

HKØTU



MALPEÑO I., Colombia



HKØTU MALPEÑO '90

Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados

Confirming QSO:

STATION	DATE	UTC	MHZ	RST	2 WAY		
YT4D	7 NOV 1990	18:38	21	599	SSB	✓ CW	RTTY
	NOV 1990	—————	—————	—————	SSB	CW	RTTY

Operators: HK1HHX HK1KXA HK1LDG HK3AHM HK3HED
 HK3CC HK3DDD HK3DPY HK4BHA HK4DUM
 HK4HHG HK5LEX HK6BDX HK6HFY HK6KKK

QSL Mgr: HK3DDD - Beto Rojas.

73, *Beto*



The island of Malpeño was discovered in 1520 by Captain Bartolomé Ruiz the navigator for commander Francisco Pizarro, on his way to the territories of the Incas, in what subsequently became Peru. This Colombian island is a barren volcanic rock situated 3° 50' 30" north and 81° 30' 20" West. 528 elevators to the east of Combarbalá, Colombia. It covers 80 acres and has a perimeter completely made up of cliffs that vary in height from 12 to 100 meters above sea level. The cliffs are irregularly shaped by large waves, with the sea creating an abundance of waves, all of which means landing both difficult and dangerous. The rock is 80 meters to 375 meters above the sea, and has a range of animal and bird life some of which are very rare like the Malboro Owl (*Bubo* sp.), Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*), Andean Agouti (*Dasyprocta*), and the Black Catbird (*Liopis* sp.). The waters around the island are very rich in different species of fish rarely seen together owing to the fact that the cold Humboldt current in this region mixes here with temperate tropical waters.

"MALPEÑO '90 Expedition" was organized by the Colombian League of Radio Amateurs (LCRA) under the direction of HQ2BQZ. It was planned with great care, sufficiently ahead of time, taking into account the needs and difficult principles of the whole amateur community. Because of the perils of the operation, and in view of the accidents that occurred during the 1989 and 1993 Expeditions causing real loss to HQ2BQZ and HQ2BQZ, the selection of personnel for this trip was very rigorous. In the group there were 15 Hans and a TV team of two. Each individual had additional responsibilities covering supplies, electricity, health and mechanics as well as cooking.

Signals to the sea were severely affected by the reflective base of the island on the previous expeditions, therefore it was decided to climb the rock face and attempt the installation of an HF station at the 200 meter level. Six people failed injury for a full day climbing the cutting rocks with the equipment required. The field work was rewarded by many contacts with Japan, West Coast U.S., and the Pacific. The other four HF and one Satellite stations were situated 150 meters above sea level.

The rigs were two IC-795 for HF, IC-2701 and IC-4701 for Satellite operation, two 1 Kva Inverters, dual-band antennas from Comtek and Neptun, antennas for 40, 80 and 160 meters, four 2.5 Kw Solar generators, in 5 days of operation, approximately 40,000 contacts were made on SSB, CW and RTTY with 154 different countries across.

Special thanks must go to the Government of Colombia, the Colombian Navy, the Members of the LCRA, Café de Colombia, LAC Airlines, Proximavia, Sase, Industial de Gaseosas, Prodimar, NABSA, Gloria, Salsitas, Paga TV, the Colombian Red Cross and many other persons and businesses that in one form or other helped us achieve the successful outcome of the expedition and especially to JA1KZ, JA1AJT, JA1BK, JA1ALC, JA1BFL, JA1PZ, JHCTA, K2NUW, K2LW, K1TSH, N4TVE, TG8VT, W4MO, W4W4Q and to:

