



Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter

Spring 1984

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JY1 And The Shuttle Columbia

by Dave Bell, W6AQ

It all started with a call from Roy Neal, K6DUE. Would I be interested in going back to Jordan and video taping his majesty, King Hussein Ibn Talal, JY1, in conversation with Owen Garriot, W5LFL, as Garriot overflew Jordan in the space shuttle Columbia? Would I? You bet.

When was this going to happen? Sometime in October, 1983. As it turned out, I was to be in Yugoslavia overseeing the filming of NADIA and the timing of the space shuttle came in the middle of the shoot. Not a problem. I was planning on coming home for a few days in the midst of the shoot just to make sure that my other film and television projects were perking along okay, so I would merely make a detour to Amman on my way back to Los Angeles.

Well, because of a faulty valve or some other "dime store" device, the Columbia schedule got pushed back a month. Fortunately, the fly-by now coincided (more or less) with the completion of filming of NADIA.

So, on November 26th we had our "Wrap Party" for NADIA, a gala affair at the conclusion of a very successful shoot, and after a couple of days recuperating around Zagreb, both from the wrap party and from the shoot, I headed to Amman. Incidentally, you get to Amman from Zagreb by going to Frankfurt. On my way from Frankfurt to Amman the pilot comes on and announces the cities on our route. What is the first city? You guessed it: Zagreb. The closest distance between two points in Eastern Europe is a straight line as it is elsewhere. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to go both directions in order to get down the line.

I arrived in Amman on the evening of Monday, November 28th and, after I was "found" by the palace security person, I was popped into a car and driven to the Amman Marriott, a splendid hotel indeed.

I had hardly walked into the room when the phone rang and I heard from my old friend Mohamed Balbisi, JY4MB.

The next three days were spent remaking old acquaintances, and spending as much time on the air as possible - 90% of the time on CW. (I had taken my own key, keyer and headphones, incidently, since the first time I went to Amman a casual search of various shacks failed to turn up any device that might be used for Morse code.)

I made about five hundred contacts in the relatively few hours I had to operate. Getting through the Russian QRM to the United States was extremely difficult at times. It may be my imagination, but it seems that there are about four

times as many Russian stations on the air now as there were the last time I was in Amman, in 1978.

The contact between JY1 and W5LFL was set for Sunday morning at 8:00 AM, local time, in Amman. On Saturday, my friend and chief engineer of my company's video operations, Duane Dahlberg, WB6WMA, and I got all of the video equipment to the royal hamshack, and I lighted it up. His majesty's communications advisor, Major Ali Shukri, JY3AK, and Bruce (Blackie) Blackburn, JY9BB (W4TA) made sure that the backup two meter gear was functioning.

It seemed to me that everybody except me and probably His Majesty was worried about the contact. Other than Owen getting a last minute job on board the Columbia which would preclude his getting on the air, I could think of nothing that could possibly prevent a successful contact.

The rest is, as they say, history. We rolled the tape about five minutes before we expected Garriot to give His Majesty a call and in about ten minutes, on came Garriot's voice calling JY1. For reasons known only to him, Owen waited until he was over Aqaba to call His Majesty - about five minutes later than the time we expected.



King Hussein, JY1, receiving Honorary NCDXF membership certificate Dave Bell, W6AQ. This the shack at JY1. JY9BB (W4TA) in background. (W6AQ photo)

Consequently, the QSO was only about half as long as anticipated and it didn't end with a "seventy three" but with Owen going over the horizon. In many ways, going over the horizon was a more appropriate and interesting ending anyway. Blackie called Pete Odell, the public relations director for the American Radio Relay League, who was then in Houston and played an audio cassette of the

conversation over the telephone. It was that recording that many of you heard on commercial radio that Sunday.

The most hair-raising part of the entire trip was getting to the airport with a copy of the video tape. ALIA, the royal Jordanian airline, has one flight a day to New York which is scheduled to leave at 11:00 AM. Since Amman is a high desert climate, weather around the airport is almost always perfect for flying and as a consequence the New York flight generally leaves on the dot. On December 4th, the plane left an hour and fifteen minutes late because there was some person "from the palace" who had to get to New York with a video tape. Fortunately, I jog every morning so running through the airport was easier for me than it was for most of the airport security people. The most difficult part of the journey was facing three hundred and fifty passengers who had been sitting in an airplane waiting for "someone from the palace to show up". I tried to pretend that I was not the reason the plane was late, a difficult thing to do since the door closed behind me and we started to move before I'd even gotten to my seat.

While my experiences with the kind of influence necessary to hold a 747 on the ground have been relatively few, I have an appreciation of power and a special appreciation for the people who have that power and don't allow it to corrupt them.

NCDXF Director Dave Bell, W6AQ, is the Executive Producer of the 2 hour film, NADIA, to be shown in the USA over national syndicated television sometime before the July Olympics. After the Olympics it will probably be seen on national Cable TV. It is the story of Nadia Comaneci, the Rumanian Olympic gymnastic champion. Dave was recently elected "DXer of the Year" by the Southern California DX Club and "Ham of the Year" by the Dayton Hamvention.

Memberships Donated

We thank the following members who contributed an NCDXF membership for a friend. K9AJ for 4S7WP, W5OSH for JR2NZH, W5OSJ for WB7WBO, OH2BH for CT3AR, W8GZX for DJ6SI, W5JWG for VU2GI, W6RDL for F9RG, K8GG for OE6MBG and OK1AWZ, K4PR for WA4GKT, ZL1AMO for NA7X, W6EUF for SM0DRB, I3AAV for I3DGF, K6CN for KJ6Z, K8CFU for G3SZA, N9CPW for Y11BGD, and PY1TG for PY1EBK. AJ0X for TG9VT, K2ON for 4S7EA, H44SH for KX6OR, DJ7CY for DL7MAE, KH6WU for KH6ACD, AK3F for TU2NW, W2QJI for W2QST, DK2XX for DK2XZ and DF8ZM and DL1FBO, WA2HZR for ZS6ME, W6TD for 9J280, WA6TKT for K6SMH, ZL1AMO for ZL2AUS, K4PR for WA4GKT, K8CFU for G3SZA, N9CPW for Y11BGD, W6RDL for F9RG, W8GZX for DJ6SI, W6TWO for VK1DH, AK6P for KB6FM, WA7JWC for WA7JQH, N7DHA for N7DGH, W2LDG for VU2RX, K2TK for WA2VJD, W2HN for W9AG, W2GA for James B. O'Keefe, W5AE for W5LMG, N4LS for W8CKX, OH5PT for OH5NZ, DL1HBT for DK0CB, Reiner Peterson DL-SWL for OZ1GLN, HB9CSA for LZ2RS, EA3BKZ for EA0JC, W9QB for KC9HW, WD9HX for KM9Y, W0VIP for KCOMM, WA0TKJ for Kansas DX Association, W0RJU for 9N1MM and to the champ W0YBV for 5 memberships - W0ANZ, K0PCG, K0LCI, AK0P, KN00. THANK YOU to all donors and congratulations to the new members. If we did not record your membership donation for a friend, our apologies. Let us know who we left out and we will record it next issue. Tnx.

We also wish to acknowledge a very substantial cash donation by James R. Parker, W4EKB. We are grateful for his contribution.

Membership and Fund Raising Drive

The Foundation derives the funds to support DX activities from membership contributions and from investment return on capital endowment. With the decline in interest rates over the last year, investment income has declined while the endowment has remained relatively constant over the last five years. Meanwhile the number of requests for support received from DXpeditioners and for the support of special projects continues to increase. Therefore, the Trustees have decided to undertake a greatly expanded

fund-raising program to increase current income from membership contributions and to increase permanent endowment by soliciting capital gifts.

A membership goal has been set to double the membership over the two year period starting January 1, 1984. As of that date the Foundation had on its membership rolls 2598 members and we hope to have 5000 members by December 31, 1985.

Stepped up membership recruiting began at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California in April. There 82 new members joined and donations were received from 110 individuals for total receipts of \$2470. These results indicate what can be done with a little effort. We will be soliciting help from U.S. and Overseas DX Clubs in recruiting new members. Our most effective recruiting channel continues to be *you*, the present NCDXF members. If each of you would sign up one new member (or donate a membership for an overseas DX friend) the membership would automatically double. A membership application form is enclosed for your use. Please use your best efforts to help in our membership recruitment campaign.

We would also like to suggest that current, as well as new members, consider a yearly donation of \$25 (which is tax-deductible in the U.S.). While we recognize that some retired and overseas members may find it difficult to respond at this level, most members can afford such a yearly contribution in support of their hobby - it is a small percentage of the cost of radio gear at most DXers operating positions. We all get a lot out of our hobby; surely \$25/year to promote DXpeditions, QSL cards, and scientific projects of interest to hams is not very much to put back into the hobby.

Why do we need more income? With sufficient forecastable income, the Trustees can begin to plan for and commit funds to initiatives that will serve and benefit the DX community. For example, there appear to be possibilities for bringing on the air some of the 10 most wanted DXCC countries, provided that enough time and effort can be devoted to paving the way for the DXpedition well in advance of the date for actual operation. Donations of equipment, training, et al can also help pave the way for permission to stage a DX operation in a rare country. We have members who have entre' to some of these countries who can work on the problem, provided there is financial support for travel and expenses well in advance of any planned operation. Such activities take appreciable "front end" funding which we cannot now provide. Other international scientific projects have been proposed to the NCDXF, similar to the highly acclaimed 20 meter beacon network, which would serve the DX community and enhance the stature of amateur radio throughout the world. There are times when DXpeditions that we have committed to support run into trouble (boats late, sinking at inconvenient times, etc.) which raise planned expenses. With our yearly funds fully committed we cannot respond to requests to help with the unexpected expenses and the DXpeditioners have to dig even more deeply into their own pockets to defray the extra costs. We would like to be able to help out under these circumstances. There are enough worthwhile activities in which to invest funds in support of DX activities to justify a vigorous fund-raising campaign - won't you help!

For the Visalia membership drive, we obtained membership pin-on badges:



They were a big hit and as soon as we work out an economical way to get them to you, we want all members to have one to wear to club meetings and hamfests as an aid in recruiting. All new members and current members who contribute to renew their yearly membership will receive an NCDXF badge along with a membership certificate.

We are counting on your help in expanding the membership base and in receiving *your* membership renewal as well. Progress on reaching our goal will be tracked in each

succeeding Newsletter with the Membership Antenna Raising Project.

de Stan Kaisel, K6UD

World-Wide Sunrise-Sunset Tables

I recently received a marvelous little book from John Devoldere, ON4UN. This book contains the sunrise and sunset times for every DXCC country as well as over 100 U.S. cities. The times are shown for the first and the 15th of every month. John gives instructions at the beginning of the book to allow anyone to determine at what time a given path may peak and if there is a possibility of a long-path opening to a particular part of the world. I give this book credit for my working VU7WCY in the Laccidives earlier this year. I was able to determine when the path would most likely peak to my QTH. I actually worked VU7WCY within 5 minutes of the projected peak on 20 meters! Within 20 minutes the signal had faded into oblivion at my QTH. That made a believer out of me.

The package from ON4UN also includes a computer-printed table of sunrise and sunset times for your individual QTH (send your coordinates along with an order) and a table showing the distance and short path beam heading from your QTH to each of the locations included in the book. If you want to order one, send \$10.00 in cash or international money order (no checks) to John Devoldere, ON4UN, P.O. Box 41, B9000 Ghent, Belgium.

de Steve Thomas, N6ST

Overseas Operation

Have any questions about overseas operations? ARRL has available a short letter which answers some of the "most asked" questions. To get the letter, send a large SASE to Naoki Akiyama, JH1VRQ/N1CIX, International Programs Manager, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT, 06111.

New DX Challenges

With the sunspots - or lack of sunspots - beginning to dry up 10 meters, a lot of DXers are looking for alternative DX challenges. One of the activities getting increasing attention is working USSR Oblasts. Yes, it is difficult! But USSR operators run DXpeditions to the rare Oblasts. The Central Radio Club has an award for working 100 Oblasts.

For the benefit of Oblast Hunters, an interesting Newsletter is published in English by K1K1. Send \$1.00 for 3 issues to K1K1, Box 62, Unionville, CT 06085.

Other interesting alternative DX challenges which are gaining interest are working all Japanese "Prefectures" or German "DOKs" or Geoff Watts' "Islands on the Air". What is your favorite DX challenge after the usual DXCC, 5BDXCC, 5BWAZ, etc?

de Jack Troster, W6ISQ

DX Information Broadcast

Do you copy the Northern California DX Club's W6TI DX bulletin at 0200 UTC Monday (Sunday local USA time) on CW at 14.002 MHz? There have been numerous requests by operators in different time zones for the information in these W6TI bulletins. In the past some operators have copied, then rebroadcast the W6TI bulletin at a more convenient time for the benefit of DXers in other parts of the world.

HELPI If you copy and rebroadcast the W6TI bulletin (with W6RGG as operator), please let Bob know. Write: W6RGG, 18655 Sheffield Rd., Castro Valley, CA 94546. Tell him the

time and frequency of your rebroadcast. We can pass this information on to help others. Also, if you just copy W6TI for your own information (not for rebroadcast), please send W6RGG a QSL to let him know. He would like to know his coverage. Note that he sends the W6TI bulletin with his beam pointed due east. (His QTH is near San Francisco.)

W6RGG is QRV from 0130 to 0200 UTC on 14.002 MHz to receive DX information for use in the bulletin beginning at 0200 UTC. Also, he is QRV after the broadcast for information, comments, etc.

OTHER DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS - If you know of other DX information broadcasts anywhere in the world, please let NCDXF know the station, time, frequency, language, etc. We will print a list of such DX bulletin stations.

de W6ISQ

The Recent Situation Of Amateur Radio In Japan

de Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK
NCDXF Asian Representative

I shall give here a report on selective subjects concerning the situation of amateur radio in Japan.

The allocation of prefix in the territory of the Kanto Radio Regulatory Bureau (so called "1" area), Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Japan has been issued up to JQ1L. at the present moment. The one with J at the start of the call signs remains only JS1. At the present pace of allocation, JS1 would be consumed within 1985.

The allocation for Japan has 7J, 7N, 8J, 8N, JD, etc. beside the above. Apart from these there still are such as JH1, JR1 etc. which have two suffix letters. However, JARL would like to preserve prefix notations for specific occasions keeping them untouched for the time being. Under the present circumstance, we have come to the conclusion to apply to Ministry of P. and T. for reuse of call-signs after a specific period of expiration of the present call-signs with the prefix of JA1, and JH1 etc.

All radio stations inclusive of amateur stations in Japan are being controlled by computer at the hand of the Ministry of P. and T. They automatically sort out stations which have expired license period and allocate license to new stations (in Japan, amateur stations are required to apply for renewal of license every five years. This has now become possible by means of the computerized system.)

Satellite Launch

Turning the subject, there is a project of satellite launching for amateur radio in Japan. It is targeted for the spring of 1986 to launch a Japanese-made satellite which is to be designated as "JAS-1". For achievement of this ambitious project, we at JARL are working hard to raise the fund earmarked at ¥200 million. Up till the present time, we have collected a sum of ¥35 million, far behind the target.

Reciprocal Licensing

Finally we would like to inform you that Ministry of P. and T. which has jurisdiction over all radio operation in Japan, authorized JARL to provide guarantee amateur radio stations whose output do not exceed 100 W. This system is the first step to complete the reciprocal operating agreement and it has been in operation since this spring. The only matter of question remaining now is how to process it so that foreign people will soon be able to operate from Japan. While progress is slow, please rest assured that we are working positively toward operation of foreign operators in Japan.

Thoughts From The European Desk

by Martti Laine, OH2BH
NCDXF European Representative

DX is coming. DX is going. That was my thought while welcoming OH2JL/T5 from his successful mission to Somalia. His was a Red Cross assignment to set up a blood transfusion service in the country. While at the airport, I also had to say goodbye to John, OH2BAH, heading out to Uganda for a 4-week assignment. This time to establish a dairy complex in Kampala.

Both operations are good examples of traveling amateurs who can automatically bring on a rare country without extra cost. Both individuals were also in the unique position of being able to promote amateur radio among top-ranking authorities in the two countries. NCDXF was also there. We had the pleasure of assisting them in the form of loaning gear and making sure that their signals could be heard worldwide.

We Want More

NCDXF will never buy you a ticket to go out, but if you go, NCDXF could back you up. It can be toward meeting extra expenses incurred on the spot in relation to promoting amateur radio or just loaning you a piece of gear so you don't have to worry about buying your own. If you are a travelling DX type going to the rare countries, or if you know one, let's get together. We want more rare DX.

NCDXF Gear

Based on an NCDXF board decision, one complete DXpedition set is now allocated to Europe. That's a Yaesu FT757GX with a light power supply and a lightweight Hy-Gain TH2MK2 beam. We'll be happy to loan it to anyone going to visit a rare country. Obviously, we would like to have reasonable guarantees that the rig will be put on the air. Just write OH2BH or give him a call if the gear is needed to make it happen.

Permission

ARRL wants a copy of your operating permission if you go to someplace unusual. Certainly permission is required to make sure that the operation is authorized by the local government. So many times over the years, a DXpeditioner has departed a country or island, leaving the people there with mixed feelings. We don't want that. We want to promote amateur radio through DX for the benefit of amateur radio in the long run, not just to run a one-time DXpedition which is likely to cause problems for many years to come. We certainly understand that license forms are not on hand in darkest Africa but at least they have got a stamp and a pen to write on a piece of paper.

NCDXF In Europe

I just saw the latest printout of NCDXF membership in Europe. It does not represent a fair cross-section of European countries in any way. Some countries in particular hardly made the list at all. We need to do better - in Europe. We have launched a campaign for each European country to increase the membership total. Let's all spread the word that NCDXF is member supported. And it is international - worldwide. If each European member enlisted two new recruits, we would be better off. Will you do your share?

YASME Report

by Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and Iris Colvin, W6QL

We returned to U.S.A. in April 1984 after a half-year DXpedition to 13 countries of South America. We attended the joint meeting of the Northern and Southern California DX Clubs in Visalia and were on the DX program at the Dayton, Ohio, Hamvention.

As in past years, when we returned to home-base in Northern California, we started sorting and filing about 25,000 QSLs that have arrived while we were away, (answering of these QSLs having already been done by YASME headquarters). The three amateurs who do all of this presorting and answering, recently are Bob Vallio, W6RGG, (also Secretary of YASME), Mac McHenry, W6BSY, and Carolyn Brand, WA6AKK. Carolyn has done the actual writing and filling out of the QSLs for the answers to this huge bunch of QSLs.

Largest QSL Collection

Some of the statistics on our QSL collection are amazing. We have investigated and claim that our collection of QSLs, all arranged alphabetically, is the largest collection in the world. It now numbers close to 500,000 QSLs. They are all filed in metal file drawers. There are 352 drawers. Each drawer can hold a maximum of 2000 QSLs; probably an average of about 1,400 QSLs per drawer is a good guess as to the present QSLs filed. At this figure, the number of QSLs comes to 472,800. The average weight per drawer, full of QSLs, is 10 pounds. This gives a total weight of 3,250 pounds, which is close to 2 tons! If it takes a person 1-1/2 minutes per QSL to open a letter, sort the QSL card, check it off the log, answer it and file it, (a very conservative estimate) it would take 709,200 minutes, or 11,860 hours for the task. If one person, working 40 hours per week, did all of this work, it would take 295 weeks or nearly 4 years of solid, full-time work to make up this gigantic collection of QSL-cards. This, of course, allots no time to the job of making some 1,000,000 QSOs which we have now made.

What Next?

What do we plan for the future? More of the same - going from country to country, working DXCC from each stop, and returning, occasionally, to the U.S.A. to file more QSLs. Our travels have now taken us to 168 different countries (as the hams count countries). Our present goal is to visit every country in the world that has a representative in the United Nations Headquarters. We believe that this goal is attainable in our lifetime and are making plans to do just that.

We now have been in every such country in North and South America. We plan to 'finish-off' Africa on our next half-year overseas. We have already spent 2-1/2 years of our lives in Africa, but there are many small countries in Africa that we have not visited. We hope to travel to all such remaining countries between 1 October 1984 and 1 April 1985. We will operate from such countries that will let us and our equipment into the country and will give us permission to operate. The countries which we plan to put on the air are all located in South and Southeast Africa.

We ask that everyone work us once -but only once per band, mode and country. Please do not ask what our call is (we give it every minute), do not ask for special schedules or what time we will be on another band (we try to be on all the bands, phone and CW, everyday). The best address for QSLs is always:

The YASME Foundation

P.O. Box 2025

Castro Valley, CA 94546

This same address has been good for the past 16 years. We hope that everyone continues to work us for many more years.

Differences Between NCDX Foundation And NCDX Club

We receive many letters and inquiries which show that the writers confuse the Northern California DX FOUNDATION and the Northern California DX CLUB. And we can certainly understand their confusion! It is probably our fault! But, the

answer is: there is no connection between the Foundation and Club. Actually, they are two different things. The Club is a local club in Northern California. The Foundation is international and does not function like a club with regular meetings, etc.

The NCDX Club is a great DX Club. It claims to be the oldest DX Club in the world (send your arguments on that to the Club, NOT the Foundation!) It also sponsors one of the overseas DXers favorite certificates, the "California Award". And it is the NCDX Club which alternates with the Southern California DX Club to put on the International DX Convention in Fresno (or Visalia) California each year.

The NCDX Foundation helps DXpeditions, DX operators, manages the Beacon Net, writes this Newsletter, etc. etc. We made a mistake in choosing a name so similar to that of the NCDX Club! But we never dreamed 12 years ago that we would become as large as we are. But, as OH2BH said, the confusion is easy for anyone outside North America and whether it is a Club or Foundation doesn't matter much to anybody because "California is just way out there somewhere".

Name Change? Forget It?

Perhaps NCDXF should change its name to "The DX Foundation" or something like that, but keep the same logo which is well recognized. Would a name change help the Foundation project the image of a functioning, international organization and to shed the more provincial Northern California image, and also distinguish it from the NCDX Club?

Regardless of name, we would continue to do the same work we do now. Aye, what's in a name?

What do you think? Or Who cares? Or forget it? We are inclined to forget it and press on.

NCDXF Pins Available

OK folks, you win. We bow to popular demand and announce that we now have available an NCDXF logo pin. Our problem had been that we did not have any victim - sorry - great fellow, who would take charge of the handling, mailing, bookkeeping, etc. But we should have known better! It was old Director Merle, K6DC, who jumped to his feet and declared, "I'll do it for the good of the cause."

So, if you want to buy a lapel logo pin, write to NCDXF, Attention K6DC, P.O. Box 2368, Stanford, CA 94305, USA. Be the first on your block, or in your country, to wear one of Merle's beautiful pins. Oh yes, the cost is \$5.00 US.

Olympic Games W84OG and K84OG

Two commemorative amateur stations will be in operation at the Olympic Soccer games at Stanford University Stadium, July 28 through August 8. The stations will be under the auspices of the American Red Cross with help from the NCDXF.

Station K84OG will be located adjacent to the Stanford Stadium and will be used primarily as the official message center for athletes and officials, and for special events. The athletes may "call home" from K84OG. When not being used for these announced purposes, this station will be available for general amateur contacts.

W84OG, located one block away in the Red Cross headquarters on the Stanford campus, will be used entirely for contacting amateurs. To get the operation off to a fast start, the first 48 hours will be a continuous "contest style" operation with the experienced operators from the Northern California Contest Club at the mikes and keys. After that, W84OG will be operated daily by local radio club volunteers.

Operation at both stations will begin at 0000 UTC July 28 and continue until 2400 UTC August 8. Phone and CW will be used on 80 through 10 meters. Also watch for possible activity on the new satellite, AO-10.

Special Commemorative QSL cards will be available (with financial support from NCDXF). The cards are being designed now by NCDXF's W6SZN and W6WB. The official Olympic logo will be featured on the card.

To get your QSL by priority service from outside the USA, send SAE plus 3 IRCs to: Olympic Games, P.O. Box 9007, Stanford CA 94305, USA. For USA only, send SASE to the same address. Operators not wishing immediate QSL returns may use the W6-QSL bureau.

NCDXF Associate, Ron Chiappari, N6AUV, is responsible in large part for the station's set up and activity, plus general coordination between the Red Cross and the NCDXF.

An afterthought for those not familiar with California geography. The Olympics are officially centered in Los Angeles, in Southern California. But in order to provide optimum athletic facilities for all events, the events are scattered across the State of California. That is why the soccer games will take place at the huge stadium (it seats over 100,000 people) at Stanford University near San Francisco, while the track and field events take place some 450 miles south at the Coliseum in Los Angeles.

Newsletters Etc.

NCDXF is pleased to exchange Newsletters with other DX organizations. We also notice interesting articles about NCDXF and NCDXF operators in many magazines. Unfortunately we cannot always read the language, but we can pick out our calls, etc. and we can look at the pictures! (We are arranging for translators.)

There has been much publicity in the international amateur press regarding the NCDXF Beacon Net. Many of the articles are the direct result of the efforts of Martti Laine, OH2BH, and his fellow workers who translated articles about the Beacons into various languages and submitted the stories to amateur journals all over Europe. A very fine bit of work Martti - we all thank you.

The October 1983 issue of "Radio Revista" (Italy) carried the story of OH2B beacon, and also featured a fine story about OH2BH and XYL Leena, OH2BE, complete with several color photos.

The Beacon Net was also featured in the March issue of "CQ-DL" (Germany). We received prints of this article from DJ9ZB, HB9RS/W2 and others. K4TWJ, writing in "CQ" magazine (USA) did a very nice job on the entire Beacon Net, as did N6JM in "Worldradio" (USA). We thank everyone for spreading the information so more listeners may benefit from using the beacons.

We have enjoyed reading the "Kansas DX Association Newsletter", and we like the title of WO1YR's column, "DX and other Trivia"! Also thanks for the extensive Beacon Net article.

We are impressed with the Newsletter of the "Grupo Argentina de CW". There is much DX/QSL information and a great amount of station activity news, plus some equipment "hints". Also a nice listing of reports from other countries is included.

PAOGAM's "Veron DXpress" is also loaded with DX info. Half the bulletin is written in English and covers 10-160. The other half is written in Dutch and covers VHF/UHF.

We also enjoy reading the "Redwood Empire DX Association" Bulletin edited by VP2ML, who also writes the DX column for "73" magazine. "Western Washington DX Club's" "Totem Tabloid" often has feature articles plus DX information. A recent issue featured two very interesting "fundamental" articles: "Sunspot Trivia" by W7YF, and "QRP Contesting" by KR7L. KR7L emphasizes that all QRPers are

on the same footing - "there are no Big-Gun Killer QRP stations"!

"The South African DX Association" is a newly-formed group. They started the "SADXA Pacific DX Net" which meets Sundays at 0500Z on 14,260 kHz. The SADXA plans to get some DXpedition experience with a Pacific island trip before more venturesome trips. Their first newsletter was published in January.

The "Alaska Goldpanner" is the monthly publication of the Alaska DX Association. The March-April issue contained their "Pribilof Petition" which was the textual material submitted to ARRL in support of their new country claim for the Pribilof Islands. Quite a masterly presentation. If research alone would do it, the Pribilofs would be a "new one". Thanks too for the Beacon Net story.

"SMIRK". If you are a 6 meter DXer, you probably are already a member of SMIRK (Six Meter International Radio Klub). If not, you should sign up. They help 6 meter DXers and their publication, "The Six Shooter", talks about everything that happens on six. Ray Clark, K5ZMS, is Chief Smirk.

de W6ISQ

DXpedition Problems

We really enjoy reading your comments to NCDXF. We appreciate your kind thoughts, of course, and try to learn and benefit from your thoughtful, critical suggestions and statements.

We received comments such as this one from our friend Dieter, DK9KD: "We were not very happy lately with ops sponsored by you here in Europe. Operating practice was very bad!" Similar comments were also received from DL6QW, K1HDO, K7WA and others.

We agree with these sincere comments. Once in a while something happens we wish had not happened. But please let us explain how NCDXF operates...

POLICY STATEMENT: "DXpeditions are on their own."

NCDXF is criticized when there are operating problems on DXpeditions we help. (Note that we usually only offer partial support, almost never have we supported the entire operation.) But please understand that NCDXF does NOT organize the DXpeditions which apply for aid, nor do we tell the operators how to run their DXpedition. We try to support good operators with good track records. After that the DXpeditions and operators are on their own. They even send out their own announcements of their DXpedition. Often, a DXer does not even know that NCDXF has supported an expedition until the QSL card arrives and there is the NCDXF logo - meaning NCDXF has helped in some way. We keep a low profile. The DXpedition is theirs, for better or worse.

About all we request from the DXpedition is equal phone and CW time, beams and finals if possible, split frequency operation, and other usually good DXpedition operating procedures. True, sometimes not all these requests are met for one reason or another. However, when it comes to the actual operation - selection of bands, band changing, methods of calling and listening, etc., the DXpedition operators are strictly on their own. Yes, we also squirm and shudder some times when the operation appears to get out of hand, or the operator changes bands just as his signal is beginning to build up in your area!

However we also understand how easy it is for things to get out of hand when the operators are tired, no one will respect their requests for directional calls, the crabs and mosquitoes are biting, the hurricane winds and salt water are crashing through the tent. It takes highly disciplined and skilled operators to keep cool and work a huge pile-up. Only those who have operated under such conditions from a DX location can completely understand the problems - although this is not an excuse for poor operating practices.

Lets say we don't like it, but we understand how it can happen.

Over the years we believe that DXpeditions receiving NCDXF support have performed remarkably well. We are rather proud of the record established by the outstanding "world-class" operators we have helped.

But we admit, there have been a few mistakes in the past that were "lulus" and there will surely be more sometime in the future. And through no operator's fault, poor band conditions in the next several years are going to bother some operations - the signals just may never be very strong into your area on the high bands. But hang in there. We're all trying to work the same DXpeditions, under the same conditions and trying to break the same pile-ups while hopefully exercising restraint and courtesy for our fellow DXers. It's all pat of the DX sport! We love it and hope you do to.

de W6ISQ

Recent Equipment Donations

NCDXF thanks Mrs. Wiletta Steventon, widow of Jack Steventon, W6CLS, for donating Jack's entire station to the Foundation. The equipment had a market value in excess of \$5000.

Thanks also to Duane Ayers, W6NQY for donating the Drake TR4X and R4B. And to J.L. Ritzen, W0JHY/5 for a Drake R4B. Virgil Willis donated a Yaesu FT101 and Yaesu FR101, and KU6Z donated considerable station equipment.

We received a complete station from Brian Vaughn who went from CBER to ham operator to computers in a hurry! His FL2000B final was part of the equipment taken by the Clipperton DXpedition operators.

Finally, belated thanks to Sam Cantor, W6TSQ (that's "Turkish String Quartet" -not "Italian String Quartet") for the FR101.

The "In Box"

de W6ISQ

We will share with you some of the interesting letters, comments and ideas we've received from your fellow DXers. Plus some of our comments.

"Best regards to NCDXF from Y11BGD group" ... Saad, Y11BGD. "Thanks for sending a 500 Hz filter (Sherwood) for the R4C receiver at Y11BGD in Baghdad. I personally built it in on November 24, '83. Thanks also from Majid (Chief Operator) and Saad for that gift. We promise to make more CW QSO's in the future, but not working CW pile-ups, only special request during standard SSB contacts" ... DL6QW. And from HB9CSA comes a print of a Y11BGD QSL made out to him and a note stating, "thanks for bringing a rare CW country on the air. Great to see Y11BGD on CW."

NCDXF Support - Thanks. "Sure enjoy the Bulletins. Will see what I can do to get more members at our Club meeting" ... N7RO. "I am passing the (Winter) Newsletter around in trying for more support for the NCDXF" ... W0JRN. (And we thank you both muchly!) "I have been following your work with DXpeditions through the print media, QSL's, etc. Your organization seems to help DX stations indeed." ... WA8YTM. "I owe several rare ones to your DXpeditions" ... N5CID, D11BB. "Looking back through my 'new country' QSL cards, found several that have been donated by NCDXF." ... N6FTR. "Having come up with a surplus in my 'ham budget' this month, I thought I'd better send it along - before something comes up" ... W6TTK. (We thank you, sir.) "Enjoy DXpeditions and greatly appreciate your support. Wish more hams would get behind us." ... WA1WTP. (Thank you. We do too!)

And Some More

"Real men don't eat quiche, or work phone (hi)." ... WA8MLV. "I commenced my interest in ham radio with a Novice license in February 1979. When I was 79 (last week), I took the General exam—passed the code test, but must wait regarding the written test." ... E. Duane Stoetzel. (Hope you made it, OM.) "I'm not interested if the band is open to a certain place. I'm more interested if someone is there! Most likely we are not when a person gets around 300 countries." ... K4DSE. "I used to think that there were a great number of 6's and 2's during the pile-ups, but have arrived at the conclusion that everyone has moved to 4-land now." ... W6RDL.

"I would like to volunteer to be someone's QSL manager. I was QSL manager for ZK2AP, 4S7OL and VP2VSG, so I figure I know the ropes." ... W0JRN

"I have no questions about propagation because I would end up answering it!" ... W6RQ. "How come the other guys always have the best propagation?!!" ... K6RQ. When I work DX and mention that I'm in Northern California, we always ask if I am a member of NCDXF." ... W6NAT [Hello old friend Bill, de N6ST].

FROM OUR SWLs. "I have noticed the fine comments about SWLs (in the Newsletter). Can you 'get someone' to tell us about our neighbor SWLs. Is it true that in some countries the SWL has to have so many hours of proof (QSLs) before we are eligible to take the exam for the amateur radio op license?, etc." ... K8LWP. (We will try to get some information for you and others). "Thanks for your interesting Newsletter. (It) was a great surprise indeed to find myself in the 'In Box', hi. By the way, I'm sending that picture postcard with the aerial view of my QTH to all QSLing me. SWLing is a great pleasure indeed! And I appreciate very much the support of SWLs by NCDXF." ... Reiner Petersen, DL-SWL/P.

Are there any readers, licensed or not, who are avid BC SWLs? A lot of us got our first interest in radio by listening to BC stations in the middle of the night on a home brew receiver. Any of you left out there? The new all-Band receivers should make such SWLing quite easy.

EUROPEAN COMMENTS. "I am the editor of the Finnish Magazine and last year we have also published the Beacon Network information in Radioamator. I will continue to publish NCDXF information whenever needed." ... OH2BBF. (We thank you very much for your wonderful help and support).

"I help Martti, OH2BH, with English translations for Foundationsponsored QSLs, his DXCC correspondence, etc." ... Jarmo, OH2BN. (Thanks to Jarmo and Martti for their many translations and much information circulated to European publications! We appreciate their help.)

"I would like to be a member of the Foundation because I think it is really a great help for all radio amateurs." ... Paolo, IT9JPS. "I am an ex-ships Radio Officer, now retired. I am strictly a CW man working DX. Now I go for the 5BDXCC." ... LA8CE.

NCDXF T-SHIRTS and LOGOS. "I have seen your (T-shirts) in a picture that DJ9ZB sent to me. I wish to have (one)." ... IT9GSF. (So far, we have only had these T-shirts made for the operators on DXpeditions we have helped. Some day, we may make them available for all. It is a lot of extra work we are just not ready to take on now!—hi. Our apologies. Thanks for your inquiry.)

Also, continuing with another IT9GSF question (and we have received the same question from many DXers)... "Is it possible on my new QSL cards to print your (NCDXF) logo? Let me know if I can, please." (Answer: Yes, of course, you may print the NCDXF logo on your QSL. We would be happy to send you copies of our logo in several sizes for to choose from. We are "camera-ready" type logos, the same kind we send to DXpeditions for them to use on their QSLs. Please send SASE. Thanks.)

OTHER AREAS HEARD FROM. "I've just received the Summer 1983 Newsletter. Thank you very much." ... CO2OM. (We note that the Newsletter took about 2

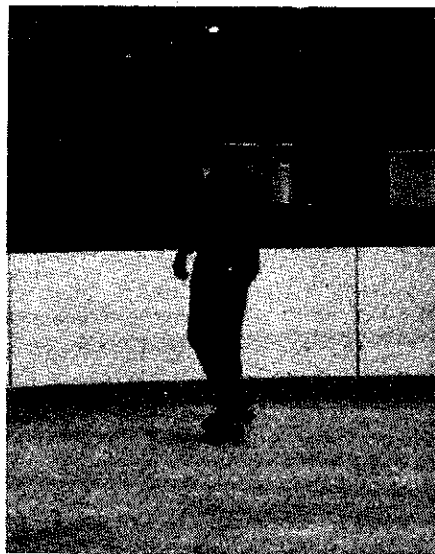
months to arrive. And we find that it is about 2 months by ship mail all over the world. We are sorry for the long transit time, but overseas air mail would cost NCDXF over twice as much as surface mail. Maybe someone can figure out a way to airmail Newsletters to a central location for distribution at a lower cost - plus a volunteer to do the work.)

"Appreciate your work supporting us who enjoy DX contacts. OE2DYL informed me about NCDXF." ... JA1KKY. "I will be QRT for 3 months starting 25 April. I will be in Tokyo till 30 July. I hope to contact some of my friends from a club station in Tokyo. Please inform your membership." ... 4S7EA.

Here, There And Everywhere

DXers Dream. "After several years of DXing, making Honor Roll, etc., I was getting a little less interested in (DXing). Operating activity was down to one log book every four years. Then I had the opportunity to move to a DXer's dream - to be DX. I opened as W4TO/KX6 and now have KX6DS. Activity is now in excess of one log book every 4 weeks. Send QSLs to North Alabama DX Club, P.O. Box 4563, Huntsville, Alabama, 35815. SASE or SAE plus 1 IRC." ... KX6DS (W4TO).

HZ-4W. Last Newsletter, we joked that NK6F - who was working in Saudi Arabia - was an ice hockey and ice skating enthusiast and expected to go to the Winter Olympics. After those snide remarks about ice skating in Saudi Arabia a photograph arrived. You guessed it - NK6F ice skating at the new ice rink in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia! And wearing an Oakland "A's" baseball cap! And yes, he did get to the Winter Olympics and operated at YU4FRS/4N9Y. Operation from 4W does not look promising in the near future.



NK6F Ice Skating in Saudi Arabia!

NCDXF Brochures Available.

"I have been introduced to NCDXF by one of your members ... would appreciate more information." ... A4XJT. (And) "At present I am Secretary of Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization/zero call area, and also represent the National QSL Bureau. I also wish to have more information concerning your Foundation to inform (our) members." ... YB0BZZ. "I have just received a printed flyer advising me of the reasons and purpose of the NCDXF as an enclosure with a QSL from 4U1UN. I apply for membership. I regret having taken so long to do something which I should have done years ago." ... K6DR.

(If you have friends, or clubs, who wish more information about NCDXF, please write us and request our brochures, etc. Thanks.)

W1GKZ

Finally. Message to W1GKZ. I am trying to track down my "roots". Were you my first QSO? Were you licensed in the Summer of 1935? If so, do you have your old logs? I have a feeling you may have been my first QSO and would appreciate it if you could locate my call in your log after July in 1935. (I was W2ISQ then) You would think I should remember my first QSO. But I was young, very excited and really didn't know what I was doing. Now I am old, calm, and still don't know what I am doing. Thanks!

Until next time - work hard! 73, W6ISQ

NCDXF Equipment In Europe.

European Advisor, Martti Laine, OH2BH, maintains a complete portable NCDXF DXpedition station for use by qualified DXers. He has a YAESU FT-757GX, power supply and beam. This equipment is available for loan at Martti's discretion. He controls the use of the equipment. He is the boss-hi. For further information contact OH2BH.

Notice To Overseas Members

If your local radio club or National Society published articles of interest to DXers please send them to us. We will paraphrase them or use them as space permits. You may translate them or send them in the original languages. Try us in your native language! We have translators we want to put to work! hi. Send your publication to NCDXF, Attention: AA6AD.

DXpedition QSO Duplicates - VKOHI, VKOCW Heard Island

by Hugh D. Spence, VK6FS

In the past when DXpeditions have returned they have claimed having had 2000, 20,000 or even 30,000 QSOs. These figures have probably been arrived at by counting the number of callsigns per page and multiplying by the number of log pages.

Being retired, and having plenty of time to fill in to make my life less dull, colourless and boring, I set out to analyse the logs of our recent VKOHI and VKOCW Heard Island Expedition 1983.

As a Founder Member of the VK6 DX Chasers Club, who organised the Radio Component of the Heard Island Expedition 1983, I can give you full permission to use any part of these Statistics in your future Newsletters if you consider them to be of interest to your members. We believe this is the first time any DXpedition has been analysed in this fashion.

Callsign Duplication

Some very interesting facts emerged as the analysis proceeded, e.g., that 22.5% of all callsigns in both logs were duplicated. Some of them many times. The figures that will no doubt interest W's most are on pages 6 and 13. On page 6 the breakdown shows 19.84% duplications for USA in the VKOHI SSB 14 MHz log with only 1.05% of the 407,000 licensed US amateurs participating. In the VKOCW 14 MHz CW log on page 13 there were 31.54% duplicated callsigns. Participation rate still 1.05% for CW.

Some people say it is justified to have two contacts to be certain of being in the log. I dispute this statement as being unnecessary of amateurs were "friendly and courteous, etc." as set out in the "Amateurs Code".

I would like to personally belt one K6 with a two-letter suffix over his egotistical head with the "Wouff-Hong" for appearing in the VKOCW 14 MHz CW log on pages 5, 13,

27, 45, 59, 72, 83, 92, 101 and 103. The actions of this "big gun" can only be construed as robbing 9 "little pistols" of a chance at the (then) most wanted country.

In order to obtain these figures I tabulated every call appearing in the logs. They are tabulated separately under each station, band, mode, etc. Each callsign is then credited with QSO number/page number for each time it appeared per band/mode. In some instances where a callsign appeared a second time within 10 or 15 minutes it could be possible to assume he did not hear the DX station answer him the first time due to the QRM from the policemen, or the sick ones especially the American voice that appears to attend every DXpedition and whose sole contribution to the success of the DXpedition is to continually say "shaddap". Someone somewhere must know who this guy is.

It is galling to listen on the transmit frequency of a DXpedition station and continually hear "Who's on the frequency?", "What's his call?", "Where's he listening?", "What's his QSL info?" and to hear all these enquiries obligingly answered by the policemen and all this interspersed with "Turkey", "Shaddap" and other "unprintables".

But back to the dupes. In a great number of cases a callsign appears 7, 8 or 9 times, coming up every few days. This happens with the figures for most countries so it can only be assumed that there are some amateurs who are so selfish that they do not appreciate that every time the DXpedition answers them then someone else is missing out on a QSO. Is it because some people are just naturally garrulous, or do they have such an inflated ego that they simply must prove to the peasants that they have the best black box and can break a "pile-up" at any time. These types are about as much use to amateur radio as an ash tray would be on a motorcycle.

As an example, on the page where a certain WD9 claimed a CW contact on 31st Jan around 0300Z, 28 of the 100 calls on the page had appeared previously and 2 of these calls were appearing each for the 4th time. The poor old WD9 did not make the log. Was it because he could not be heard for the QRM being caused by the 28 greedy ones? I bet he would like a list of all these duped calls!

On behalf of the VK6DXCC I wish to again thank NCDXF for your wonderful contribution to the success of our professionally organised expedition to Heard Island. If you use any of these statistics please give VK6FS the credit for having supplied same.

73,

Hugh D. Spence, VK6FS.
(VK7DS 1967 to 1983)

VK6NE's fascinating report runs 15 pages. We publish here only the highlights from this report. Other tables not given here principally concern countries worked, and Japan summaries.

A Mathematical Question For The Experienced, Long-Time DXer

ADD: How much you have "put into" amateur radio.

SUBTRACT: How much you have "taken out" of amateur radio.

ANSWER: If your answer is zero or positive, you are one of the good guys.

If your answer is negative, perhaps you should consider increasing your contribution to NCDXF. Let us help you put something back into amateur radio by helping others.

14.1 MHz Beacon Net News, Comments, Ideas. Even a New Theory

"Amazing to see how little difference it makes when power is reduced from 100 watts to 10 watts. Say when you pick up 4U1UN/B with a signal of 569 at 100 watts, you practically hear no difference when power drops to 10 watts. But then again at the 1 watt level, the station is no longer copyable. Anyway, this observation helps to reinforce my belief that surely, I don't need a linear." ... OH2BN.

Dr. Max C. DeHenseler, HB9RS/W2 (trustee of 4U1UN) made a speech to the Radio Club of America in New York recently. Here is a small part of what he said which pertains to us ... "Several amateur radio societies have responded with enthusiasm to the appeal made by the ITU Secretary-General, requesting them to publicize the World Communications Year ... "In the United States, for example, the setting up of a worldwide network of beacons on 14.100 MHz by the Northern California DX Foundation is an outstanding contribution to the WCY in the field of propagation research, involving amateur radio clubs in 7 countries and at the United Nations (4U1UN)."

"I hope you will allow me along with the other millions of hams in the world to thank NCDXF for the WW beacon system. This will do more to help hams than any other thing I can think of." ... KA4IKE. "I have been using the 14.1 MHz beacons for my QRP operation. They have been a great propagation tool." ... KX6GO. "Congratulations for the 20 meter Beacon net. I have heard all of them, some up to the 0.1 watt level. I wonder if we could have a net on 15 meters." ... CX4CO (We have been studying the possibilities). "Am new DXer and use your 14.1 MHz beacon system for antenna testing and for checking band openings." ... N1COU.

WWV. "WWV is weak and the info is said very fast so it is difficult to pick up. Usually I have asked a U. S. ham to pick up the index for me." ... LA8CJ (Note: W6RQ has been in touch with the "announcers" at WWV about this). "Any chance of filling out the southern hemisphere, say, in Buenos Aires and Sydney?" ... N5NM (Yes, we are working on it now).

KH6O/B. Letter from Bob Jones, KH6O: "I moved the beacon from the (Honolulu Community) college on Saturday, 21 January. Got it going again at my house. I am interested in the difference in sig strength with the rig at my place.. I'm on the north side of the island and the path to North America and Europe may be better." ... KH6O/B

PVRC. Potomac Valley Radio Club. PVRC is one of the best known and most competitive contest oriented clubs in the world. In their bulletin before the DX contest, W3FB writes some excellent advice about using the beacon net during the contest:

"Recently, a worldwide network of beacon stations, organized and financed by the Northern California DX Foundation, came into operation.

Given that 20 meters may not be open 24 hours per day during DX contests (perish the thought), the 20 meter op now has something to do in the middle of the night besides sharpen pencils. The presence of the beacons just may tip you off to an unusual opening you might otherwise miss.

The beacons should be useful for test purposes before the contests. How well is your antenna working? Those of you with more than one 20 meter antenna can use the beacons to run comparisons. Exhaustive tests run here at W3FG have shown that the vertical consistently outperforms the indoor 'belt' dipole."

"The International Maritime Network (14,313 KHz) was established in 1970. Participants are maritime mobile amateurs radio stations interested in contacts with their home bases and/or friends at sea. ... The net control needs a propagation synopsis ... this is usually done by tuning the used band and watching incoming signals. This procedure, however, depends on stations available within the target area. And it takes time to tune and watch ...

"Watching the NCDXF Beacon Net today, our NCS can check propagation conditions at once. Swinging the beam it takes but ten minutes to obtain a world-wide synopsis. At 0700 UTC last summer, we could monitor all stations except Transvaal during each cycle at DKOSS. Honolulu regularly appeared stronger than Stanford, and we could determine whether to call a wanted station in the Pacific that day or not. Besides, we noticed our transmitter warmed up by 200 Hertz.

INTERMAR wishes to congratulate the NCDXF Beacon Committee for its great idea and perfecting performance establishing this unique aid in serious radio work which clearly meets the official definition of the amateur service given by Article 1 of ITU Radio Regulations: ...

OH2BH gave me opportunity to visit Espoo Beacon today. It was just great. Thank you, Martti!"

Arno, DK4BP

W6RQ

Here are excerpts from two recent "form" letters sent out by W6RQ. We share Al's pearls of wisdom with you all.

"We are very interested in hearing of the various ways in which the beacon network is being used. We now have quite a few fellows matching their beacon reception with the Solar Terrestrial Reports given by WWV at 18 minutes after each hour. Remember, radio propagation gets better as the Solar Flux figure increases, and gets worse as the a-Index figure increases. You can study this sort of thing forever.

Reports of the reception of all eight beacons with a simple dipole or vertical antenna are valuable. Here, I have heard all eight beacons in sequence several times (this, when the a-Index was 12 or lower), and have heard (at one time or another) each of the beacons in its 0.1 watt position. I have here only a G5RV antenna - the 102 ft. dipole center-fed with open-wire line."

W6RQ Observation/Theory

Over some length of time I have developed a theory (good or bad) that regardless of the current Sunspot Count, Solar Flux or Geomagnetic measurements, radio propagation is determined greatly by just where we are in the sunspot cycle. That is, a Solar Flux of 180 and an a-Index of 10 equates to much better propagation two years after the peak of the sunspot cycle than these same indices would give us four years after the peak of the cycle.

To go further, if it could happen that we would have this Solar Flux = 180, and a-Index = 10, on a day seven years after the peak of the sunspot cycle, we would find very, very poor conditions on the HF bands. I don't think you will find this theory in any book! This is the sort of thing that just collects in one's head after wearing headphones for 55 years. After we analyze our beacon reception logs over a whole sunspot cycle (or two) we may prove (or disprove) this concept. Someday we may find a whole new solar index that we just don't know of today."

Any comment?

de W6ISQ

Twenty Meter Beacon Observing Report

When our beacon article in June 1983 QST asked for reception reports, we actually expected a couple dozen replies. We did a bit better than that! And now the beacon project has received much more publicity: the front cover map on the RSGB's "Radio Communication" for Sept. 1983, the "CQ" article of March 1984, the "cq-DL" article also in March, and several others. To date the correspondence log shows 328 pieces of incoming mail!

Incidentally, setting up our files for 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper shows our U.S. orientation; that size is a standard nowhere else. Incoming reports vary from 20-foot long computer printouts to one G's carefully typed notes on bit of paper 2 by 3-1/2 inches.

Not only have we received reports from licensed amateurs in 27 countries, but the beacon reports and letters from many SWLs have been a surprise. Our two most conscientious beacon reporters are SWLs - Rod Cross, BRS84869 and Peter de Jong, BDXC459.

One surprise. A writer back east had after his name an alpha-numeric designator which I took for an SWL call. He was sent one of our beacon QSLs, suitably inscribed, no question. But he has currently dropped out of SWLing now that "the Warden confiscated my AM-FM receiver which I had converted for shortwave reception." Turns out that "call" after his name had been assigned by the state!

Some of our following who have sent in many regular reports are: G4OHX, DL8WX, JA4FMA, PA6848, SM3CFV, W1AM, N2CV/4, W2TKG, KC6DS(YL), KH6IJ and KX6QC.

After a hiatus during February and early March, JA2IGY returned to the air with a much improved signal. On 9 April, at 4 P.M. PST, I logged JA2IGY with an S3 signal at the 0.1 watt level - and that's with my G5RV antenna! Although the European fellows still report much interference on 14,100 kHz there does seem to be a bit less QRM clutter in the U.S. Often now we hear "policemen" working to keep the beacon frequency clear.

Beacon Reception Index

Some of us have worked at establishing a "Beacon Reception Index" or "propagation factor" to hang a numerical value on 20 meter band conditions. A simple system adds up the quantity of power levels of all the beacons heard in one eight-minute period. That is, the maximum value would be 8 beacons times 4 power levels for Reception Index (R.I.) of 32.

Of course, to compare days you must observe at about the same time each day - my log shows a day with an R.I. of 9 at one time and an R.I. of 16 four hours later. But then, over any length of days, the time from sunup or sundown will keep such readings from being too comparable - we have many variables.

But perhaps this Index should be refined to show how many beacons were heard; that 16 figure of mine came from only six beacons. We could show our R.I. with the number of beacons/total power levels, a number like 6/16. A very good day Index in my log is one of 7/22, at 0530 Z on 22 February.

This Index won't work to compare different days by different observers, however. Some of our observers have an awful time hearing the beacons. Some have listened steadily for several months and heard only six of the units. Incidentally, our first eastern-bloc report came from OK1DKR, who reported hearing five beacons on his home-made direct conversion receiver.

Still, each person should be able to plot his own Reception Index against WWV's daily Solar Flux and a-Index figures to look for correlations. My day with the 7/22 Index had WWV reporting an a-Index of 9.

de W6RQ

WWV "Numbers" Explained

Following is part of a letter written by W6RQ to KB4EYZ explaining some of the WWV indices.

My dear Paul Welty, KB4CYZ

Thank you very much for your nice letter and your interest in our NCDXF 20-meter beacon project. I am very interested in your wishing to make a study of the beacon reception for a school science project.

We have set up the beacon network not only to provide DXers with a simple means of checking to see to which areas the band is open, but to provide a simple, ready-made laboratory set-up to learn something about radio propagation. It isn't too satisfying to notice that certain beacons can be heard on one day and not on another day. It's the WHY that makes the whole thing interesting.

We know that the whole concept of ionospheric radio propagation is based on solar activity. A very valuable set of indices which evaluate the current solar activity is available to us hourly on WWV. This information is prepared by the Space Environment Laboratory at Boulder, Colorado.

Every hour, at 18 minutes after, WWV transmits the Solar Terrestrial Indices report. Given are: Solar Flux (a measure of sunspot activity); a-Index, which is a 24-hour measure of the disturbances of the Earth's geomagnetic field; and the K-Index which is also a geomagnetic index but on a 3-hour basis and a different scale.

The Solar Flux and the a-Index are updated daily at 1818 UT, and the K-Index is updated every three hours thereafter. It's interesting to log these numbers daily to watch long and short-term trends. Right now, at this time in the sunspot cycle, the Solar Flux value varies very little. At the peak of the sunspot cycle, say in early 1980, the Solar Flux would sometimes vary thirty units in one day!

After a bit of beacon observation you'll learn that it takes a quiet (an a-Index of 10 or lower) day for you to hear all eight beacons in a row. When the a-Index is high, you may often hear only one beacon, but with a very high a-Index the one beacon you hear very loud is the one in South Africa!

I am enclosing a copy of the form we use to report beacon reception. You will notice that we ask only for the number of power levels copied and not such things as S-meter readings. No two person's S-meters agree, and we are interested in the whole propagation picture, that is, what power level can you hear. No matter how good an S-meter reading you may have, if the signal cannot override the sky noise, you have no reception.

If you are interested in this whole picture stated in a neat understandable fashion, I'd suggest you get Cohen and Jacob's Shortwave Propagation Handbook from your local ham radio store or from CQ Magazine. It's about \$8, and well worth the money.

Thank you again for your interest.

VY 73
Al Lotze, W6RQ

As you can see, W6RQ is most conscientious about answering the mail! W6RQ thanks you and NCDXF for your interesting letters, comments and observations. We read them all and appreciate everything you send in, but there is just not enough time to answer everyone in detail!

So, we persuaded Al to use a form letter with possible short notes to answer specific questions (Al doesn't like the form letter idea, but we overruled him!). We will try to work something out so that Al can answer the most asked questions in the Newsletter for the benefit of all.

AMSAT-Stoner Challenge Cup

To: NCDXF

FROM: John W. Browning, W6SP
Chairman, AMSAT Board of Directors

They are extremely gratified by the offer of Northern California DX Foundation support for the AMSAT-Stoner 25th Anniversary Challenge Cup competition on AMSAT-OSCAR 10. They understand NCDXF is prepared to underwrite the cost of plaques, trophies and certificates according to a draft budget prepared in prior discussions between yourself and AMSAT's Executive Vice President Vern Riportella, WA2LQQ.

Our plan is basically as follows: AMSAT will organize and administer the competition, scoring and awards in accordance with the rules appearing in the April 1984 of QST. NCDXF will fund the awards. NCDXF will allow additional funds toward the cost of providing a QSL card for each participant.

To recognize NCDXF's generosity, AMSAT will assure that your support is widely acknowledged. All awards, certificates, and QSL cards will bear the NCDXF logo, and AMSAT publications (ORBIT magazine and ASR newsletter) will publicize your role.

They are pleased to note that several measures recognizing your support have already been implemented. ARRL Headquarters station W1AW began carrying a Bulletin on Monday April 16 to the effect that the competition is on with NCDXF furnishing the awards. Amateur Satellite Report No. 75 carries the same message. Similar announcements have been included on all of the recent weekly AMSAT informational High Frequency nets.

On behalf of AMSAT, allow me to thank the NCDXF.

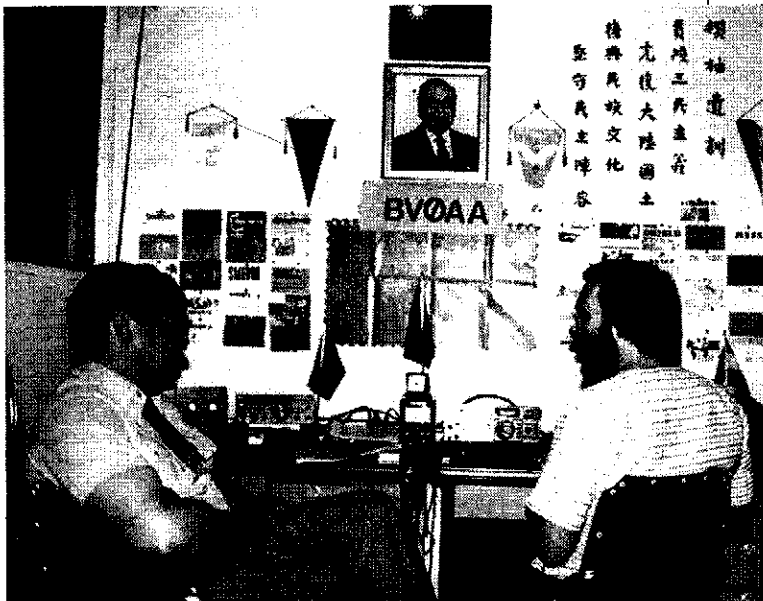
With The DXpeditions

Taiwan DXpedition by OH2BH, PA0GAM and JA1MIN

by Martti Laine, OH2BH

BV-land! A country that is very rare and only represented by one station - BV2A/B. We hope that our recent DXpedition provided a "new one" for many.

The group SMOGMG, PA0GAM and OH2BH was very fortunate to receive a warm invitation and a promise of all needed assistance in carrying out an operation for seven days. That included a lot of red tape at customs, provisions for operating facilities and round-the-clock assistance plus many other things. This was not only a DXpedition but our aim was also to help Tim, BV2A, promote amateur radio among members of the local community.



Martti, OH2BH and Gerben, PA0GAM between QSOs at BV0AA. (OH2BH photo)

We found Tim Chen, BV2A/B, a super nice guy at the age of 70 who is active and interested in the same things we youngsters are and he was certainly familiar with all the actions. Tim was first licensed in 1939 as XU6A and he has been the only amateur in Taiwan since the war. And, as we know, he was permitted to go on SSB in 1974. Tim's station sports an FT901DM + 30L1 and is located in downtown

Taipei. He is presently using only a vertical antenna. Tim's group and all the Chinese we met were also extremely friendly people - proud of their culture and identity - and not without reason.

BV0AA First BV Call Issued to Foreigners and First 7 MHz Operation

Surely we had busy days accomplishing the goals we had set for ourselves. We made newspaper headlines, we were interviewed on radio and television and had a series of meetings with the local Security and Telecomm authorities. Many evenings were spent at dinner parties and we were also paid a nice courtesy visit by Mr. C. Lee, Director of PTT, and Mr. Y.S. Peng, Head of Security. They had granted us the first BV call sign ever issued to foreigners (BV0AA) and we were permitted to use 7 MHz for the first time ever. It was a fixed frequency at 7001 kHz and no bargaining.

NCDXF Antenna Donation

We feel very proud of being the ones who assisted Tim in his mission to promote amateur radio in BV. If we can at all interpret the warm attitude of the local Big Guns, we were successful. A virtually definite commitment was made for one more station, one that may be operational already this spring. It will have the call BV2C. We left a complete Yaesu station (FT757 + FL2100Z) behind and NCDXF donated a TH2MK3 beam with rotator and cables for the upcoming activity. Arrangements were also made to invite two other groups from other populated amateur radio areas to carry on our message. These will be a Japanese group in June (BV0AB) and an American group later this year (BV0AC). The U.S. group will be invited through Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA.

What about our DXpedition? Lars, SMOGMG, had to back off due to his Dad's illness and there were just the two of us. While spending some days in Tokyo prior to entering Taipei, we invited JA1MIN to join us and assist in going fast with the JAs. We were on for some 100 hours and chalked up 12,500 QSOs. Special attention was given to the U.S. East Coast and 7 MHz openings. We hope that many of you got a new one. We also had the pleasure of attending a poolside party at 9V1VP on our way back and of spending some time in A6-land.

We are pleased with the honor bestowed on us and we will never forget the R.O.C. and Tim together with his fine group. When we hear BV2C and other signals from BV-land, we will know our efforts were worth this visit. The Republic of China was well on the world map and is there to stay. We are now glad to have Tim, BV2A/B as a member of NCDXF.

Thanks for the QSOs and see you from the next one.

DJ6SI in Sierra Leone

As usual, Baldur had a good DXpedition, this time to 9L. 5000 QSOs as DJ6SI/9L and 1800 QSOs as 9L0WCY during the last 24 hours of operation. Half of the QSOs were on 40 and 80; 50% USA, 45% Japan and 5% Europe. Baldur said conditions to Europe were very bad. He had 500 QSOs with W6, mostly on 40 and 80 meters. Amazing.

NCDXF Equipment for BV2C.

We received a post card from OH2BH, PA0GAM and JA1MIN mailed just after their 4 day/12500 QSO BV operation. They said, "the NCDXF beam, rotator and cables were left behind for their new club station, BV2C." (We all look forward to the operation of BV2C. Thanks to host Tim, BV2A/B and the guest operators.)

And From PA0GAM.

"OH2BH, JA1MIN and I had a wonderful time in Taipei and you cannot imagine (what great) support we had from our 'BV' friends. I was very happy with the NCDXF T-shirt. (We think the local activity will increase due to our operation. It was my first real DXpedition. It was an honor for me to make this trip with Martti. I have learned a lot. Operations like this, with people from different nations has a lot of good things." ... Gerben, PA0GAM. (Note: Gerben sent a photograph of the operating position and the operators which appeared in the local Taipei newspaper).

DL1VU Pacific

DL1VU recently completed a leisurely and extended trip through the Pacific Islands. Karl spent a lot of CW time on all bands from each island. Hope he supplied many new band-countries to a lot of operators worldwide.

F6FYD in Central Africa

"My stay in Africa was really nice, thanks to the warm welcome of Michel, TL8GE, Claude, TL8DC and Bernard, TJ1QS. During those 18 days I went through the Republic of Central Africa and Cameroon. I haven't had time to go to Chad...

"Radiowise 1000 QSO all channels, with the call TL8YD (30% traffic with the States). With the call TJ8YD I could not make any traffic"... because of political problems.

"I am preparing a new DXpedition end of '84 in RCA (TL8), RUC (TJ1), Chad (TT8) and Zaire (9Q5)...

"My trip in Central Africa was made on flight B-707 Paris-Bangui, stay in RCA and Cameroon and a rented Toyota 4x4 type, 5000 km of laterite (roads) through the bush and dust in 2 weeks, with 250 slides as a result."

"Thank you for your help."

de Yannick Delatouche, F6FYD

Jarvis Island DXpedition

16000 contacts - 3 1/2 days.

Conditions were terrible during this DXpedition. WA2MOE reports that "at no time when I was operating did I hear any beacon other than JA, KH6 and W6. The signal strengths at maximum were S4 at the 100 watt level. I never heard the CT3 or the ZS6 or any other beacon but please, remember that the propagation forecast was completely wrong and we really only had decent propagation on the last day of operation. On the last day, I did not hear the 4U1UN beacon even though we were able to work the East Coast on 10 meters.

"The JA-KH6-W6 beacons were audible at our location from sunrise (1500 UTC) to about 2 hours after sunset (0400 UTC)."

WA2MOE concludes - "my sincere thanks to all of the W6's without whose cooperation we would not have worked a single East Coast operator."

W6RQ submits the following observation covering the Jarvis Island expedition 7-10 Nov 83.

November	7	8	9	10
Solar Flux (1)	111	106	101	113
a - Index (2)	12	25	33	21
Beacon Index (3)	5/15	4/7	4/11	5/16

(1) The higher the better.

(2) The lower the better "below 10 and the books are open" (I've never heard all 8 beacons in a row when the a-index was greater than 10)

(3) Beacon Index - see W6RQ's article elsewhere in this issue. This observational data would tend to explain the problems that AD1S/KH5 had in hearing/working Europe and the East Coast, USA.

SM0AGD at Mt. Athos

Together with a Greek friend I visited Mount Athos April 10-13. I had to get a special visitor's permit. They allow a maximum of 10 foreign visitors to enter per day and you may stay up to four days. Only men are allowed on Athos. (I guess that's the reason why Iris and Lloyd never operated from there.)

I have a valid Greek reciprocal license but that is of course not good enough for Athos, which is an autonomous part of the Greek state. It is necessary to obtain a permit to transmit from the council of Abbots, which consists of 20 abbots, one from each monastery of Athos. They meet irregularly a few times per year in the main village of Karies. We took a chance that the council would be in session before the Greek Orthodox Easter. So just in case, I had brought all the radio-gear with me from Sweden, and also found a gasoline generator in Thessaloniki. There is no regular electric power in Athos. But I knew the chances were small, I made this trip mainly as a survey for a DXpedition later on this summer.

There were only 4-5 abbots present in Karies and they told us that our request had to be dealt with by the council. Their next session will take place within a couple of months. So we have to wait and see. But we will also use the mean-time to improve our chances. We started off right away and spent the remaining three days in Athos hiking in the mountains, visiting monasteries and campaigning for "DXing and amateur radio for peace and international friendship". Most of the monasteries were founded some 1000 years ago and obviously not much has changed, not with the buildings and not with the monks' daily life. We felt like we were visiting another world.

We made many friends among the 1600 monks of Athos. They want no interference from the world outside but show great hospitality. Visitors are welcomed to free lodging and food in the monasteries. But we were there during Lent so there was not so much to eat. We were expected to participate in the masses, also in the middle of the night, which was a very interesting experience. The monks count their day from sunset and divide it into three parts of eight hours each, one dedicated to prayer, one to work and the third to sleep.

At one of the monasteries we were invited to come back with our radio equipment later, if and when we have the permission from the council. But I'm not sure the location would be any good, because unfortunately Athos is a very mountainous peninsula (up to 2000 meters) and most of the monasteries are located near the coast. In order to get a good takeoff angle for the radio signals, the best place to operate from would be from the top of the mountains. But there are no monasteries up there and before you can go camping you need another permit, which might be even more difficult to get. But there have been DXpeditions in the past, and I don't see why it can't be done again.

At the holy mountain of Athos you need permission for everything, for example movie cameras and tape recorders are forbidden.

After the visit to Athos I went to Athens and met a few radio amateurs there. We will work on the Athos project together and hopefully something will develop before the end of the summer.

73 de Erik, SM0AGD

OH2JL in Somalia as T5JL

(Jukka is a doctor with the Finnish Red Cross) Unfortunately my trips are not at all DXpeditions but pure work. That gives me only a few hours per day for ham operation. However, this time I had over 1500 QSOs and especially to the U.S. we made lists trying to give the new country to as many as possible.

This time I got a permission to operate, which allows me to be on the air every time I go there and even gave me the callsign T5JL. Next time I can use that. Let us hope that there will be more trips.

Martti gave me the TH2Mk3 antenna, which I used over there. That is one of the reasons why I was able to have more QSOs than last year. The tree I found for the 80 m dipole was rather low and thus I had less than 30 QSOs on 80. Most of those were to Finland since we had to agree on the frequencies on 20 meters first and then give a great number of shouts before anyone was able to hear me.

Thank you again for the help I got from the Foundation. It is a pleasure to be a member of the NCDXF.

73,

Jukka Koistinen, M.D. OH2JL

Membership News

Growth of the NCDXF remains strong. Perhaps the biggest news is that we have made membership DXCC since the last report a year ago, with 106 DXCC countries represented in our roster. All 50 U.S. states have been represented for over a year now. Total membership has increased by 483 since this time last year. DL7UX is our most recent member, number 2859. We tried something new this year at the Visalia DX Convention, held in mid-April. We set up a table in the registration area, and signed up 82 new members in just over 7 hours!

de Jim Maxwell, W6CF

Kermadec Expedition 1984

By R. J. Runciman ZL1BQD

It is Tuesday 13 March 1984 at 11:30 a.m., and we are finally on our way aboard the "Shiner" to one of life's great adventures. The years of hard work by Ron (ZL1AMO) and the months of departmental negotiations by Dr. John Craig have finally paid off, and we are on our way to the Kermadec group of islands, destination Raoul Island, ETA five days.

We have ten persons on board, five in the Scientific Party, four in the Amateur Party and our Captain John Taylor.

The Scientific Party consisted of: Dr. John Craig, leader of the expedition and intends to study both the native Kiore rat and the introduced Norwegian rat population on the island.

:Anne Stewart intending to study the native tui bird population and compare their song and other characteristics with that of the native New Zealand tui.

:Mark Vette, great climber of trees which was greatly appreciated in getting antennas up and down, but whose main job was assisting both John and Anne in their studies. Anyone experiencing trouble with their dogs or cats should see Mark, who is also a very capable Scientist in Animal behavior patterns.

:Dr. David Scheil, a very capable Marine Biologist and extremely good diver. He assisted greatly when disaster struck our boat.

:Mike Kingsford, also an extremely good Marine Biologist studying the fish life and migration patterns from the

Northern Pacific down to New Zealand. Raoul Island is a very handy "half-way house".

The Amateur Party consisted of: Ron Wright (ZL1AMO, ZL1AMO/C, VGR6HI, ZK2EA, ZK9RW, ZK1MB, A35EA, 5W1CW, H44RW, VK4ANS/LH, YJ8RW, ZK1CQ, ZL8AMO) as you all know, Ron is the CW expert and worked approximately 10,000 QSOs.

:John Litten (ZL1AAS, ZL1AAS/C, ZL8AAS). Mainly operated phone and stacked up approximately 5,000 QSOs.

:Roly Runciman (ZL1BQD, FK0RR, VK9NR, 3D2RJ, ZM1BQD, ZL88QD, VR6AA) operated both phone and CW on all bands and worked approximately 10,000 SSO's. Thanks to DK9KE and his 15 meter net for the European QSOs.

:Duane Asherman (W6REC, ZL0AJW, ZL0AJW/8, VK9LL, VK3DPA, 3D2FR). Duane operated both SSB and CW with slightly more emphasis on CW. For Duane's 1st DXpedition he did very well with 5,000 QSOs.

The Boat Trip

And so the routine of 3 hours on watch and 6 hours off watch continues for five days. It is quite amazing to see very small "Welcome Swallows" along with other bird life with land two to three hundred miles away in either direction. "Where do they go at night?" I asked the Scientific Experts. "Oh! back home again," comes the answer, "they can fly enormous distances, you know, and they will be back here again tomorrow!" Time is no longer measured by days of the week simply daylight or dark! Every three hours another shift comes on and the one going off gets a quick bite to eat then tumbles into bed. Every hour the travelling log is read and entered into the ships log. Every day we call up Auckland Radio and "home" to give positional reports and get the weather. And so it goes on. Several "small things" stick in one's mind, especially for the rookies who have never sailed before. For example, the fascination of watching dolphin ride our bow-wave, the spectacular sight of seeing the seas burst into green light with phosphorescence during the small hours of the morning. Duane was absolutely sure we were being approached by a ship late one night. "I can see the port side lights," he said, "funny, though, that ship is rising from the sea, must be a BIG ship." Much to Duane's embarrassment and our fun, he almost logged the planet "Venus" in our ships log as a sighting for that shift! Oh! and what about moths and butterflies three hundred miles from land, where do they come from?

After four days of nothing we sight the first island in the Kermadec group, Esperance Rock. At last we really believe we are there. That very small lump of rock was sure a welcome sight. Later that day we passed between the next group of islands, CURTIS Island, which is still an active volcano with quite a bit of steam escaping from the crater and Cheeseman Island, which is extinct and covered with quite bushy vegetation and birds! At approximately 8:30 p.m. in heavy rain and mist we sighted Cauley Island 2-3 kms to the portside. We know we are real close to our destination now and hope to see Raoul Island in just a few hours.

At last Radio contact is made with Warrick (ZL8AFH) via VHF Marine Channel 16, and we are told to lay-off as close as we like to "the landing platform". We have been told by previous visitors to the island about the method of getting on to the island, but experiencing it first hand is quite another thing indeed!

On The Island

Everything has to be lifted on to the island. Goods and chattels have the luxury of being landed via a cargo net or basket, while mere humans have to clutch onto a ladder and hope that Warrick knows what he is doing up in the winch house!

Judging the swell versus the relative position of the ladder is quite a feat. The landing boat "Chunder" is well named, and it, along with everything else, makes the journey up the cliff face on the flying-fox, hauled by yet another winch. At the top, proof conclusive that we are indeed on Raoul Island with the instructions to "prevent damage to the vegetation and natural features.

Then on to our living quarters for the next 8 days. Ron and John decided to "share" operating shack, while Duane and myself together with some of the Scientific Party share the main sleeping and dining facilities.

The personnel on the island sure rate mentioning. A terrific band of guys who really treated us all well during our stay on the island. Mike (officer in charge) took care of our passports, etc. and settled us in well. Paul (Lands and Survey Department) went out of his way to show us the delights of Raoul Island and helped in ways which are hard to describe during our boat tragedy later. Garth (attached to the M.E.T.) was the Raoul Island champion table tennis player but now remains defeated by ZL8BQD. Keeping up with Garth is almost impossible. Garth's photographic expertise really is something. TOM is the resident Mechanic for 83/84 and an expert cook into the bargain. Warrick is the Technician and Radio Operator on the island and most will know him as ZL8AFH. He now is the proud owner of a tri-band beam and various assortment of wire, coax, etc. So signals on the higher frequencies should be better from Warrick now.

Raoul Island itself is quite a paradise in the South Pacific. It is still an active volcano with upwards of six earthquakes per day, most not felt by us on the island though one or two heavier jolts reminded us of the continued activity. Most of the island is covered with Nikau palm as a type of undergrowth with a canopy of beautiful pohutakawa. Along the northern coastline is a self-sufficient farm which supports the permanent residents on the island. The coast line being extremely rugged with only a very small rocky beach along the western coast, where the original Bell family used to live many years ago. There are still a few goats and wildcats on the island and, of course, lots of rats! Bird life is quite prevalent with the song of the tui making the bush come alive. The oranges on the orange grove have to be tasted to be believed and bananas grow freely and sweetly as well.

The Radio Operation

The highlight for the Amateurs, of course, was the Radio. We managed to get a 160/80 meter flat top dipole at about 80 feet supported above the cliffs between two very high Norfolk Pine trees. A second 80/40 meter dipole was also supported between a further two trees. Two tri-band beams rounded out the "antenna farm". All of us brought along our own personal radio equipment which consisted of an ICOM IC-745, ICOM IC-740, ICOM Auto Tuners, Kenwood TS 830, Kenwood TS 430. We were fortunate with propagation giving us upwards of 8 hours per day of 10 meters. It was a pleasure to be able to work exotic DX on 10 meters like 5T5, 5N1, 6V1, HK0, 9L1, CN8, ZS3, 7Q7! etc. Again we tried to cater for other interests like QRP operation. For those Stateside stations which stood by to enable us to do this, our grateful thanks. To those who didn't, then next time give it a go and have fun. The best QRP was with N6HJ with 100 milliwatts believe it or not! Many Stateside gave us the report, "I don't know how QRP I am but nothing is moving here!" Great stuff, fellows, and hope we can do it again from other Pacific DX- locations. We made a total of 30,000 QSOs to all points of the globe, BY1PK calling us which makes a nice change. We covered all bands 160 - 10 meters, most QSOs to U.S.A. and Japan but special mention must be made to DK9KE as his net on 21.157 MHz. Thanks Werner for getting so many of the Europeans through to make those valuable "ZL8" calls.

Disaster

Life was quite exotic until 21 March, three days into the operation. Cyclone Cyril made its way down from Tonga and struck the island in the small hours of the morning amidst driving rain, total darkness, and very high seas.

At 12:15 a.m. the anchor ropes holding our yacht "Shiner" broke and allowed the boat to hole itself against the rocks in Boat Cove. Our Captain John Taylor and two of the Scientists had to abandon boat into their AVON landing craft and amidst all the elements made their way to shore. As the photo shows, the only landing was over very large and dangerous rocks. All they had to guide them was the light of two torches held by a shore party to show them a "channel". They were fortunate to catch the right wave and surf in over the rocks to make a scrambled but safe

landing. We are indeed fortunate that no lives were lost. The boat was a total loss together with quite a bit of personal gear such as clothing and a bit of radio gear. Our hosts on the island together with the Oceanographers from the Scientific Party did a terrific job in salvaging what was possible from the boat over the next two days. A bit of a damper to the expedition but when it was known that no lives were lost we could at least carry on with the radio work with easier minds. Of course, we had to now make alternative arrangements for our trip back home.

After several different alternatives we finally had to accept the offer of a diversion pick-up by the Coastal freight MV.VILL from Tonga. The cost for the diversion (\$3000 US), of course, was an added expense we had not counted on, but there was no other alternative. However, other than for a little seasickness from some of us, we enjoyed a very nice and comfortable trip back home with a very friendly crew of Tongians on board the VILL. There was great excitement by all the party when we sighted New Zealand again! The lights of Auckland City and the prospect of meeting families again was a real thrill and hard to describe. However, so ended the trip of a lifetime to the rare and exotic Kermadec Island.

And now to the cards ... Thanks to all for the nice comments re-operation procedures, patience, and a job well done, etc. Special thanks to NCDXF, INDEXA, Chiltern Radio Club. Thanks also to the many Amateurs whose contributions made this Expedition possible. We believe some contributions have been made Via NIDXA but as yet none of these have been handed on the expedition. Acknowledgement also to the N.Z. Lands and Survey N.Z. M.O.T., University of Auckland and the Scientific Group. Finally, our very sincere thanks to our hosts on Raoul Island for their tremendous help with phone calls, meals, and hospitality when times were so tense.

Kermadec DXpedition by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, ZL1AAS, ZL0AJW/8

Letter from Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, to NCDXF

Have been back home in ZL now for a few days and now beginning to feel normal again. Hi. Would like to let you know that the NCDXF check arrived OK and is now being processed.

We had an excellent voyage to ZL8 taking 5 days and due to lack of wind motored about 1/3 of the distance or 600 miles. Although we arrived in midmorning, it was almost dark before we invaded the bands.

Equipment

I myself began at 0619 on 7 MHz CW (Mar 18). The first QSO was N4VZ. Everything went very smoothly. We were well equipped with 2 tri-band beams 1 x 1.8 dipole and 1 x 3.8 dipole, both at 100 feet between Norfolk pine trees. Also another 3.5 and 7 MHz dipole between nicely placed trees.

Yacht Sinking

As you may have heard, our operation was upset by the loss of our yacht "Shiner" which dragged anchor and snapped other safety lines - was holed by a rock and sunk in 50 feet of water. The two persons on board at the time managed to scramble ashore without injury. The next few days were spent by the Scientific Party - diving and trying to recover their equipment. The yacht was insured OK but we lost one of the six-man life rafts which popped open and blew away. All this, by the way, was caused by a cyclone which suddenly changed direction. It would have been dangerous to take to the open sea because of darkness and unseen rocks, etc.

However, back on the other side of the island we kept the four ham stations going and after eight days logged 30,000 QSOs!

We were brought back to ZL on a small freighter and now we are facing an extra \$3000 (USA) in transport cost! That's the short story. Meantime, there were many photos taken but none available at time of writing. I'm hoping to get some back soon in order to design our QSL card.

One extra thing is that the Marine Scientists did find some previously unrecorded species of fish in their first few days of looking around. Guess this made them pretty excited.

73 to all the NCDXF gang and members.

Again thanks for your support on behalf of ZL1BQD, ZL1AAS, ZLOAJW/8.

FLASH!

Just as we go to press, we have heard that the DXAC has recommended deletion of Baker-Howland-American Phoenix, and creation of a new DXCC country of Baker-Howland. The ARRL Headquarters Committee has not yet acted on the recommendation. See the article below for additional details.

Baker & Howland Islands A New DXCC Country???

Rumors have been flying recently regarding "something doing" in the DXCC country of Baker, Howland and American Phoenix Islands. These rumors have been correct - there is, indeed, "something doing". We (the NCDXF) have tried to keep the matter low key for one very simple reason: new DXCC countries are very hard to find these days, and we want to be first on the air. We have put a great deal of time and effort into this activity over the past four years and want to be able to benefit from our labors. But now that the rumors have started and part of the story has been told, we believe it is time to report the full story to you, our members.

So, what is the story? Well, as most DXers know, there has always been something strange about Baker, Howland, and American Phoenix Islands. The United States and the United Kingdom both claimed the eight Phoenix Islands for many years, in conflict with one another. In order to resolve the dispute, back in 1939 the two countries agreed to joint administration of two of the islands, Enderbury and Canton Islands. This was expanded to include Hull Island in 1970. Because of this joint arrangement, a station located on Canton Island could be licensed by the British as a VR1, and contacts with that station counted for the DXCC country of British Phoenix Islands. That very same station, in the very same location, could also be licensed as a KB6 (later KH1) and contacts under the U.S. call would count for the DXCC country of Baker, Howland and American Phoenix Islands. In 1979 the Republic of Kiribati was created, and the DXCC country of British Phoenix became Central Kiribati. The dispute between the U.S. and the U.K. then became a dispute between the U.S. and Kiribati.

Then, in late 1979, the U.S. and the Republic of Kiribati signed a Treaty of Friendship, in which the U.S. renounced all claims to the Phoenix Islands. Bob Locher, W9KNI, told us of this treaty at the 1980 Fresno DX Convention, and we have been tracking it ever since. The treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate in June, 1983, signed by President Reagan in July, and finally formally implemented in September of last year. Now that the treaty is in force, KH1 licenses are no longer issued in the Phoenix Islands. The DXCC country presently known as Baker, Howland and American Phoenix Islands therefore now consists only of Baker and Howland Islands, which have never been in dispute and were not affected by the treaty.

So what? one might ask. How can that affect DXCC? Well, we believe that the course of events calls for the deletion of the present DXCC country of Baker, Howland and American Phoenix Islands and creation of a new DXCC country of Baker & Howland Islands. The reason we believe this should be done is as follows. The treaty removes from American jurisdiction fully 90% of the land area and 100% of the populated areas of the old DXCC country of Baker, Howland and American Phoenix. This is, by any reasonable measure, a really massive change to the DXCC country. Also, Canton Island, the spot of land from which nearly all postwar DXCC credited contacts have been made is no longer under American jurisdiction. If the ARRL does not delete the present country then DXers who already have credit would maintain credit even though Canton Island, the location with which their contact was made, is no longer American soil and is no longer within the boundaries of the country for which credit is given. We don't think that makes good sense, and that the only action that makes sense is to delete the old country, which has undergone massive changes, and create a new country consisting of Baker & Howland Islands only.

We petitioned the ARRL DX Advisory Committee last August to consider our arguments, but at the time this is being written, there has been no decision. Unfortunately, clear-cut criteria for deleting DXCC countries are not given by the DXCC rules, while prior deletions, which might be used as precedents, are not without ambiguities. The DXAC's job therefore has not been an easy one, for good arguments can be given on both sides of the issue. Our understanding is that the vote is in progress, and a decision may have been made by the time this newsletter appears.

If the decision is favorable, QRX! A new country will be coming!

de W6CF

Questionnaire Replies

About Working DXpeditions

The questionnaire in the Winter Newsletter brought some interesting comments about how many QSOs DXers should have with a DXpedition. Refer to the summary of questionnaire results elsewhere in this issue.

Most responses dealt with DX Hoggerly or how many QSOs per mode per band. We share with you the nice wide variety of opinion we received:

"The advent of 5 band awards and 2 meter DX repeaters has created a monster. All these award-happy (bleep bleeps) mess it up. I don't have any answers for this" ... W7FU. "If someone is working for 5BDXCC and a rare one comes on, he certainly should try and make a QSO on each band." ... W5AQ.

"Many of us are working toward 5BDXCC and would like to do it single mode on SSB and CW. Nevertheless, more than one QSO/band/mode deprives other of a chance." ... W2KVA. "5BDXCC the root of much QRM and bad operating practice. Big guns crowd out the little guy to bag 10 contacts." ... W2CP. "Some countries have a competition, how many countries worked per band and per mode. This means you have to work DXpeditions on two modes on all bands." ... LA8CJ. "If a DXpedition is planning to operate multi-band and multi-operator, then they should be fair game for a 'good' QSO per mode per band." ... N6IC.

"After analysis of the VK0HI and VK0CW logs, it's interesting to note the number of times the BIG GUNS appear in the log. Even during times of high dog piles. (Refer to VK6NE's analysis elsewhere in this Newsletter)." ... VK6NE. I think it is selfish and deplorable that some operators try to work a rare DX station on additional bands" ... W6LOI. "One QSO per band ...but... if the expedition is real rare, as a courtesy to other stations, I'll only make a few QSOs." ... K7WQD. "One QSO mode is enough if it's obvious the QSO rate is low. I hate to think my greediness kept someone from a new one." ... KOSVX.

"Don't appreciate DX hogs re-working rare DX day after day at expense of my QRP (Howie runs 20 watts to an end fed wire). So try my best not to be guilty of similar hoggishness." ... W2QHH. "Unless it is a new DXCC country for the station it should not be worked at all for the first few days to give those needing a new country a chance." ... K6UD. "Responsible ops should exercise self-restraint and let everyone have a chance. On the other hand, more than once, I've been cheated out of a legitimate rare QSL when the DX op mis-logged me." ... K6UXO, KC4UG, KG6GI.

"It is regrettable that so many well-known DXers always (are) heard jumping on DXpeditions although they have worked such DX before (or several times). 5BDXCC should (not count) for the 20 tries." ... HB9MX. "Sound reasonable to work DX on both CW and SSB. I see it as two different things. Also because of awards, and to train my skills on both modes." ... OH2BAW. "If DXpedition stays (more than 3 or 4 days) one QSO/mode band OK." ... DL8CM. "Don't take up DX air time to satisfy your ego or hurt other." ... W6BL.

"I'm guilty of insurance contacts; but deep in your heart, you know when you really got 'em!" ... W6ROY. "If you believe in working only one QSO per band, an 'insurance' QSO is generally a good idea, preferably a different band or mode." ... KQ9L. "If you need an insurance contact, you made a lousy first contact and you should refine your technique." ... AK3F. "To reduce 'insurance' QSOs, DX ops should say or send, 'you are in the log.'" ... K1VHS.

"Any suggestions how to stop the deliberate disturbing on weak DX stations - whistling, etc.?" ... OH2VZ. "I would discourage list operations. The skill of the DX operator working by himself will permit many more QSOs. Undisciplined

calling is controllable by the DX operator, stating simply, 'I shall not respond to you.'" ... K2VAM, DK8AX. "Need more discipline. Stations call on top of the DX station. Policemen just as bad. The DX stations are much to blame. They do not provide proper equipment. They should ensure split operation. If they are going to use dipoles, they shouldn't even go! Operators should be experienced enough to be able to control the pile-ups. All in all, a poor showing by all" ... N1API.

"Ask the DXpeders to mention the calls more often in the pile-ups." ... OZ1VY. "Why do some DXpeditions operate in Extra bands only? Better class of animals? The pile-up zoo is still there, yowling and growling on a lower frequency-hl." ... N6ETK.

"I should like DXpeditions, mainly the ones in the Caribbean area, be kind enough to turn their beams to South America from time to time as a welcome change." ... CX4CO. "I hate to see a station ask for a CW contact when he knows there is a big group who is still waiting for a SSB contact. He might ask when the station will be on CW" ... KD7EC.

"I guess there is no way to discourage people who have them all worked from getting as many as possible all over again." ... W6HI. "I wonder how many 'reasonable' persons we have in DXing any more?" ... W9DY.

"(Bleep) Radio Club needs to know that radio is #2 ... before food and after sex. Eat when band closed" ... K8GG.

Finally ... "The Colvins - CLASS People!" ... K1HDO. We agree.

Questionnaire Results

	USA (254 answers)	FOREIGN (48 answers)
On The Satellite Now Or Soon?		
Yes	23%	46%
No	77%	54%
How Many QSOs With DXpedition?		
a. one/mode	22%	22%
b. one/mode/band	58%	45%
c. one/band	20%	33%
d. all you can get	0%	0%
Do You Monitor WWV Propagation Indices?		
Yes	63%	39%
No	37%	61%
Do You Know What The Indices Mean?		
Yes	69%	66%
No	31%	34%

Questionnaire Results

The above chart shows the results of the principal questions asked in our Winter questionnaire. Note that the summary does not give results of the questions about

reading magazines front-to-back, etc., and whether the reader was right or left handed. We'll explain that sometime when more space available. So if you wanted to know the correlation between right-handed people and their

plans for satellite operation, you'll just have to QRX ... but don't hold your breath.

Satellite operations. We wanted to get some idea of interest in satellite operation among DXers. It is interesting that foreign interest is so much higher than USA's.

How many QSOs should you make with a DXpedition?

We get more mail on DX Hog operations than almost any other subject (See also the article by VK6NE about Heard Island). Stories of a single DX hog having 7 or 8 QSOs per mode/band are not uncommon. This is the worst kind of "King-of-the-Hill" ego operation. But even worse, it deprives that many other operators a chance for a QSO. So, we decided to try to find out how many QSOs/band/mode with a DXpedition would be considered OK by DXers. One QSO/mode/band is the universally approved winner - yes, 5BDXCC is popular, like it or not.

DXpedition operators should also note that they may expect both SSB and CW contacts on each band from a majority of DXers.



Iris, W6QL, and Lloyd, W6KG, a few years at the International DX Convention in Fresno.



Folks, this luxurious countryside is an operator's eye view of Jarvis Island. (AD1S photo)

WWV and Propagation Indices

We wanted to get some information about general interest in propagation, the WWV indices, etc. and to see if there were any questions about interpretation. We got many questions which showed general interest in ideas concerning the "gray line", long path, actual effects of sun spots, correlations of the above, etc. We will try to have an expert answer these and other questions in coming Newsletters.

Summary

Thank you for your answers, questions and cooperation.

de W6ISQ



European DXpedition by F6EYS, F6EQG, F6HIX and F6GTC. How did they get all that gear in the car? (F6EYS photo)



No, this is not Heard Island. Its K8CW's backyard in Ohio where he and XYL Ann, KA8TKB, are taking up skiing. We wonder why? Let's see - Alan has already been to Heard. Do you support he's getting ready for ... ahhh ... no ... that's too cold. Say, maybe this is just camouflage. Maybe they are planning something in the South Pacific. We'll have to wait for the next photograph to find out. Stay tuned.

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION 1983.

OPERATORS

VK6HI. D.J. SHAW, VK3DRF, Dava.
 VK6CV. Fred A. FISCHER, VK6CV, Al.

FIRST CONTACT

VK6HI. 1252Z 22 January 1983.
 VK6CV. 1256Z 22 January 1983.

LAST CONTACT

VK6HI. 1220Z 15 February 1983.
 VK6CV. 1420Z 19 February 1983.



The maxi-yacht "ANACONDA II" departed Fremantle 31 December 1982, arrived Heard Island 21 January 1983, departing 21 February 1983 for Adelaide, arriving there 9 March 1983.

All the following information has been extracted from the Logs of VK6HI and VK6CV by Hugh Spence, VK6PS, who has endeavoured to present as true and accurate a report of the expedition as is possible.

Hugh Spence VK6PS



(1)

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION 1983: VK6HI & VK6CV

Analysis of operating habits of larger countries by district.

Analysis prepared from VK6CV 14Mc/s log by VK6PS.

Column Legend: A-Calls in Log, B-Duplicated Calls, C-Individual Calls

V. Germany	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	79	29	50	2	1	1	12	4	8
2	69	22	41	3	1	1	5	1	4
3	70	22	48	5	1	1	9	3	6
4	36	11	25	6	1	1	75	24	51
5	46	15	31	8	1	1	10	3	7
6	64	18	43	9	1	1	6	1	5
7	61	13	48	8	1	1	3	-	3
8	60	15	45						
9	49	10	39				120	36	84
Σ	75	14	61						

600 169 431
= 28.21% Dupes.



(13)

England	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	4	-	3	1	1	1	24	7	17
2	90	21	69	2	1	1	53	13	40
3	28	7	21	3	1	1	9	2	7
4	2	-	2	4	1	1	23	8	15
5	3	-	1	5	1	1	22	8	14
6	1	-	1	6	1	1	4	1	1
7				7	1	1	2	1	1
8				8	1	1	22	5	17
9				9	1	1	8	1	7
Σ	128	31	97				11	1	2

128 31 97
= 24.2% Dupes.

Japan.	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	855	231	622	1	1	1	50	8	22
2	333	89	254	2	1	1	109	31	76
3	286	88	198	3	1	1	53	22	31
4	101	19	82	4	1	1	3	-	3
5	124	40	84	5	1	1	26	8	18
6	228	61	167	6	1	1	26	8	18
7	248	74	173	7	1	1	7	1	6
8	115	31	82	8	1	1	14	4	15
9	60	18	42	9	1	1	9	2	7
Σ	147	31	116				282	89	197

2432 692 1800
= 27.76% Dupes.

U.S.A.	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	477	153	324	1	1	1	108	39	69
2	751	245	506	2	1	1	61	22	38
3	410	124	286	3	1	1	185	39	124
4	1082	330	752	4	1	1	61	15	46
5	974	181	593	5	1	1	7	4	5
6	614	185	429	6	1	1	1	-	1
7	291	70	221	7	1	1	77	23	54
8	788	270	518	8	1	1	300	152	338
9	825	295	530	9	1	1			
Σ	445	121	324						

6257 1974 4289
= 31.54% Dupes.

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION 1983: VK6HI & VK6CV

Extract of U.S.A. Calls appearing in VK6HI 14Mc/s SSB Log.

This Summary has been prepared by VK6PS.

Column A-U.S.A. District, B-Calls in Log, C-Duplicated Calls, D-Individual Calls B-C, E-Registered US Calls, F-Dupes as % of B, C-Individual Calls as % of E.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	304	64	240	26000	21.00	0.92
2	533	116	417	41900	21.76	1.00
3	287	44	243	27000	15.33	0.90
4	938	182	756	69000	18.99	1.12
5	347	60	287	41000	17.29	0.70
6	248	32	216	35600	12.90	0.38
7	147	15	132	35500	10.20	0.57
8	644	162	482	40000	25.15	1.20
9	532	123	409	35000	23.12	1.16
Σ	309	58	251	36500	18.77	0.68

4308 855 3453 407000 19.84 1.05.

It was disheartening to the organisers to see almost 20% duplications, 17.56% worldwide, caused by the same calls appearing in the Log day after day. Maybe there can be some justification for appearing twice if QRM level was so high that the operator was unsure if the contact had been completed but surely there is no justification for a station to make up to 8 contacts over the months operating period. This tactic can only be assumed as being "one up-man-ship" or trying to show the world (and your friends if you have any left among those who missed out) that your Linear and Antenna is the biggest. These duplications only used up valuable operating time and robbed someone else of a contact with the then most wanted country in the world. I hope the multi operators, whose calls I have on list, are thoroughly ashamed of their greedy operating habits....VK6PS, licensed since 1938 when Amateurs were friendly and courteous.



(10)

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION 1983: VK6HI & VK6CV

VK6CV OPERATING SUMMARY C.V.

BAND No/s	CALLS in LOG	DUPED CALLS	INDIVIDUAL CALLS	PERCENTAGE of DUPED CALLS	COUNTRIES CONTACTED
7	1,016	135	881	13.28	54
14	13,250	3,914	9,336	29.54	110
21	1,266	189	1,077	14.94	47
Σ	15,532	4,238	11,294	27.28	*

* 115 different countries were contacted on all Bands.

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION 1983: VK6HI & VK6CV

OPERATING SUMMARY, Compiled from Logs by VK6PS.



Mo/s	Calls in Log				Duped Calls				Indiv. Calls			
	28	21	14	7	28	21	14	7	28	21	14	7
VK6HI	174	1075	8901	158	9	57	1734	12	165	1018	7167	146
SSB				4								4
VK6HI CV												
VK6CV	4	1244	828	17	-	154	76	-	4	1090	752	17
SSB												
VK6CV CV	-	1266	13250	1016	-	189	3914	135	-	1077	9336	881
CV												
Totals	178	3585	22983	1191	9	400	5724	147	169	3185	17259	1044

Total all Bands	Calls in Log	Duped Calls	Individual Calls	% Dupes
VK6HI SSB	10308	1812	8496	17.58
VK6CV SSB	2093	230	1863	10.98
VK6HI CV	4	-	4	-
VK6CV CV	15532	4238	11294	27.28
Σ	27937	6280	21657	-

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION 1983: VK6HI & VK6CV

ANALYSIS and SUMMARY of VK6HI S.S.B. Operation, Compiled by VK6PS.

AREA	OPERATING FREQUENCY Mo/s.				TOTALS
	28	21	14	7	
Australia	2	158	751	14	905
N.Zealand	-	11	78	-	89
Japan	171	571	1859	136	2737
Europe	-	310	1135	-	1445
Sth. America	-	7	261	-	268
U.S.A.	-	-	4308	2	4310
Canada	-	-	169	3	172
Others	1	38	340	2	381
Σ	174	1075	8901	158	10208

Total number of Calls in Log 10,308
 Less Duplicated Calls 1,814
 Remainder, Individual Calls 8,494



Percentage of Duplicated Calls to Total number of Calls in Log = 17.58%

Countries contacted on 28 Mo/s 3
 " " " 21 " 42
 " " " 14 " 115
 " " " 7 " 6

TOTAL Countries contacted on all Bands = 124.

NOTE: 4 CV contacts were given on 14Mc/s using VK6HI Callsign.

(3)

Treasurer's Report

de WB6UOM

Nine Month Period Ending March 31, 1984

RECEIPTS:

Memberships and Contributions	\$ 28,640.70
Interest	7,004.80

Total Receipts	35,645.50

DISBURSEMENTS:

Scientific Expeditions	19,698.11
Capital Equipment Expenses	4,128.56
QSL Cards	2,001.57
Newsletters	1,779.41
Administrative and General Expenses	3,504.09

Total Disbursements	31,111.74

EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 4,533.76

Cash Balance at July 1, 1983	\$ 116,768.08
Excess receipts over disbursements	4,533.76

CASH BALANCE AT MARCH 31, 1984	\$ 121,301.84
--------------------------------	---------------

Checking Account, First Interstate Bank	\$ 6,584.93
Money Market Account, Imperial Bank	114,116.20
Ready Assets Trust Account, Merrill Lynch	600.71

	\$ 121,301.84

Chinese In Five Minutes

How many times have you come across ... "Excuse my poor English"? Well, how about the next time you are in QSO with ZA1AA, and after ... ur 59 - say "Excuse my poor Albanian..!"

This time we will add weather to our series of foreign languages. I can assure you that the operator of BY4AA will be delighted.

de Bruno, AA6AD

English	Weather	Clear	Cloudy	Rain	Snow	Fog	Warm	Cold
French	Temps	Clair	Nuageux	Pluie	Neige	Brouillard	Chaud	Froid
German	Wetter	Frisch	Bewoelkt	Regen	Schnee	Nebel	Warm	Kalt
Russian	Pagoda	Svize	Oblaka	Dozde	Snieg	Tuman	Teplo	Holodno
Spanish	Tiempo	Claro	Nublado	Lluvia	Nieve	Nebuloso	Caluroso	Frio
Italian	Tempo	Chiaro	Nuvoloso	Pioggia	Neve	Neppia	Caldo	Freddo
Japanese	Otenki	Hare	Kumori	Ame	Yuki	Kiri	Atatakai	Samui
Chinese	Tien Chi	Chin Chu	Dwo Yuin	Yu	Shueh	Woo	Lwan Ha	Lan
Yugolsavian	Vreme	Cisto	Oblacno	Kisa	Snjeg	Magla	Toplo	Hladno

Questionnaire

1. What makes a "good" or "bad" DXpedition? (Not counting that it is probably "good" if you worked it, and "bad" if you didn't.) How many and what types of operators, rigs, antennas, etc. Operator selection?

2. Refer to W6RQ's "20 meter Beacon Observing Report" in this Newsletter. Do you have any other ideas for a "Beacon Reception Index" which would correlate propagation conditions based on 14.1 MHz beacon reception, solar flux, a-index, sunspots, etc. Or is it even possible to make such a correlation?

Here is my NCDXF Membership donation:

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

Here is an additional donation for NCDXF Membership for:

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

Thanks to Hewlett-Packard Company for help in typesetting this Newsletter. It was printed by an HP 2680A Laser Printer after having been typed on an HP 150 Touchscreen Computer.

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