

Burlington, KY  
Sunday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1958

Dear OM:

I have just completed negotiations for the boat to be used on the Socorro Island expedition and I thought you'd like to hear the news immediately. This hasty letter will go only to those of us who are, or have seriously considered, joining the expedition.

Price dickering and final negotiations for the boat were concluded this evening via telephone and 14Mc and 21Mc radio with Jack Richardson, KN6YNI, in San Diego. Briefly, we offered \$1000, he offered \$1500 and we settled for \$1200. An additional \$100 accepted, will buy our food, making the total \$1300. He already has my check for \$700, the \$600 balance to be paid on boarding the boat in Mazatlan. This is a package deal. He will furnish everything of importance except the radio equipment, although he will have a Ranger and Hallicrafters receiver along for spares in the case we need them. The price, I believe, is very reasonable, and should bring down our cost of the whole ball of wax to \$200 or maybe less per man. I believe we have cause for celebration.

The Guadalupe Island, Mexico, trip he was planning to make with W6VSS and others had been cancelled (they probably found out, like I did at Fresno, that ARRL would not accredit it as a separate country) Thus Jack will be concerned during the next few weeks with preparations for our trip, rather than out of touch on another trip, and may be readily contacted for final details. He plans to leave for Mazatlan March 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> -- so he will be there in plenty of time.

Two tents with floors, will be furnished for our stations, plus tarps to protect the AC generators. Chairs will be only folding stools, so I suggest we take along two or four folding chairs with backs for the operating positions. After an hour of rat-racing the backs are mighty comforting.

Meals will be adequate and substantial, he informs us, although we mustn't expect French cuisine. Meat, potatoes, fresh and canned vegetables, fresh bread, biscuits, pies--yes, Jake, even canned baked beans and weiners--will make up the menu. Jack will do all of the cooking. The boat is well equipped with cooking and serving equipment (dishes, cutlery, etc.) Fresh fish will be served too, when the crew feels like fishing--which should be great. We must bring our own tackle, tho. A collapsible rod with extra heavy line will do, he says.

The medical situation is far better than I expected. He will have a full stock of medical supplies on board--including the myacins, sulpham and antibiotics--and he's well versed in the use of them. His association with a pharmaceutical company in California accounts for this. He says he'll be prepared and able for any medical crisis that may occur.

He will supply spades and machetes for dealing with the land crab invasion, if such occurs. He will furnish 100 gallons of gas for the AC generators, beyond that need for the boat engine, and containers for more to be obtained in Mazatlan if we think it necessary. Altho his 1 Kw generator is not spark shielded, he will endeavor to suppress it somewhat in the next few weeks. Continued

We must furnish our own sleeping bags, if we wish them. The boat sleeps six comfortably, but those prone to seasickness may find sleeping on deck desirable. (That's for me! I'll bring my own bag—sleeping bag, that is— and I hope two or three others do likewise.)

Jack believes there will be plenty of fresh water, altho it may be used only for drinking and cooking. He will show us how to utilize salt water for other purposes, such as washing and bathing. We might find fresh water on the island since its area is better than 200 square miles and has 4000 foot mountains.

He says we may expect rain on Socorro at that time of the year, but no storms. The rain should be light and comfortable, but we should bring along excellent raincoats. The tents will be adequate protection for the stations.

To enter Mexico for this period of time we must carry birth certificates and small pox inoculation proof. Jack is 34 years old, married, one son. He's had considerable sailing and navigation experience with his own boat, in the U.S.Navy, and U.S. Air Force. The boat is equipped with a first class compass, sextant and radio direction finder. He impressed me with his confidence that he can get us there and back without accident or difficulty.

Those are the details—to date. More later, as they occur. The first of a series of articles on the expedition will be in the Bulletin Tuesday, announcing two or three berths open for outsiders who wish to join us. I have a hunch we'll have no great trouble collecting a full crew. Notice that we are probably going to XE4 will be in the March CQ, which will be circulated within two weeks.

I suggest we start beating the drums immediately and publicize the expedition as much as possible, emphasizing that XE4 is a separate country from Mexico. In view of my present sensitivity of the subject, Jake, I wish you would act as treasurer of the expedition. After considerable thought on the subject I believe it would be best and by far the simplest if all expenses were shared equally from a common pool. The outsiders would thus benefit from our Cayman fund, but we would benefit from their efforts in the event of another expedition next year. If agreeable with you, Jake, I'd suggest all crew members each deposit immediately about \$100 with you, to be used as necessary for expenses before and during the trip. We may have to buy some minor items if we can't get them donated.

Also, all hands intending to make the trip should give much thought to minor items vital to the operation (1000 feet RG58 or RG59, 2000 feet light copperweld, 2 keying monitors, ant relays, etc.) and suggest what they can furnish. Please let me know your thoughts and suggestions.