**CROZET 2022/2023**

Cours-les-Bains (France), October 29th, 2021.

Fellow DXers,

Permission has been granted to Thierry (Terry) F6CUK for an amateur radio operation from Crozet from mid-December 2022 to mid-March 2023 (exact dates still unknown – will depend on boat rotation). Copy of the permission official document is available (in French) if you wish to receive it.

Let me give you some background :

The TAAF (the administrative body in charge of the administration of all the FTs) receives requests for permission for amateur radio operations very frequently. Nature protection now strongly opposes any big scale operation like those we have seen from Juan de Nova, Glorioso, or about to see from Bouvet.

A/ The operator

Terry is 64 years of age, has been licensed for more than 45 years, and has been a DXer ever since the beginning.

He has operated from Saint Barthelemy island in 1977 and 1978, before it became a separate entity. He has returned there on a couple of occasions since.

He has done many IOTA operations, mostly on his own, to EU-058, EU-074, EU-032. He is used to assembling a station just by himself.

He likes to operate CW, SSB, and lately FT8. He can handle pile-ups in these modes.

B/ The plan

Crozet is one of the Austral and Subantarctic islands administered by the TAAF. It has the smallest scientific base, with a maximum of 40 people at one time. For example, Kerguelen can have as many as 200 “residents” staying there between 3 months and a year sometimes.

He was offered to go there in December 2021, but that was too short notice.

He will fly to Reunion island by about mid November 2022 to observe a 2 week quarantine, imposed before travelling to Crozet.

He will then board the Marion Dufresne en route to Crozet, with a possible 3 day or so stopover on Kerguelen. Operation from Kerguelen is still a question mark, but if it happens, it will be low profile.

Arriving at Crozet by mid-December, he will be operational quite quickly.

This will be the Austral summer, but Crozet is known for winds up to 150 km/h even in summer. Temperatures are not cold (not hot either, this is not the Carribbean !)

This is not a scientific mission with ham radio as a side hobby activity as has been the case in all previous operations from Crozet. His stay will be entirely devoted to working the pile-ups.

At this point, the permission clearly states that only wire antennas will be permitted. Terry and some friends are working on testing the best antennas possible with these limitations. These limitations, even though not detailed, are clearly mentioned in the permission issued to Terry.

The rigs are being discussed with possible sponsors, and he already has 2 home made amplifiers, capable of delivering 500W. The ham radio legislation does not allow more.

He will also be QRV on QO-100 (sorry USA and JA…), but this was one of the aspects of the request that determined a positive answer : he will have very occasional contacts with schools, to advertise about these far-away French lands. This will also allow him to be very frequently in touch without propagation concern with his wife, and with myself. We are working on having log transmission done through the satellite, as internet access may be either impossible, or very limited/costly.

He has been allocated a shack in one of the few buildings on the island, and will be there on his own. He will operate and sleep there, with a small bathroom at his disposal. He will take his meals with the resident crew.

Webpages dedicated to the operation will be set up, likely within the REF website. The REF (French equivalent to ARRL, founding member of IARU) sponsored the permission request. The operation will take place under its auspices. Information will be given frequently, including pictures, on these pages, where, of course, sponsors will be clearly listed with their logos, depending on the amount sponsored.

The callsign has not been issued yet, but the same authority that gave this permission is in charge of issueing callsigns, so this is the least of our concern at this time. A special call, but clearly identifyable to Crozet, has been requested. We are more than confident it will be issued. For obvious reasons, we will not mention it here.

C/ The objective

Crozet is the 3rd most needed country according to the information provided by Clublog.

Being a one man operation, and despite the great duration of 3 months, the main objective will be to give an “all time new one” to as many people as possible. At this point, he plans on being QRV from 80 to 10m. 160m is still pending further investigations.

A goal of 80,000 QSOs is reasonable. This would mean an average of 800 QSO per day, which seems to be a reachable aim. More is likely to be reached.

D/ The budget

At this point, the total estimated budget is 43,000 Euros.

Travels (plane + boat) 11,200 €

Daily cost on the island (100 days at 67 €/day) 6,700 €

Quarantine on Reunion (15 days at 120€/day) 1,200 €

Freight charges 1,000 €

QO-100 equipment 1,000 €

Equipment (rigs and miscellaneous, most in duplicate) 16,900 €

Winter clothes 2,000 €

QSL 3,000 €

 **TOTAL 41,000 € (Euros, not dollars)**

Should you wish to have more details, please come back to me.

E/ QSLing

A folded picture card will be sent to those giving 5 € or more. A more normal, but picture card, will be sent for the others. Sponsors’ logos will appear on the cards, needless to say.

QSL request will use the Clublog applet. The QSL manager will be myself, F6EXV.

As most recent DXpeditions have done, we will offer speedy QSLing and LoTW upload at a reasonable cost, then bureau cards for free. Upload to LoTW is planned 6 months after Terry’s return to France.

A special card, mailed from Crozet, is being worked on for donors (probably for above 50 € donation, for those interested).

We would be most grateful if you would consider sponsoring the operation. Thank you very much.

Please take into account all of the above information, and, should you require more details, do not hesitate to come back to me. All correspondence should be sent to crozet2022@orange.fr please.

Terry F6CUK and Paul F6EXV

PLEASE NOTE MOST OF THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL AT THIS TIME. WE KINDLY ASK YOU TO KEEP IT FOR YOURSELVES. IT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC LATER (there is still plenty of time before the activity)