

High Seas Adventure — Ham Style

— part IV

W6YO's odyssey ends, as the *Yankee Trader* finally returns home.

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Jules Wenglar W6YO set sail aboard the *Yankee Trader* from Freeport, the Bahamas, on February 15, 1977, for a ten-month around-the-world cruise. His westerly circumnavigation of the globe, his search for adventure in strange and exotic ports of call, and his operation of amateur radio, both at sea and on land, were partly covered in the last three issues of 73. Now, here in part IV you will venture with him during the final

seven weeks of the most enjoyable and exciting trip anyone could ever experience.

In the tape recording Jules made after leaving Cape Town, South Africa, he said: "The seas are picking up here. We're kind of rolling a little. Let's see . . . the weather is overcast with the wind blowing whitecaps. The swells are five to ten feet high. They are good size, but we haven't had any rough weather yet. Can't do much about it. It's 1700 miles to St. Helena, around seven to ten days, one of our longer crossings . . ."

Jules was looking for-

ward to meeting the ZD7 hams when he arrived. He hoped to obtain permission to operate amateur radio from the island.

The bands were very good at sea, and he made many contacts. He talked to Mac ZS1LK, whom he had met back in Cape Town, and Gordon ZS2MI, on Marion Island. Another QSO was with Bill ZD7SD and Sybil ZD7SS on St. Helena. He requested information about obtaining a license, and everything seemed favorable.

The *Trader* arrived at Jamestown, St. Helena, at 6:00 am, Saturday, October 29, and Bill ZD7SD, who

was born on the island, came aboard to meet Jules. Later, they went ashore and headed downtown to a government office. Jules filled out some papers, and the governor's secretary asked him what call he would like to have. ZD7YO, of course. It took about a half hour, and the call was issued. The actual license was picked up later after having been signed by the governor of the island.

Jamestown is a very quaint and old rustic city with all the charm one would expect. Bill's home was located about 800 feet up the side of a mountain. "What a view," said Jules.

"You look out right over the ocean, back about a half mile, but at a fairly steep angle."

They hooked up Jules's equipment (along with Bill's rig) and set everything up for split frequency operation. The bands were checked but nothing was coming in, so they went for a sightseeing ride in the country. Jules said, "It was very beautiful—all lush and green here on the southern half of the island."

They later went back to the *Trader* and, for Bill, Jules got the fiberglass poles and spiders for the quad antenna I mentioned in part I which never got installed. They returned to Bill's home and got on the air. The first contact was with Rudy W3CXX at 1903 UT (7:00 pm local time). The fifth contact was with John W6UZ, back in good old Delano, Jules's hometown.

One of the contacts made was with Archie K4IBO, Miami, where Jules had stayed a couple of weeks before this world trip began. "It was really something," Jules commented, "to work Archie. First time since somewhere in the South Pacific. It was really a surprise."

Jules worked many friends, both on 15 and 20 meters. Most of the contacts were on SSB during the CQ DX contest—mostly split frequency, but some transceiver operation. At times, the bands didn't open up very well and no contacts were made. He did make close to 300 contacts as ZD7YO, with the final contact at 1613 UT the following day: a PY1. It was another successful ham operation from a country where he had less than 36 hours to visit.

One of the places he visited was what they call "Jacob's Ladder." He climbed to the top of this 699-step stairway that goes

straight up from Jamestown on the side of a hill. It's really steep and was built years ago. The ladder is very famous, with cement steps about 10" high and a cast iron plate for railings and sides. "It's all bolted down to the solid rock hillside," Jules said, "at about a 45-degree angle."

Jules said it was quite a climb, but he and another *Trader* passenger went all the way to the top after a few rest stops. He said that the local boys slide down the rail. It was really a sight to see.

Bill took Jules to Napoleon's exile home. They went through the garden and the five or six room home and saw the room where Napoleon had died. A French flag flew inside the compound there on a British island. Jules said that this could be classified as a new country under the circumstances. The five-acre historical sight belongs to France ex-

clusively, as a tribute to Napoleon.

Jules finally had to leave St. Helena, and Bill and Sybil bid him farewell at the dock as the air horns aboard the *Trader* sounded. Jules said, "It was another memorable stop. One of the rare islands of the world."

The day after leaving St. Helena, it was Halloween. Many of the passengers aboard the *Trader* dressed up in all sorts of attire. One young lady was dressed up as a "gas pump." She had a large paper bag with numbers painted on it slipped over her head, and carried a black hose around to simulate the hose and nozzle of the pump. Many unusual costumes were worn to celebrate Halloween.

The bands were pretty good about four days out to sea. Jules worked Dixie KG6JIO and Dave KØWIQ/DU2 (Clark AFB, the Philippines), and Father Denny P29CC even arranged for

them to work ZD7SD for a new country. He had some tremendous signals coming in, with some good openings.

Remember the around-the-world yacht race I mentioned in part III? Well, Jules wrote another short piece about it for issue #10 of the *Trader Tales* newsletter.

"The Yankee *Trader* could have been taken as the 'mother ship' of the world's most elite blue-water racing yachts competing in the Whitbread Round-the-World while all were resting in Cape Town.

"The racers are sailing in an easterly circumnavigation, while we are cruising westerly. Our paths will 'cross' in the Atlantic, off the eastern tip of Brazil.

"The *Traderites* met the crew members of the sleek yachts while bending elbows at one of the finest yacht clubs in the world. This famous world yacht race started at Portsmouth, England, August 27, and

Photos by Jules Wenglare W6YO



Left to right: Bill ZD7SD and Sybil ZD7SS on St. Helena Island, with Jules W6YO. Jules operated here as ZD7YO for a short but successful DXpedition.