

Jambo Kenya

It all started when the XYL began making enquiries about going on a safari to Kenya. That was more than two years ago. We had several friends who had been already and one or two who had lived in Kenya for a number of years. The advice was often conflicting but always welcome. She had soon collected a thick file of notes, maps and brochures. The OM was hesitant. "Tents are for Boy Scouts — I'm nearly sixty". Ideally the party should be eight but four minimum.

encounter?!

After a year of false starts we had pretty well shelved the idea. Then, we were dining in London with some good friends and the idea came up in conversation. Maurice, a recently retired senior banking official who had lived for many years in Kenya, and his wife Sue immediately latched onto the Safari idea and were very enthusiastic. This was going to simplify matters! Maurice was appointed 'Ober-Fuhrer' and left to organise the programme.

What was I going to do when everyone was getting excited about having seen a dik-dik for the first time? I got it! Work some DX from an exotic QTH.

I started my preparations for the expedition by putting a classified ad. in the June '81 Radcom requesting information about the radio scene in Kenya. 'G3AAG planning photographic safari in Kenya...' The response was encouraging and immediate and I wish to thank all those who replied in the true ham spirit. This was getting exciting. There were only about fifty licenced hams in Kenya and I was told that probably only half of them were active. I soon received lots of advice, much of it from hams who had already operated from Kenya and knew the form. A call to the RSGB confirmed that there were reciprocal licencing arrangements with Kenya and a letter from the Kenyan High Commission in London put me in touch with the Radio Society of Kenya. Bill Smith, G3HHZ, had written a most informative letter putting me in touch with several ex-5Z4s. He finished the letter with the advice 'Do not order prawn curry in Nairobi, you will be poisoned'. We didn't.

A letter from the Managing Director of the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications (Mr SM Challos) requested a copy of my passport and current amateur licence. On the 18th September, Mr Challos wrote to say that my application had been approved, subject to providing the names of two Kenya residents as referees and paying a fee of 195/50 shillings (about £10 UK). Time was however running out. The only thing to do was to take the paperwork with me and visit the post office in Nairobi on arrival.

Equipment

Everything had to fit into one relatively small suitcase and I was

Vic Copley-May, G3AAG, tells how he went on Safari in Kenya — and found himself hunted by the DX!

Who could we find amongst our friends who would want to go on a Safari and whom we knew well enough to be sure that we were still good friends when it was over — whatever the problems we might

We committed ourselves to go in October 1981, just before the 'short rains' which normally start in November and out of the usual tourist season.

I'm not all that mad about animals.

5Z4AC plus essential supplies on the beach at Malindi — antenna height 15' and first QSO Hawaii!

