plus 4 digit time.

See page 78, Mar. QST or www.bartg.org.uk

CQWW WPX Contest (SSB), 160 - 10 meters

Mar 27, 0000Z to Mar 28, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial #.

See page 78, Mar. QST or www.cqwp.com

OTHERS:

AGCW QRP Contest

1400Z-2000Z Mar 13

EA PSK31 Contest

1600Z, Mar 13 to 1600Z, Mar 14

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16



RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB

2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19

9KCC 15-Meter Contest

1200Z-1600Z, Mar 21

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

N4KG's ARRL DX CW Multipliers

N4KG SOAB(A) HP 2010 CW ARRL DX CONTEST MULTIPLIERS

1A	8P	CT	FR/j	JA	P4	TR	VU
1S	8Q	CT3	FR/t	JD/m	PA	TT	VU4
3A	8R	CU	FS	JD/o	PJ2	TU	VU7
3B6	9A	CX	FT8W	JT	PJ7	TX0	XE
3B8	9G	CY0	FT8X	JW	PY	TY	XF4
3B9	9H	CY9	FT8Z	JX	PY0F	TZ	XT
3C	9J	D2	FW	JY	PY0S	UA	XU
3C0	9K	D4	FY	KG4	PY0T	UA2	XW
3D2	9L	D6	G	KH0	PZ	UA9	XX9
3D2/c	9M2	DL	GD	KH1	R1FJ	UK	XZ
3D2/r	9M6	DU	GI	KH2	R1MV	UN	YA
3DA	9N	E3	GJ	KH3	S0	UR	YB
3V	9Q	E4	GM	KH4	S2	V2	YI
3W	9U	EA	GU	KH5	S5	V3	YJ
3X	9V	EA6	GW	KH5K	S7	V4	YK
3Y/b	9X	EA8	H4	KH6	S9	V5	YL
3Y/p	9Y	EA9	H40	KH7K	SM	V6	YN
4J	A2	EI	HA	KH8	SP	V7	YO
4L	A3	EK	HB	KH9	ST	V8	YS
4O	A4	EL	HB0	KL	SU	VK	YU
4S	A5	EP	HC	KP1	SV	VK0H	YV
4U1I	A6	ER	HC8	KP2	SV/a	VK0M	YV0
4U1U	A7	ES	HH	KP4	SV5	VK9C	Z2
4W	A9	ET	HI	KP5	SV9	VK9L	Z3
4X	AP	EU	HK	LA	T2	VK9M	ZA
5A	BS7	EX	HK0/a	LU	T30	VK9N	ZB
5B	BV	EY	HK0/m	LX	T31	VK9W	ZC4
5H	BV9P	EZ	HL	LY	T32	VK9X	ZD7
5N	BY	F	HM	LZ	T33	VP2E	ZD8
5R	C2	FG	HP	OA	T5	VP2M	ZD9
5T	C3	FH	HR	OD	T7	VP2V	ZF
5U	C5	FJ	HS	OE	T8	VP5	ZK1/n
5V	C6	FK	HV	OH	T9	VP6	ZK1/s
5W	C9	FK/c	HZ	OH0	TA	VP6/d	ZK2
5X	CE	FM	I	OJ0	TF	VP8	ZK3
5Z	CE0A	FO	IS	OK	TG	VP8/g	ZL
6W	CE0X	FO/a	J2	OM	TI	VP8/h	ZL7
6Y	CE0Z	FO/c	J3	ON	TI9	VP8/o	ZL8
7O	CE9	FO/m	J5	OX	TJ	VP8/s	ZL9
7P	CM	FP	J6	OY	TK	VP9	ZP
7Q	CN	FR	J7	OZ	TL	VQ9	ZS
7X	CP	FR/g	J8	P2	TN	VR	ZS8