

### **Expedition**

In autumn 2008 DH8WR, T17WGI and DK6AO set out to activate the rare IOTA group NA-191 in Costa Rica. In January 2009 further experienced activists like DL2RNS, DL5YWM and DL2JRM joined in. Most of the islands within this IOTA-group can only be contacted with great difficulties or not at all. To date only 11% of the IOTA hunters had confirmed this group of islands, as there had been only short time activities from von NA-191 QRV. K5MK/Ti7 had been QRV in 1992 and DK6AO/TI7 in 1994 for 8 hours from the Isla Capitan. Then a radio silence incurred for 14 years from NA-191, until May 2008 when T17/DK6AO was again on Capitan QRV. Unfortunately, this activation had to be interrupted after a few hours (see <http://www.dk6ao.de>). As Isla Capitan is not suitable for an activation of several days, the island group „Murcielago“ in the north west of Costa Rica was taken into consideration. This group includes several islands which are under the roof of a national park. Our island was „Isla San Jose“, which could be accessed with a permit. After a long period of preparation, authorizations by the nature preserve authorities, searching and chartering of two boats, and in addition the long way to an own call sign for the activation the project could be realized from 17 to 21 April 2009.

### **Technology**

Our team had made plans to be QRV with at least two station 24 hours. Actually, we could often be even with three stations at the same time in SSB, CW and RTTY QRV. We operated with various 100 Watt transceivers without power amplifier, as the licensing conditions did not allow that. Power supply was secured about three days 24 Hours by a 5 kVA Diesel generator. The antennas used were Windom and dipole antennas. In addition a phased array on 30 meters and a vertical antenna from 40 to 10 Meter (11UJX). Information into the online logbook was entered over an Inmarsat satellite connection per FTP directly from the island to a server in DL, which is surely a specialty of such an IOTA-expedition.

### **Operation**

At least one station QRV, most of the time two station were on air. On the third day our 5 kVA generator had a technical breakdown, so that only one station could be operated with a battery within the last hours. In particular at daytime with 38° C and only a few shady places it was really hard work for the whole crew. Especially at night we experienced

excellent conditions on 30 and 40 meters to Europe and Japan. For friends in Japan this had been a special „Treat“, because not a single operator NA-191 had worked before! Within four days of radio operation on the island we were able to enter 7.757 QSOs (of which approx. 65% in CW!) in the logbook.

### Thank you

Thank you to all participants, in particular to the sponsors, the nature preserve authorities and the many radio friends all around the world for this adventure on the Isla San Jose. A very particular thank you goes to our two captains which brought us safely home in difficult sea.



Foto: TI7KK Group with Island-Ranger and Boot-Crew © DK6AO

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