

## Contesting to the limits

**D4C Contest Station, Cape Verde – Africa**



### **D4C** Monteverde Contest Team

.... a group of Ham-radio friends that loves to compete in contest.

After many attempts in many different places, in 2001 we finally found our new way to live and feel contest competition by approaching to Cape Verde.

D44TC and D44TD stations belong to the past and they are still very present in our good memories.

In **2006** we decided to get into a new, hard and ambitious, project, started from the scratch of the previously existing D4B station build by 4L5A Alex.

D4C is used to identify a team specifically born for contesting: The “Monteverde Contest Team” which started the activity in **November 2007** in the CQWW DX CW as M/2.

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## MEMBERS

The core team is composed at the moment by 6 members (in alphabetical order):  
 HB9DUR Andrea - I4UFH Fabio - I4YSS Vic - IK2NCJ Luca - IZ4DPV Max - YL2KL Girts

## THE LOCATION

The station is located on the Island of Sao Vicente, one of the ten islands that make up the archipelago of Cape Verde with 500'000 inhabitants in total.

Monteverde is the name of the mountain where the station has been established and means Green Mountain. It is 710m high, without any city building and this give the chance of exploiting a very quiet place with very low “take-off” angles on any direction.

Like all the medals even here there is a flip side, not very pleasant, due to very high daily wind (speed around 35Mph) and high humidity that very often change in terrible fog.

All this make a very harsh and stressful environment for both humans and hardware.

## THE STATION

The **shack is 120 m<sup>2</sup>** inside a property of about **8'000 m<sup>2</sup>** in which there is a house with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and a large open space where all 6 bands positions can take space together with the kitchen.

Outside 8 towers from 45 to 120 feet high are covering the entire area, which also includes a small garage that protects a 60kVA power generator.

Because everything was erected from scratch from D4B activity, we had the possibility to design a specific hardware according to the location.

First thing we wanted to eliminate all **rotators**. It is easy to imagine how long they can resist in such an environment.

To control all the hardware we don't use any commercial device. All the automatic switching system has been designed and realized by ourselves. This includes a **6x4 antenna switch** (6 bands antennas shared automatically in 4 positions), band-decoders and antenna switches.

Underground we put about **500 m of ½” coaxial cable** and about **100 m of 7/8” coax** plus several thousands of feet of electrical cables for services.

About **6 tons** of materials have been shipped from Europe from 2007 till now to allow us to turn into reality what was first designed on paper.

## THE ANTENNA PARK (all antennas are in fixed directions)

	BANDS	ANTENNA	BEAMING
<b>Tower 1</b>	28 Mhz	4 X 5 el	NA, EU, SA, AF
<b>Tower 2</b>	21 MHz	4 el - 4 el	NA - SA
<b>Tower 3</b>	21 MHz / 50 MHz	4 el - 4 el / 5 el - 5 el	EU - AF / NA - EU
<b>Tower 4</b>	14 MHz / 50 MHz	4 el - 4 el / 5 el	NA - SA / SA
<b>Tower 5</b>	14 MHz	4 el - 4 el	EU - AF
<b>Tower 6</b>	7 MHz - 3.5 MHz	3 el Wire Yagi + DIPOLE	NA
<b>Tower 7</b>	7 MHz - 3.5 MHz	3 el Wire Yagi + DIPOLE	EU
<b>Tower 8</b>	1.8 MHz	¼ lambda Vertical with 100 radials	Omnidirectional

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## THE ACTIVITY

D4C has been active in all modes from 160 to 2 meters collecting 300'000 qso's till the end on 2015.

There are 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm CW **beacons** running 24/7. The one on 6 meters is often spotted as the only signal on band. Due to our position this often happens also on the 10m-band during contests.

We are generally active in Multi OP category, from M/S to M/2 . In 2012 we started to join M/M category and this has been replied on 2013 both SSB and CW.

Since October 2015 the station owns the **D4Z callsign** as well.

D4C Number of QSO per Band					D4Z Number of QSO per Band				
Band	CW	SSB	Dig.	TOTAL	Band	CW	SSB	Dig.	TOTAL
160m	4'361	3'119	0	7'480	160m	67	0	0	67
80m	12'833	8'352	586	21'771	80m	159	150	0	309
40m	28'598	18'610	1'703	48'911	40m	182	174	0	356
30m	713	0	36	749	30m	13	0	0	13
20m	35'945	37'783	6'985	80'713	20m	336	1'917	0	2'253
17m	313	0	0	313	17m	0	0	0	0
15m	39'866	35'332	2'655	77'853	15m	543	1'001	0	1'544
12m	168	80	0	248	12m	1	0	0	1
10m	26'629	43'016	184	69'829	10m	383	6'845	47	7'275
6m	563	1'340	1	1'904	6m	0	0	0	0
<6m	1	1	0	2	<6m	0	0	0	0
<b>TOT</b>	<b>149'990</b>	<b>147'633</b>	<b>12'150</b>	<b>309'773</b>	<b>TOT</b>	<b>1'684</b>	<b>10'087</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11'818</b>

## QSL

We confirm qso via LoTW, E-QSL, via Bureau and via direct with a personalized stamp



## OUR CONTACTS

Website [www.d4c.cc](http://www.d4c.cc)  
 E-mail [info@d4c.cc](mailto:info@d4c.cc)  
 Facebook [www.facebook.com/D4C.STATION](http://www.facebook.com/D4C.STATION)  
 Twitter [twitter.com/D4C\\_team](https://twitter.com/D4C_team)  
 Online Store [www.shop.d4c.cc](http://www.shop.d4c.cc)  
 Snail Mail Monteverde Contest Club, 6963 PREGASSONA, SWITZERLAND

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**D4C** – Monteverde Contest Team - “You call, We answer”  
6963 Pregassona, Switzerland



 Monteverde Contest Team  
Cape Verde São Vincente

You call, We answer.

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