

**Te Fenua Enata  
DX'p Marquesas  
island**



**DXCC FO/M by F6KJS  
IOTA OC027**

**Novembre 2023 - 55.000 QSO FEDXP**

### **Thanks.**

First of all, a big thank you to the 25 Foundations and Large Amateur Radio Clubs, the 13 Private Sponsors and our 150 individual donors who strongly supported us.

Thanks to the remote team for their unfailing support, Website, Club Log, help and monitoring of radio traffic, dissemination of information on networks, QSL Manager...

A thought to our families, XYL, who allowed 9 Operators to participate in TX7L.

Thank you also to all Radio Amateurs for your "Ham spirit" always present on the air and which largely dominated during the traffic.

Thank you for your emails of support and encouragement, it's good for morale...

Thank you to the elders of the DX'p for having passed on with kindness, experience and know-how, to the youngest who have become successful DX'p Operators in Pile Up.

### **The preparation**

A DX'p under the equator, in the center of the South Pacific, far from everything, very far from Europe, requires high-performance LP/SP switchable antennas which favor an ionospheric path with the lowest possible attenuation. The particularly steep aspect of the Marquesas, very dense equatorial vegetation, and the easterly trade wind which blows constantly and sometimes strongly, complicate the choice, manufacture and installation of antennas. A fairly comprehensive study was carried out upstream, leading to the construction of specific antennas and a commercial antenna. The team was made up of 60% experienced DX'p Operators and 40% "novices". This situation favors the transmission of knowledge and experience from the "elderly" to the "younger".

The team has 16 members: 9 Operators in the Marquesas and 7 in support.

See page <https://tx7l.com/lequipe-the-team/>

### **The trip.**

6 days of round trip travel are necessary between his home and HIVA OA.

On November 2, the team was in full force in Tahiti, leaving for the Marquesas the next day, arriving at their destination at 2 p.m. Tired from the trip, from a 12-hour time difference, but happy to have arrived in Te Fenua Enata, the Land of Men, the team is ready!



The

freight.

600Kg of equipment was needed for the 4 stations, the 12 antennas and the 700m of cables. Arriving with us by plane, the materials were packaged in 27 hold suitcases. For the return, we had a crate made to hold 60% of our equipment which returned by sea freight. The other 40% flew back with us.

### **The installation.**

2 cumulative days of work were necessary to install 4 stations and 12 antennas. The 60 to 10m bands were activated on the evening of November 4, on November 5 the 80m was ready, on November 7 the 6m started and on November 8 it was the turn of the 160m. It was a lot of work to weed, clear brush and install our antennas on 2 hectares of land with a 45 meter drop. In the Marquesas, certain lianas grow 2m per month...

### **Radio traffic.**

**Results:** 55,000 QSOs were made including 44% in CW, 24% in SSB, 31% in Data and 1% in FM on Ten with USA. Very nice « pile up » with our Japanese friends.

Traffic is immediately in full swing with a high solar index allowing SP and LP traffic on all bands from 40 to 10m. Subsequently, the solar index will be lower and several solar flares significantly disrupted traffic for 72 hours.

### **The Operators noted certain remarkable points of radio traffic with Europe, with the EAST coast of North America, and Japan :**

- The wealth of “piles up” which are always full as soon as the spread is there.
- Deep and fast QSB (2 to 3 seconds) which will dominate the 12 and 10m.
- QSB flickering for 30% of the time on the 15 to 30m bands.
- Rapid reversals of the propagation paths with Europe which go from SP to LP or from LP to SP in 3 minutes on the 20 to 10m bands.
- Signal strength that remains weak S5 or less for 80% of the opening time.
- The spread on the high bands which cuts in 2 minutes.
- Low 80m openings with only a thousand QSOs mainly in FT8

### **Some other notable points.**

The quite remarkable traffic discipline of our Japanese friends which allows us to make a lot of QSO. No hardware failure, excellent operation of our Intranet network.

The success of our website with more than 106,500 visits should be highlighted.

The “open house” day organized with the 2 Hiva Oa colleges was a success. 2 groups of students and their teachers spent several hours among the Operators delighted to talk about their passion and show radio traffic. Dozens of questions were asked by the young people who began very interesting dialogues with the team.

One of their teachers, also a journalist, Teama, produced a report which was broadcast on the evening news of the TV Polynésie Première channel.

Note the kindness and goodwill of the Marquesans, the remarkable welcome of Tania our hostess, of Pierrick her son who helped us whenever possible and of Victorine, Tania's mother, a retired nurse who cared for Jacques BREL.. .

### **Weaknesses of the Expedition:**

No traffic on 160m, there was great silence on this band (3 QSOs), the 80m with rare openings allowed only low traffic (1000 QSOs). Difficult traffic over 60m only in Data.

The 3 big solar flares which caused us to lose 3 days of traffic.

### **History:**

Discovered and invested by the Maori between less than 150 years and more than 100 years AD, Te Fenua Enata received its first Western visit in 1595 by the Spanish. The archipelago remained isolated from Westerners for more than 150 years. After the passage of James COOK in 1774, they were under English domination until 1842. On this date, Admiral Dupetit-Thouars signed a protectorate with a Marquesan leader, the foundation of the French Marquesas.

The Spanish took advantage of their first visit to the archipelago to change the name of Te Fenua Enata to Marquesas. At that time more than 100,000 Maori populated the Archipelago, they paid a

heavy price because of the destruction of their civilization and the diseases brought by Westerners. In 1920, only 2000 Marquesans remained, their disappearance was announced. Against all odds, these people rose again, there are today more than 11,000 on the archipelago.

More information See <https://tx7l.com/la-polynesie-francaise/>

### **Geography:**

Located in the Equatorial South Pacific, these islands benefit from a temperate oceanic climate with nighttime temperatures between 21 and 25° and daily temperatures between 27 and 31°. Permanently lulled by the EAST trade winds which bring freshness and pure air, they are very green thanks to frequent precipitation, especially at night.

### **Sociology:**

A very welcoming people to this day, their kindness is undoubtedly one of their primary qualities. They live with both Western modernism and their traditional culture which transcends generations, making the Marquesas islands of great dynamism. Mutual aid is second nature in the Marquesas, our group was able to fully appreciate this reality. The attachment to France of the Marquesans is unequivocal.

### **Conclusion :**

An extraordinary adventure, the team is already ready for a new meeting in another DXCC in the South Pacific at the beginning of 2025. The team will favor low-band traffic without neglecting the high bands and 6m.

The whole team joins me in sending you our 73 QROs and see you soon for other adventures.

Didier F6BCW

**More information at:** <https://tx7l.com/>

**An overview of luggage Tahiti**



**Flyover of Hiva Oa**



**1 year of work was necessary to prepare this adventure with 600kg of equipment.**

**Arrival of the team in Hiva Oa**

**Two 4x4 pick ups for luggage**





The Quad was complicated to install because of the vegetation



But what efficiency in DX with its SP-LP switching system



**Didier F6BCW Team Leader**



**Traffic Operators**



**Open day with students from the island's 2 colleges**

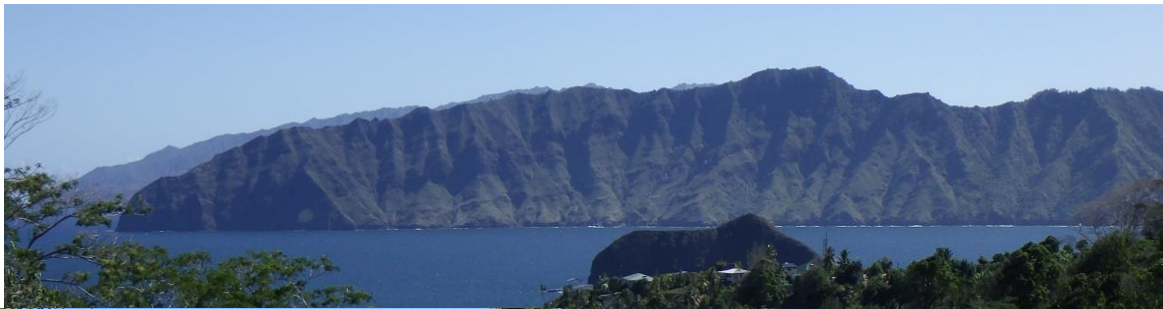


**Two**



**magnificent views from the KANAHAU guesthouse**

**The  
West  
Oa**



**North  
of Hiva**

**North  
Hiva**

**The  
East of  
Oa**



# Te Fenua Enata, History in pictures

## The Great Journeys of the Mao'ri



## The smiling Tiki



## Marquesan Chef exterior wall painting

