



Northern California DX Foundation

www.ncdxf.org

Spring/Summer 2005

FT5XO: Another low-fat, high-fiber DXpedition

by James Brooks, 9V1YC, FT5XO DXpedition leader

Kerguelen is not exactly the most popular island in the world to visit. It's not near anywhere, it's not on the way to anywhere and it's not really anywhere anyone would want to go to. It's a place where the wind can reach typhoon strength on any ordinary day and it's a place where the weather is almost always cold, wet and miserable.

In fact, Kerguelen is so unpopular that even Antarctica gets more visitors.

So why would anyone want to go to Kerguelen? Because of DXCC, that why.

Kerguelen ranks as one of the most wanted DXCC entities (even higher than Peter I in the USA) and that makes it a perfect spot for the Micro-Lite Penguins DXpedition team. Hard to reach, cold climate and very rare. Our team's specialty.

I came up with the idea to activate Kerguelen in 1997 when I was given a chance opportunity on the way back from Heard Island. We only stopped briefly at Kerguelen, and by a stroke of luck I was given a free helicopter ride to an old, unused whaling station about 10 minutes flight from the French base. Only one other VKØIR team member was with me at the time (KK6EK), so it remained a bit of a secret for many years. I "filed" this potential DXpedition site away in my head as place to think about in the future.

Six years later in mid-2003 the idea came back out of my head. It had been a year since the VP8THU-VP8GEO DXpedition and I began to wonder if the same lightweight method could be applied to Kerguelen. So, with Bernie, HB9ASZ, working on the landing permits and permission, myself working on logistics and finances, we began the long, arduous process of staging a major Antarctic DXpedition to the end of the world.

Planning

These trips are never easy. From a logistical standpoint they present a major challenge in terms of safety, environmental restrictions and travel distance and, from an administrative level, they require many, many years of patience.

Because of these difficulties, our "micro-lite" approach to Antarctic DXpeditioning was born. Safety and environment concerns outweigh all others when dealing with this formidable region of the world, so the ability to get on and off an island in a rapid manner with minimal hardware is key.

For the VP8 trip we did everything we could to "trim the fat" off

FT5XO
ÎLES KERGUELEN
 49°30' SOUTH 69°50' EAST
 CO ZONE 19 ITU ZONE 68 IOTA AF-048

OPERATORS:
 AG9A, G1ONWG, HB9ASZ, M0DKR, N5MZ, N0TT,
 SP5XVY, VE1EJ, VK6DXI, W7WL, W7EW & 9V1YC
 OR VIA VE1XN

NO MORE MR. KILOWATT™

THIS EXPEDITION WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION

the normal DXpedition load. Small radios, small antennas, small generators, low power — even if it meant our signal was going to be weak to the world — that would just have to do. In exchange, we would take the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FT5XO: Another low-fat, high fiber DXpedition	1
Heavy Hitters for 2004	4
Visalia 2005	5
VU4 DXpedition 2004 — a challenge activity	6
3YØX-2005 – The one that got away!	10
6OØCW — Somalia DXpedition	12
Video Lending Library	15

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1328
LOS ALTOS, CA 94023-1328
USA

Phone 707/794-9801 • Fax 707/794-8033

www.ncdxf.org

President.....LEN GERALDI, K6ANP
k6anp@pacbell.net

Vice PresidentAL BURNHAM, K6RIM
k6rim@pacbell.net

SecretaryTOM MCSHANE, NW6P
tom@bimark.com

TreasurerBRUCE BUTLER, W6OSP
w6osp@aol.com

Directors.....KEN ANDERSON, K6TA
k6ta@arrl.net

RUSTY EPPS, W6OAT
w6oat@arrl.net

STEVE MERCHANT, K6AW
merchant@garlic.com

DAVE PUGATCH, KI6WF
ki6wvf@attbi.com

CHUCK TERNES, N6OJ
n6oj@sbcglobal.net

TIM TOTTEN, N4GN
n4gn@n4gn.com

M. GLENN VINSON, W6OTC
w6otc@garlic.com

AdvisorsLOU BEAUDET, K6TMB
HOWARD BRAINEN, WZ6Z

BOB FABRY, N6EK

BOB FERRERO, W6RJ

PETER JENNINGS, AB6WM/VE3SUN

DAVE LEESON, W6NL

STEVE LUND, K6UM

CHARLIE MASON, W4NJK

DICK WILSON, K6LRN

Editor.....STEVE THOMAS, N6ST
steve@n6st.org

Graphic DesignerDEBI SHANK

Webmaster.....DOUG BENDER, WW6D

Newsletter produced at *WorldRadio*



Three of the Microl-Lite Penguins shoveling through the SSB pileups at FT5XO. James Brooks, 9V1YC (in baseball cap), team doctor Lew Sayre, W7EW (in plaid shirt) and John Sluymer, VE3EJ.

best operators we could find. Essentially, 6dB less signal would have to be made up with 30dB more operator.

The dangerous islands of South Sandwich were the first where this idea was tried: no heavy amplifiers, no large low-band antennas and no big transceivers. VP8THU was approached with a lightning strike 4-day stay and it worked. Two days later we landed on the slightly less dangerous island of South Georgia, and continued with VP8GEO.

In many ways, South Georgia and Kerguelen are quite similar: Both are tough to reach Antarctic destinations, but with calm, safe anchorages and a higher safety margin that allows a little more weight allowance. When planning the Kerguelen trip we decided to continue with the vertical antenna approach, but this time stretch ourselves a little by taking some small amplifiers and two larger transceivers to help us out on the low-bands. Though we departed slightly from the 100W-only rule on all stations, our overall weight load still stayed very manageable.

Logistical issues aside, there is another big problem with Antarctic DXpeditions: money. So, in early 2004 with the help of Trey, N5KO, we approached the NCDXF for funding. The idea was for them to be an

“exclusive sponsor,” which would mean that nobody else (such as commercial equipment manufacturers) could contribute. In exchange for the exclusivity they would give us a much larger sum of money than had ever been given before. This exchange had worked well for us on the VP8THU-VP8GEO trip in 2002, and they were pleased to help us again.

The NCDXF board especially liked our idea to keep things small and easy. After all, the “micro-lite” method had been tried and tested before, and there was no reason to believe it wouldn’t work again. They were also reassured when we presented a detailed plan, an experienced team and a good, reliable ship.

That of course meant the *Braveheart*, the same ship used for ZL9CI, VP6DI, VP8THU and VP8GEO trips. An experienced crew, knowledgeable in the workings and needs of a DXpedition was essential for a trip like this, and I could think of no better choice.

We arranged to board the ship in Durban, South Africa, and planned to sail her across to Kerguelen. After that, we were to continue with the southern ocean currents to Fremantle (Perth) in Australia where we would end our journey. (Trying to sail against the strong ocean current and return to South Africa would have

been extremely rough, uncomfortable and time consuming.)

Another of the Micro-Lite Penguins DXpedition Team credos is that we have no websites, no pilots and no online logs. This is a significant departure from what most DXers have come to expect from a major operation like this. At first, some DXers could not quite understand why we did this, but in time most understood.

We feel that the Internet and all the electronic publicity available to DXers today was gradually draining the whole DXpedition experience. A step backwards into the true Ham spirit of DX is what we are all about. The old fashioned way of DXing would strictly apply, and everyone at home would have to keep a keen ear out to work us, and our weaker-than-average signals.

Though I was sad that my old friend Trey, N5KO, could not make the trip due to family commitments, I did end up assembling a fine team of 12 very experienced operators, most of whom were on the South Atlantic "Micro-Lite" trip in 2002.

Departure

On 9 March, after a wonderful send-off from the Ham community in Durban we set out for Kerguelen — directly into the famous rough seas of the southern ocean.

Kerguelen is administered by a French government authority called TAAF which stands for Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises (French Southern and Antarctic Territories). The island is occupied year-round at a small base called Port Aux Francais and is serviced by the ship *Marion Dufresne* (the same ship which took the VKØIR team to Heard Island in 1997). Along with Crozet, FT5W, and Amsterdam Island, FT5Z, this ship visits Kerguelen four or five times a year over the spring and summer months. Other than that, there is no other regular vessel that visits the island.

Obtaining a landing permit for Kerguelen is easier than one might think. One does not need a special scientific reason or government waiv-

er to enter the territory, nor does one need to be a French citizen to be in the group. TAAF actually welcomes tourism, but unfortunately the bureaucratic nature of the French government stretches the permit process into years and it costs a team like ours almost \$10,000 in landing fees.

We arrived safely at Kerguelen on 19 March after smooth sailing for just



The FT5XO team. (from left) VK6DXI, VE3EJ, W3WL, SP5XVY, N6MZ, 9V1YC, GIØNWG, W7EW, HB9ASZ, MØDXR, NØTT and AG9A.

under 10 days. After a brief check in at the French base for passports and administrative matters, the *Braveheart* proceeded to our DXpedition location, which was at the old whaling station of Port Jeanne d'Arc about 40 km to the southwest.

The DXpedition campsite at Port Jeanne d'Arc was found to be perfect, with a beautifully restored house containing beds, heaters, toilet, running water and even a well stocked kitchen! A welcome surprise compared to what I saw back in 1997!

Setting up

After quickly assembling the antennas and setting up our stations it was decided that the team would operate in two shifts — one on the air during the day, and one during the night. This was so all of us would be able to return to the ship each day for hot showers, meals and to sleep.

We installed single-band vertical dipoles for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20M. Quarter-wave verticals for 30M and 40M, and two "Battle Creek Special" type antennas for 40M, 80M and 160M. All verticals except the "Battle Creeks" were designed and produced by Bernie, ZS4TX. We also put up

a large 6M Yagi that was to be used exclusively for EME. Assembly was a bit difficult due to the strong winds, but by the morning of 20 March we were on the air!

Stations consisted of three Kenwood TS-50 transceivers for CW (same units used during the VP8 trip), plus an Icom 756 Pro and an FT1000MP for SSB. We also had a

Yaesu FT897D for the EME station, which was to be manned by our team doctor, Lew, W7EW. Finally, at 0624 UTC on March 20, we were on the air with the call FT5XO.

Overall, more than half of all our QSOs were with stations from Europe. That was followed by Japan, the USA and the rest of Asia. This very unequal distribution was due mostly to propagation, distance and general HF activity.

Continental breakdown: Europe, 53%; Japan, 21%; USA, 17%; other Asia, 5%, all others, 1% or less each.

Results

Unlike the USA, which is almost at the antipode and a bit difficult to work, the distance and path to Europe and Japan from Kerguelen is almost the same, and a relatively easy one.

The final mode ratio ended up at 68% CW and 29% SSB, which was not surprising given that most of the FT5XO operators were CW contesters. Most of us were very reluctant to do any SSB at all during this trip, but we knew that it was important to make a good effort on both modes.

Surprisingly, our worst performing band to our best continent (Europe) was 20M. This was due to the fact

that the band would open just a little too late, and close just a little too early for us to work Europe effectively. Japan had no problem on 20M of course, due to the fact that they were ahead of us in darkness, but Europeans suffered. Quite a few stations thought it was our fault and we were purposely ignoring the band. But this was not the case.

QSO totals by mode

CW	45,687	68%
SSB	19,903	29%
RTTY	2,358	3%
EME	6	
Total	67,954	100%

We were also very surprised at how well 10M and 12M performed this far down in the solar cycle. We knew that the equinox period would help bring 10M and 12M up to some sort of usable level, but we had no idea it would produce such good results. We even found ourselves working many QRP stations on 10M and 12M. The fact that we chose to go down to the Antarctic region during the equinox rather than the traditional “summer” months of January and February made a profound difference in our ability to make use of all bands.

Conditions

During our trip, the outside temperature hovered between 0°C and 8°C, with sun, rain, sleet, snow and lots of wind almost every day. The snowstorms were very strange. Over a period of two days snow would come down in extremely heavy blizzards each hour, but would last only a few minutes. The snow’s start-stop cycle was so fast that often the sun would come out a few minutes later and everything would melt in a matter of minutes! The most dangerous part of the snowstorms were static electricity, which put such a huge charge on our antennas that it temporarily wiped out the bands with noise, and even destroyed one radio completely.

Our original plan was to be active

from 18 March to 2 April, but it turned out that both the journey to Kerguelen and then home again was predicted to take a little longer than expect-

ed. As a result, we only became QRV at 0700 UTC on 20 March, and had to go QRT on the morning of 31 March,



Gentoo penguins gathered near the base of one of our antennas.

Band-Mode breakdown

Band	CW	SSB	RTTY	Total
160M	1,173	16	0	1,189
80M	3,578	957	0	4,535
40M	9,643	2,774	160	12,577
30M	9,683	0	616	10,299
20M	4,012	4,640	327	8,979
17M	5,144	2,168	497	7,809
15M	4,485	3,964	758	9,207
12M	4,411	3,499	0	7,910
10M	3,558	1,885	0	5,443
6M EME				6

which was about three days less than we had hoped. The last QSO was made by Wes, W3WL, at 0154 UTC after a total of almost 68,000 QSOs.

By that evening we were on our way home, this time headed to

Australia. We arrived into Fremantle (Perth) on the morning of 11 April — a total journey of almost 5,000 nautical miles and 32 days across the Southern Indian Ocean.

Special thanks go to ZS5BBO and all the members of the Highway Amateur Radio Club in Durban, South Africa, who made our air to sea transit exceptionally smooth. Thanks also to TAAF for their kind support for our adventure.

And though its been said before, we would again like to thank our sole organizational sponsor, the Northern California DX Foundation. Their continued support for DXpeditions to the far reaches of the world helps to keep one of the most exciting aspects of Amateur Radio alive. Without the NCDXF, this trip would not have been possible.



Heavy Hitters for 2004

We sincerely thank these supporters of the Northern California DX Foundation for their generous contributions during the calendar year of 2004.

\$2,500-\$5,000 or more K6DC (estate), W4QM and W6EUF.

\$750-\$1,250 — K6RIM, K6TA, Northern Illinois DX Association, Southern California DX Club, W6EEN, W6OSP and W6OTC.

\$250-\$500 — Anonymous, AA6IR, AB6WM, JA1EM, K6GFJ, K6IPV, KI6WF, K6KO, K6MD, KI6T, LA7XB, NC8B, N1CYA, N4JJ, Northern California DX Club, Redwood Empire DX Association, W5IZ, W6AQ, W6BGK, W6JZH and W6WKE.

Visalia 2005

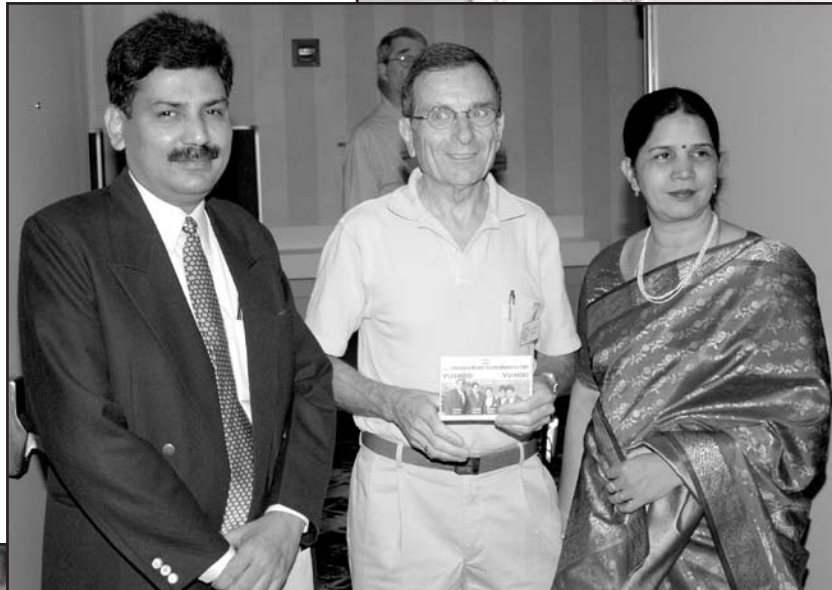
Pictures from the NCDXF breakfast at the International DX Convention in Visalia, 15-17 April 2005.



NCDXF display.



(from left) VU2DBP, D.N. Prasad; K6ANP, Len Gerald, NCDXF President, and VU2RBI, Bharathi Prasad. Bharathi Prasad and D.N. Prasad were co-leaders of the December 2004 VU4NRO Andaman Island DXpedition. See page 6 for the story.



(above left) K6ANP, Len Gerald, NCDXF President, and OH2BH, Martti Laine.



(left) W6OAT, Rusty Epps, NCDXF Director and N7NG, Wayne Mills, ARRL Membership Services Manager.



Visitors at the NCDXF booth.

VU4 DXpedition 2004 — a challenge activity

by S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH

Promoting Amateur Radio activity in India has been a challenging task for even the most experienced and influential people. The best example was obtaining the permission to operate from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (VU4).

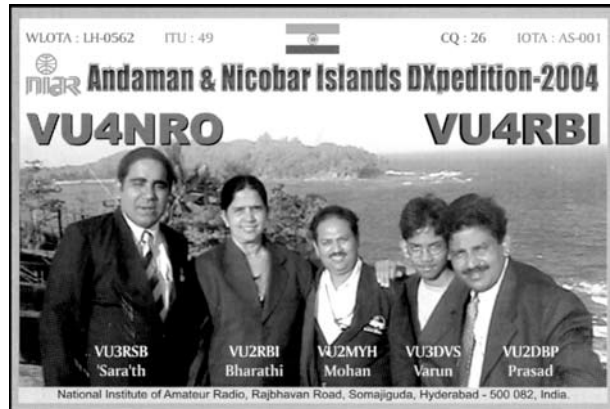
Repeated attempts were made by several Hams in India and abroad to seek permission to operate from Andaman and Nicobar Islands since the last activity in 1987. We are proud that the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) could achieve this goal.

Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY, founder and chairman of NIAR, had the leadership skills and courage to pull off an unrealistic and impossible task of securing permission from the Government of India for a team of five Hams with Mrs. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, as team leader to operate from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

“Anything is possible and everything is impossible in India,” these words of VU2MY echoed in every office briefing. Obtaining permission for conducting a DXpedition in VU4 was an impossible task until the moment it arrived. VU2MY made several trips to New Delhi (2,000 km north of our HQ at Hyderabad) to convince officials, having discussions with several agencies and Ministries of Government of India.

VU2RBI used every possible influence to convince decision-making authorities to get an approval on her application. Her efforts were thoroughly supported by NIAR and over 200 individuals and institutions worldwide, sending letters to the government.

The support given by India's Department of Information Technology to NIAR to establish 10 Amateur Radio centers all over the country earlier during the year provided us with the



latest state-of-the-art transceivers, power supply units, antennas, laptop computers and other accessories that helped us to mount the VU4 DXpedition within a short notice including digital modes like PSK, SSTV, RTTY, etc., during the operation.

A shocking surprise

The Government of India approved a DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands with five operators: namely Mrs. Bharathi, VU2RBI (team leader); Mr. D.N. Prasad, VU2DBP; Mr. D. Varun Sastry, VU3DVS; Mr. R. Sarath Babu, VU3RSB, and Mr. S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH. Permission was issued on 19.11.2004 intimating us to conduct a DXpedition from 3-31 December 2004.

The news came as a surprise; the joy was unbound. We were so happy that NIAR could finally crack the puzzle. Now the shocking reality: there was just two weeks to prepare.

VU2RBI, stationed in New Delhi, informed us to make all the necessary arrangements for



travel and logistics for the DXpedition. At the first instance, we prepared the plan of operation, listed necessary equipment, antennas, computers and associated Ham gear required. NIAR always has ready-to-carry disaster communication kits with

fully functional HF, VHF, power supply units and DC cords readily packed. We brought down the 4el, 3-band Yagi at NIAR for 20-, 15- and 10-Meter bands, Inverted-V for 40 and 20 Meters, 2 nos. of high gain vertical antennas for 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter bands, Inverted-V for 12- and 17-Meter bands and separate antennas for 160- and 80-Meter

bands, including four linear amplifiers. VU2RBI brought her own 7-element, 5-band beam for her station.

It took eight persons, five days to test each and every equipment and pack in appropriate boxes and suitcases. The entire equipment weighed 660 kilos.

Second and most important task was budgeting for the entire DXpedition. Most of the hotels were relatively expensive and economical hotels did not want external antennas on top of their buildings. We had sleepless nights identifying exact locations. VU2RBI and VU2MY were the only team members who had visited Port Blair, 17 years earlier! We searched the Internet, made several telephone calls and chased people for the right information.

We decided on three places, includ-



The expedition team just before leaving NIAR in Hyderabad with 660 kilos of equipment (left).

ing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Polytechnic College and Hotel Sinclairs in Port Blair for Mrs. Bharathi and her family. We decided to take a rental accommodation for a month for myself and operate the station from the college.

Mr. Ellyas, a friend of my colleague, informed us that it would be difficult to visit Nicobar Island without valid "tribal pass" and proper travel permit from the local administration. We found it difficult to seek these permissions given the time limit of our operation and the idea to operate from Nicobar was dropped.

Pooling funds

NIAR already had a committed program running for a year and it was already stretching its resources for other projects. I shelled out my savings for the year; it could only count for a one-way ticket from Hyderabad to Port Blair for four members of our team. NIAR sponsored the return tickets, logistics, local travel and other incidentals.

Dr. Charles Harpole, K4VUD, gave us ideas and information and assured us that DX associations would sponsor the VU4 DXpedition. He did an excellent job scouting on our behalf, which helped us to bring Bharathi and her family by air just in time for launching the operation.

Transporting 660 kilos of equipment and personal luggage was an ominous task for myself and Sarath Babu, VU3RSB. We requested Mr. D.V.R.K. Murthy, VU2DVO, and Mr. Prashant, an SWL awaiting license to assist us. Mr. Jose, VU2JOS, joined us later with the new antennas and assisted the team. It was just the grace of God that the DXpedition team embarked on the ship, M.V. Akbar, leaving Chennai on 29 November that reached Port Blair on 2 December 2004.

Once on board ship, we had time to study other successful DXpeditions and read tips from the experts. We jotted plans on initial frequencies and suitably unpacked the equipment at appropriate locations. We were particularly impressed with T33C Banaba Island DXpedition details

(right) Mr. S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH, operating Amateur Radio station at Mus Jetty, Car Nicobar, providing emergency communication. Mr. D.V.R.K. Murthy, VU2DVO, is also seen.



Mr. S. Suri, VU2MY, explaining importance of Amateur Radio communication in a program organized at Prasar Bharathi, Port Blair (Broadcasting Corporation of India, Radio and TV).

made available by Frank, DL4KQ. We found Mr. Raju, the radio officer onboard was a Ham enthusiast waiting for license; he showed us his office and shared his experiences.

VU2JOS did an excellent job packing each box, every package was marked and tagged for each operator. We prepared a short notes on whose station will be installed first and hours of operation, frequency band and modes.

VU2RBI and her family arrived on 1 December and installed their antennas and equipment and were ready for launching the operations on midnight of 2 December 2004.

A dream becomes reality

VU2RBI had informed us that we should be ready by 4:30 p.m. for an official appointment with the Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration. She explained our visit to islands to him and he welcomed us to the islands and suggested we put an Amateur Radio station at the science centre for people to visit and

create awareness about Amateur Radio. We readily agreed and that became our fourth station in our operations.

We were racing against time for the launch; the meetings took more time than expected and we only managed

to erect an Inverted-V antenna in pitch darkness on top of a workshop building. A table, chair and an electrical point was arranged in a parking lot adjoining the road, just before midnight, where it was pre-decided to be VU3RSB's location for operation.

He was on the air and we were thrilled by the response as he gave out a call "CQ CQ CQ DE VU4NRO VU4NRO VU4NRO." The reply was instantaneous; the first contact was made with VU2MY. It was a memorable moment in life and a sense of accomplishment as we made our first contact. There was huge pileup on the band just in seconds. I handed over the control and station to VU3RSB, he put on the headphones and started answering the calls, in minutes he started filling pages of the logbook. He operated nonstop for next 10 hours.

VU2RBI began her marathon of radio contacts as the clock struck 00:01 a.m. on 3 December. Mr. Prasad, VU2DBP, and young Varun, VU3DVS, stood in her support and had to wait till Bharathi exhausted her energies in the morning. She was glued to the operating table right from the word GO ... breakfast, lunch and dinner was served to her on the operating table.

VU2RBI called us the next morning to raise her 7el beam at Hotel Sin-



His Excellency, Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Governor of Andhra Pradesh gave the DXpedition team a warm send off and wished all success.

Office of the Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration. We informed them that our teams were fully equipped to provide any communication support. We got a cold response initially. The officers were busy assessing the situation and expected everything to be under control. There was no forewarning on the huge tsunami waves that were about to hit the islands.

We rode our bikes to find out damage of equipment installed at

claims. The military provided her an excellent mast for her antenna and two of their officers in support of her operations. VU2RBI went on to make over 18,000 contacts with the same antenna in the next 23 days of her operations.

VU3RSB operated the first two days and nights from the shade of a parking lot, braving extreme temperatures. College authorities provided a room on the third floor of the boy's hostel but the real challenge was putting an antenna on top of the building. A WARC band antenna and an Inverted-V for 20-, 40-, 15- and 12-Meter band were erected at this location.

I operated with Inverted-V for 80M, Vertical for 40M band mostly during night, Tri-band beam for 20-, 15- and 10-meter bands on PSK, CW and voice modes.

Visiting friends

K4VUD visited us during our DXpedition and took several photographs and video of the DXpedition. He gave valuable tips to VU3RSB on radio operation and modified VU2RBI's beam antenna which immediately improved the performance levels and logged more contacts than usual.

VU2MY visited and he had an excellent opportunity to conduct demonstrations on Ham radio at the science centre.

Earthquake/tsunami relief

Tremors were experienced around 6:30 a.m. on 26 December 2004. We heard rattling sounds of cracking windowpanes; standing on our own two feet was difficult and we ran for safety. There were wide cracks vis-

NIAR sponsored equipment

Yaesu transceivers: FT 757 GX-II HF transceiver, FP 757 HD power supply, FL 7000 linear amplifier, FT 411 E handheld, FC 757 AT antenna tuner, FC 700 antenna tuner

Icom antennas: Icom AH-4 antenna tuner, AH-2B mobile antenna

Icom transceivers: Icom 706 MK-IIIG HF/VHF/UHF transceiver, Icom 208H VHF/UHF base station transceiver, Icom T90A VHF/UHF handheld transceiver, Icom PS55 power supply, linear power supply (30A/12V) Indian make

Antennas donated by Mr. Frank, DL4KQ, Cushcraft A3 WS, A 103, SteppIR Yagi 5-band

NIAR antennas: Create - 318 Jr. triband beam (14/21/28), Create 7-element, 5-band beam (14/18/21/24/28), Create CY 153 monoband beam (21), Inverted-V, all-band antennas (all-band), Telex Hygain 14AVQIWB-S Vertical antenna (10 through 40 meters), VHF/UHF groundplane, VHF Magmount + 50 MHz, 1,500 meters of coaxial cables

Other essentials like Hi-Mound paddle key/straight key, CW software, quick charges, Yaesu NC 37; slow charger, Icom BC 110

Digital equipment: laptop computer, NIAR digital interface, MFJ 1275 digital interface, digital camera, digital web camera, colour printer, external CD writer

In total 660 kgs of Amateur Radio equipment and accessories was mobilized for the entire operation.

ible on the walls, along with broken articles, shattered glass and tiles. In seconds a beautiful guesthouse was torn apart. Rubble and dust filled the corridors and lobby.

The first thought was to find out the welfare of other team members since we were operating from four different locations. Hotel Sinclars was damaged but the structure was intact. VU2RBI was safe and we received information from other team members about their being safe.

There was no damage to our equipment, so we requested the hotel run the generator and we made contact with the outside world. We instantly got Hams from Chennai, Thailand, and other areas on band. Many felt tremors and were trying to know more information and intensity of earthquake.

We immediately reported to the

the science centre in Port Blair, just two km from Hotel Sinclars along the coast. We could see the seawater raising. Within seconds, water rose 10 to 12 meters. We luckily reached high ground before water engulfed low-lying areas and damaged houses. Cars were thrown to a distance of 30 meters away from the road. We packed the equipment safely into a suitcase and turned back. The route was inundated with water and the road was not clearly visible. We waited till water receded and crossed on finding a safe passage. Nature's fury was such, destruction seen all along the road.

The seriousness of the disaster was becoming evident as we heard reports from Hams in neighboring countries. We immediately suspended DXpedition activity and used the radio only for emergency communication. We



(left) Sarath Babu VU3RSB operating the DXpedition VU4NRO. (below) Mrs. Bharathi, VU2RBI, operating from lawn outside Hotel Sinclairs for emergency communications.



passed several welfare messages of hotel inmates and staff to their families and friends in the mainland.

We got a call from the Dy. Commissioners office on 27 December evening requesting Amateur Radio communication support and we immediately setup a station in his office. A team of two operators were airlifted on 28 Dec 04 to Car Nicobar; myself and Mr. D.V.R.K. Murthy, VU2DVO, volunteered and the station was in operation by afternoon. We passed initial damage reports, requirements of relief material and several hundred welfare messages. As there was no official to help trace missing people, we went to nearby localities to find those individuals and passed their welfare messages.

Amateur Radio communication network was expanded to a location at Mus Jetty in Car Nicobar and at Hut Bay in Little Andaman. Three stations were established in Port Blair to handle emergency traffic at Dy. Commissioners office, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Govt. Polytechnic College and Andaman Public Works Department.

Additional teams from NIAR with more equipment arrived in Port Blair and took position at different locations. Another team of operators from Gujarat setup stations at Campbell Bay Island and Terasa Island.

Emergency communication was provided for next 15 days and the last of the teams left the Andaman Islands on 13 January 2005.

NIAR Hyderabad and Delhi centre were also acting as relay stations and

were also supporting the emergency operations.

Mr. Raja Kartikeya, NIAR member, who served people during Gujarat earthquake directly landed in Car Nicobar and worked alongside Indian military and paramilitary forces for search-and-rescue operations, disbursement of relief at various camps, construction of new roads and helipads.

It was proved once again, beyond doubt, relevance and potential of Amateur Radio, even with the existence of facilities like satellite phones and other technologies.

The DXpedition team would like to return to these islands once again to complete the unfinished task and also look for new avenues to operate from Lakshadweep Islands also, which also tops the list of most wanted DXpedition stations. The experience and expertise are the strengths of NIAR, which has hundreds of committed volunteers who wish to perform a professional task with minimum resources.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration was fully appreciative of our DXpedition activity and fully

realized our potential for emergency communications.

I would like to thank all the officials in India who helped us make this task possible. I would also like to thank all Hams who sent contributions, particularly DERA; NCDX Foundation; International DX Association; German DX Foundation; Danish DX Group; GM DX Group UK; Swiss DX Group; EU DX Club; CDXC UK; Charles Harpole, K4VUD; Dr. Markus Dornach, DL9RCF; Mr. Bob Rylatt, G3VXJ; Mr. Gerald J. Chouinard, K5YAA; Mr. Frank, DL4KQ; Mr. Lester, ZL4PO; NZDXF; Mr. Austin Condon, VK5WO; Mr. Fernando Fernandez Martin, EA8AK; Member EU Parliament, and several others.

Your support ensured our stay in Port Blair beyond 15 December and made VU4 2004 DXpedition a successful activity. Special thanks to DL4KQ, who provided us very good antennas shipped all the way from the USA.

We thank Hams worldwide for encouraging us during the DXpedition and supporting earthquake/tsunami relief operations.

Upon landing at NIAR HQ in Hyderabad, we were pleasantly surprised to see hundreds of congratulatory messages. I came across a message from an Israeli group thanking us for tracing their members and passing on their welfare. The team felt the job well done.

We have done our part as Ham radio operators and enthusiasts by conducting a challenging task of VU4NRO/VU4RBI Andaman and Nicobar Islands DXpedition. Over 36,000 contacts in which VU2RBI alone made over 18,000 contacts logged, over 650 contacts on PSK and over 30 on SSTV.

I joined NIAR RACES wing as a volunteer at the age of 15, providing disaster communications in many natural and man-made disasters over the years. This remains as first instance in my life to have experienced a severe disaster and also work for disaster communications, which will remain in the memory for a lifetime.

3YØX-2005

The one that got away!

by Gary Stouder, MD, K9SG

I was fortunate to be a member of the long-awaited 2005 DXpedition to Peter I Island. A group of 17 other Hams and I, a photographer, an adventurer, and the “worlds most traveled man” spent 10 “vacation” days in Ushuaia, Argentina, while our team leaders, Bob, K4UEE, and Ralph, KØIR, tried everything possible to complete the DXpedition in 2005. Our original ship, the *Antarctic Dream*, failed to meet its contracted deadline for renovation and then, on short notice, we contracted the ocean offshore supply tug *Cavendish Sea* to take us to Peter I. We also had to find a first and then a second helicopter during this short time. We still felt we could justify the tremendous expense at this point because we would be at the island for about 10 days. However, 24 hours after the ship was supposed to leave port (500 miles north) to pick us up, a call to the harbor master revealed that the ship was delayed with engine trouble. Facing another delay of three days made the decision to postpone inevitable. We simply could no longer justify the expense. It wasn't fair to the team, the sponsors and the worldwide Amateur Radio community. The good news is that our multinational group spent an otherwise enjoyable, but anxiety provoking vacation, while sidelined in beautiful Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Preparing for Peter I

My journey began about 14 months ago when I retired from a very busy family practice and was delighted to be chosen as the team physician for the group. I obtained detailed medical histories on all of the participants while working as a Locum GP in rural Queensland, Australia, late last year and tailored my supplies accordingly. My suitcases held about 30 pounds of IV fluids,



Gary, K9SG, recruiting a new team member!

antibiotics, emergency medications and even a defibrillator. Our shipping container held an even larger supply of medical equipment to allow treatment of infections, injuries and heart attacks since it would take at least five days to get to any type of medical facility from Peter I Island. This was my first group DXpedition and my pileup skills had only been tested while operating in Curaçao at the PJ2T contest station. However, I felt my medical skills would make up for my lack of pileup skills and was very excited to be a part of the group. Meeting with a team of Hams who excelled in different aspects of the hobby and other skills necessary for the expedition was a real treat for a neophyte DXpeditioner like me.

The flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas gave a beautiful view of the snow-capped Andes topped with glaciers, mountain lakes and calving

icebergs. Most of us met in Punta Arenas since we had originally scheduled to sail from there on the *Antarctic Dream*. We purchased tickets for a 55-minute flight to Ushuaia, Argentina, to meet other team members and

prepare for our 1,200-mile trip to Peter I. At the airport in Ushuaia, three very friendly local Hams eagerly helped us get to our hotels. The LU8XW Ushuaia Radio Club members had a wine and cheese reception for our first night at their club headquarters and they arranged for us to receive temporary Argentina licenses. Because of their hospitality, most of us made donations or paid to become members of their club and made many QSOs from their facilities. The club building included an office, a large kitchen-dining area with a huge ventilated indoor grill, a bathroom and a radio room with access to their large antenna farm. The club is very near the water and easily located underneath a large lighted

outdoor sign that read “LU8XW.” We made many trips to the radio club for food, QSOs, fun and fellowship with the local Hams during our stay.

Pupi, LU8XPA, is in the tour business and has a brand new Mercedes bus. He took us on many tours and out to eat nearly every night without charge. Of course, he was our guest at dinner. Ralph, KØIR, and Gerard, F2JD, were interviewed on local TV and became instant celebrities on the streets of Ushuaia. Everyone seemed to gain weight with our inexpensive daily meals that included all-you-can-eat dinners that started as late as 10 p.m. every night in local gaucho restaurants. I never saw so much meat!

I was awestruck while discussing medical issues with Martii, OH2BH, who has a kidney transplant and told how he excelled in contests even while undergoing dialysis. During one dinner conversation, Martii

explained his philosophy of DXpeditions and how it is important to actually entertain the DXers during the event. We quickly became friends and talked many times during our stay in the southernmost city in the world. ¡El fin del mundo!

Small world

One evening, Erling, LA6VM, and I were discussing his work and the topic drifted to his present job of manufacturing custom equipment for offshore oilrigs. I told Erling that this brought back memories of my older cousin John who worked in the North Sea oil industry. Suddenly Erling's face brightened and he said, "I know this man and see him every week." We discussed what I remembered about John since I hadn't seen him in 20 years and, after a couple of e-mails, we confirmed that this was the same man. What a small world we live in!

Carlos, NP4IW/6, and Gerard, F2JD, both speak Spanish and English very well so they served as our interpreters. Gerard's native language is French and he would frequently mix in some French and English words during his interpreting which would make us all laugh. These guys really came in handy around town and helped out in conversation with the local people. One evening Luis, one of the local Hams and David, VK4GL, were sitting together at dinner and unable to carry on a conversation when suddenly both of them realized that they spoke French. From that point on we had an Australian and an Argentinean carrying on a non-stop conversation in French and only Gerard had any idea what they were talking about.

We didn't spend all our time eating and sightseeing. We spent about three days training for the mission. Bob, N6OX, took us through a PowerPoint presentation showing how to set up our shelters. He had taken pictures at every stage of the assembly process during our training meeting held in Atlanta the previous fall and built a training module on PowerPoint. With the delays, our expected stay on the

island began shrinking. Eric, K3NA, spent hours devising different scenarios of how we might get on the island and ramp up our operations more quickly, all the while being absolutely sure that we were not jeopardizing safety. Martti, OH2BH, gave very instructive lectures on working pileups and how to maintain control by spreading them out, working areas and working by numbers. By the end of his talks, I was ready to take on the "wall of sound" — the thousands who would be calling on those first days on the island! Gerard, F2JD, gave a long talk on safety issues that might come up on our trip. I gave a talk on medical conditions that we might encounter. These lectures and discussions had us prepared to go where few had gone before and make QSOs throughout the world.

Change of plans

When the ship was delayed the last time and we postponed until 2006, I was amazed to see the adventurers in the group rapidly change plans. Martti and Pertti, OH2PM, were on their way to work in the ARRL CW contest at PS2T. Pertti was also making plans to visit Fernando de Noronha for the 160 SSB contest. David and Eric made plans to go to Easter Island; Michael, PA5M, called HQ for the UN Food Program and was quickly assigned to Chad, where he is QRV today! The rest of us were tired, a bit overweight and ready to get back home to friends, family and neglected work.

During our stay we hiked in the Andes and took boat trips down the Beagle Channel where Charles Darwin had sailed years ago. Some people saw penguins and some even

walked among them. Everyone was taking digital pictures and we dumped about 5,000 pictures into Eric's computer. He promises to provide everyone CDs containing all of these pictures. In addition to the fond memories I have already mentioned, I will never forget Andy's perpetual smile and booming voice. Rooming with Michael and walking all over town together, and taking a ski lift up the mountain with George, N4GRN.



Dinner in Punta Arenas, Chile, our first night together. (clockwise, from left) KØIR, N4GRN, K4UEE, K9SG, WØRUN, N6OX, LA6VM, Axel Kruse, PA5M, N2WB, K4SV and Curtis Lieber.

Dave, K4SV, and Bill, N2WB, spending hours at the radio club making hundreds of QSOs. I learned about lightning induced whistlers, Alpha amplifiers and how someone can actually run 100 miles, in the mountains, from Gordon, WØRUN. Carlos, NP4IW/6, described how his company made monoclonal antibodies from mice tumors. I once saw a diminutive Hans Peter, HB9BXE, trying out a high chair in a restaurant. And of course, I will always remember the final look of defeat on Bob's face and the tears in Ralph's eyes when they finally announced that all options were exhausted and our mission would be postponed until next year.

It has been my observation in life that a great deal of satisfaction comes from pursuing a dream and even when we fall short of our ultimate goal, we become stronger people and develop deep bonds with others while trying to fulfill the dream. This adventure was no exception and Peter I Island is still there waiting for us... Until 2006.

60ØCW — Somalia DXpedition

by Andrea Panati, IK1PMR

In October 2004, I presented the T33C DXpedition at the annual SPDXC meeting in Poland, but I was still unable to answer the question “Where will you go next?” until I received an e-mail from my friend Silvano, I2YSB, asking if I could join the 60ØCW DXpedition.

Adriano, IK2GNW, was also involved, but at the last minute he was unable to join the expedition. The team was completed by Beppe, IK2WXXV; Marcello, IK2DIA, and Riccardo, IZ5BRW. All of them had been part of the 2002 expedition to Niger, 5U.



Mr. Mohamed Yasin Isak, 6OØMY, President of SARFEN, issuing the 60ØCW original license to Silvano, I2YSB.

Planning proceeded until our departure on 1 February 2005, when we checked in our unusual wooden/aluminum boxes containing precious antennas at the Milan airport. We landed first in Dubai, where the UAE security officers didn't like our baggage and decided to lock up a few of our boxes until we checked in for our next flight. We spent 20 hours in Dubai, a very dynamic and interesting city. People from all continents meet here and it was no problem

to find the last items we needed, including robust tape to reseal our boxes opened for inspection!

At 1 a.m. we were ready with our baggage and reclaimed the large boxes from the security office. We then checked in at 4 a.m. with Daallo Airlines. The flight from Dubai to Djibouti was no problem. Next, we boarded an old ex-USSR Antonov AN24 airplane to Somalia; the small plane was really full of passengers and baggage everywhere! Two hours later we reached our destination Galkaio (6:47N, 47:25E), in the Puntland region of Somalia. A quick look from the window revealed the city structure: a large array of square buildings, almost all the same size, same color and same plain roofs. Streets were simply a mix of dust, stones and holes of different sizes.

Somalia

I was the first of the team to set foot on the soil of Somalia. It was a great pleasure to see Adan, 6OØN, come to me and shake my hand, followed by Professor Hussein and others. Our identity was obvious from the color of our skin and from the “60ØCW” hats (an essential item under the sun at those latitudes). I was quick enough to snap a picture of the other team members getting off the plane, but then I was immediately blocked by several persons asking for “no camera.” So you'll understand why our video of the expedition is quite poor.

Adan and Hussein accompanied us to a guesthouse in Galkaio which was to be our main base and the place



to set up our first station, where we assembled the first antenna: a vertical for 30/40/80M.

I was in charge of making video and pictures of the setup phases, plus some public relations activities that lead me to a good lunch. To my surprise, after a Somali soup, I found myself eating good pasta with Hussein who spoke to me in perfect Italian! The owner of the restaurant spoke Italian, too, as he had spent five years in Torino. Of course I was prepared to speak English or other languages and to eat rice or camel for this PR lunch, but eating pasta with Italian-speaking people made me feel great and made things easier! Some common cultural background was evident.

In the afternoon, despite being tired, we had to hurry to find suitable pipes to erect our antennas and a generator to overcome the frequent power faults. Hussein was a smart and invaluable helper for logistics. Our first visit to a Somali house to pick up the generator was a surprise: although it had no floor and a lot of mosquitoes, it had satellite TV and an Internet connection! A scenario that is difficult to describe.

First contact

By sunset, the station was ready with an FT-847, 500W amplifier and 30/40/80M vertical antenna. Our



Silvano, I2YSB.

new friends invited us to go out for dinner and we could not refuse their kind offer. On the other hand, DXers worldwide and our Ham friends at home were waiting for us to show up, and some of them would worry if we did not appear when expected.

I was the only one of the team who had real food at lunch, so I was more relaxed than the others.

I also was one of the CW operators who could start on 30M, the best place to be given our initial limited setup. So I started the operations at 1500 UTC on 3 February 2005 signing 6OØCW on 10118 kHz, the lowest frequency that sounded quiet on 30M. It was no surprise that I generated an instantaneous huge pileup. Very soon, several familiar call signs were logged and I was happy to have the opportunity to send “all ops ok, vy FB, pse phone home” to a few good friends. Within the first three hours, many of our I1/I2 best friends were already in the log, including: I2UUA, IK2GNW, I2KMG, I2KAJ, IK2DFZ, I2TAO, I1POR and I2AOX.

When the others came back from dinner, they told me about checkpoints on the road manned by armed groups. All went smoothly, however, because they were accompanied by our Somali friends. We had a power fault around local midnight (as we would have every day). IK2DIA was indefatigable each night in checking, refilling and restarting the generator as many times as needed. Security at the guesthouse was guaranteed by an armed guard sitting just a few meters

from our antennas.

The next day we decided to set up our second station at Radio Daljir, an FM broadcasting station located in Galkaio about three km from our guesthouse.

The place had few amenities and three km under the sun of Somalia or (even worse) at night are a long way. However, the choice was motivated by the presence of a 50m tower which we could use for our 160M Inverted-V dipole. Somalia is pretty rare on 160M, and at this time of minimum solar activity we believed that the low bands deserved greater consideration. It was easy to find a young “volunteer” to climb the tower and install our dipole 45m above ground for a few U.S. dollars. He did the job quickly and he was happy; we were happy too!

To be serious on the low bands, we brought with us a Beverage receiving antenna. Unfortunately, we were located in a large town and there was no space for our Beverage except to run it on top of the roofs and across several streets 3.5m above the ground. It was hard work under the sun, with some 50 children around. We also erected a vertical for 40/80M. The station was an IC-756pro-III, ACOM-1000 power amplifier, and a laptop running WriteLog.

From 4 to 16 February, every night two of our mainly CW ops (I2YSB, IK1PMR and IK2WXV) had shifts operating CW on the low bands. We hired a driver to take us around after sunset and to come back and get us at sunrise. Beside being dangerous, moving around alone is also difficult because there are no signs or lights on the streets. We were locked inside the radio building with armed guards outside to guarantee security for us

and the broadcasting equipment. Galkaio is reasonably safe (compared to Mogadishu), but many people own weapons and we heard shots fired almost every night.

The top band offered us great satisfaction on several nights between 2000 and 0300 UTC. We were able to work 603 stations on 160M, with more than 50 U.S. stations mixed among the EU stations at the same time. JAs had good signals early in the evening and VK6HD was incredibly loud. We transported a bed with mosquito netting to the radio room. Sleeping was impossible because of the hot temperature, lights and noise, but at least we had a mosquito-free place to relax.

Our typical day included a light breakfast with tea and biscuits, rice or pasta with camel meat at lunch, then tea again for a quick dinner, with shifts to keep our stations running 24 hours a day, except when we had to attend social events.

During the day, operations took place on the high HF bands, with lots of EU all the time, some JA in our morning and NA in the afternoon. U.S. East Coast and Midwest were no problem and we were able to log 3,380 NA contacts on all bands. A few times we talked on sked to our friends Gian, I1POR, and Claudia, I1/K2LEO, for quick updates. One of our ops had fever for a couple of days; Dr. Abdul, an Italian doctor who resides in Galkaio, was so kind to visit us and give him medical advice. This fever, together with other logistics problems, prevented us from seriously participating in the RTTY WPX as originally planned. We worked digital modes mainly on 15M, managing to log 1,062 QSOs on RTTY.

Challenges

The most difficult challenge by far was hearing W6s and W7s. We were looking for them before our sunset on CW (the most efficient mode). Propagation is what it is at the bottom of the solar cycle, but what made us lose precious contacts was the behavior of a few EU ops who were

unable to understand “nw pse USA USA” and “pse EU QRX” when we were trying to copy weak signals long path from the U.S.

West Coast. We even had someone insisting with “pse EU” during those precious short openings with W6/W7; this is not the true Ham spirit or DX expertise, since we worked EU at least 22 hours a day from 160M to 10M.

Many W6s are also our good sponsors and friends, and we can't see why we shouldn't try to work them for a few minutes a day on such a difficult path. We had the best 20M openings to W6/W7 on 13 and 16 February, always long path at our sunset. 30/40m were more stable, with a few openings at our sunrise too, but the S/N ratio wasn't better. We also had limitations on 20M due to RFI to the broadcasting systems.

Somali people

Public relations were essential in 6O. We were guests in a foreign country where a visitor can't really do much alone and requires help from local people. The Somali were very helpful and friendly with us. They helped with logistics, food, internet access, licenses and much more.

Somalia looks forward to development and peace after a disastrous civil war. Amateur radio has been reintroduced in Somalia by Sam Voron VK2BVS/6OØA. On 14 February we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Mohamed Yasin, 6OØMY, the President of SARFEN (Somalia Amateur Radio Friendship and Emergency Network), who presented us with individual 6O licenses. Silvano had been issued the 6OØCW original license; all the other team members

were happy to get a 6OØ lifetime license with the last two letters of their Italian call signs.

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	QSOs
160	0	603		603
80	39	763		802
40	1,508	2,468		3,976
30	0	2,856	71	2,927
20	2,310	490	4	2,804
17	1,533	1,120		2,653
15	2,812	1,398	987	5,197
12	1,727	1,634		3,361
10	1,106	758		1,864
Total	11,035	12,090	1,062	24,187

I made two contacts as 6OØMR for training purposes (not a pirate guys!), then I gave the microphone to Sahra for the next few QSOs. Training a YL Amateur Radio student in a similar developing country is an interesting and rewarding experience

Country	QSO
Italy	3,188
USA	3,133
Germany	2,866
Russia	1,787
Japan	1,470
Poland	1,220
Ukraine	1,091

for an Elmer. She had no time to do more radio, but satisfaction was evident on her face. It's not easy for a Somali woman to gain access to an HF station. Women there have to dress and behave in specific ways. We, as guests, have to respect their traditions and rules, because it's their country. Our mission was to mount a DXpedition and to help Somali Hams (or future Hams) with basic training and equipment donations.

Although our Beverage antenna had been cut by someone several days before, we were still able to make excellent QSOs on the top band. DX activity continued until

The next day, Sahra (Secretary General of SARFEN) visited us at the guesthouse and it was my great honor to show her how to operate the equipment that we would leave to 6O amateurs upon our departure.

Continent	QSO
European Union	17,680
North America	3,380
Asia	2,434
Africa	277
South America	253
Other continents	163

0300 UTC on 17 February, the day of our departure from Somalia, for a total of 24,187 QSOs. K7XB was our last contact.

Heading home

We left our beam antenna with rotor and 160M antenna to Somali Hams, together with a complete HF station, laptop and several accessories. Before our departure, Joe, VA6JWT (who has been active as 6OØJT since October 2004), visited us. Then it was time to run to the airport which really is just a room in the desert! Our small plane arrived and was quickly filled. We had stops in Burao (Somalia), then Djibouti, Dubai and finally Milan, where we landed on 18 February at 12:15 local time.

Our new Somali friends already have invited us to come back, and it's possible that this will happen in the future, to give out more new ones. Our sincere thanks go to the Somali people, and to our many sponsors: NCDXF, INDEXA, DANISH DXG., GDXF, MDXC, EUDXF, CDXC, GMDX, ECO ANTENNA, D.A.E., ELETTRORIMA, Printing Shop IK1PML, KEYER by I2RTF, RIZZIERI ELET., CAVEL, CEP, FUNK, CUBICOM, IRAE2, EDILFOND, ARI CASALE Monf., ARI SCANDICCI, ARI BRONISTRADILLA, VK2BVS, W5BXX, I1HJT, I1UJX, IK1AZK, IK1IZB, IZ1ESM, I2CBM, I2KMG, I2EPT, I2WOQ, IK2BLA, IK2CIO, IK2DFZ, IK2UTT, IK2UWR, IK2VIL, I4EAT, DL9RCF, K7ER, K8YC, W3AWU and W6OAT.



VIDEO LENDING LIBRARY

Clubs that borrow materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The postage amount will be on the package when it comes to you, and is usually about \$3.20. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet, and more than one choice of programs in case there is great demand for the item you want. Please return all materials promptly (with your check for postage reimbursement) so it will be available for others. Submit requests to Dick Wilson, K6LRN, PO Box 273, Somerset, CA 95684-0273; e-mail to k6lm@arrl.net.

We have the following VHS programs

- XU1SS (plus BVØYL & BVØJA) (35 mins.)
- 7J1RL, Expedition of 1976 & 1978 (includes ZK9ZR, Mellish Reef).
- VK9ZR, Expedition of 1978 (plus Ogasawara, 1978).
- JF11ST/7J1, Expedition to Okino Torishima of 1979 (25 mins.)
- Australian travelogue, Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island (55 mins.)
- Ham Radio in the South Cook Islands, by ZK1CA & ZK1CT (70 mins.)
- VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI, copy of above slides by Jim Hurt, W Geo College & W4VWA.
- Revilla Gigedo, XF4DX, of 1987. Produced by WA8MAZ (15 mins.)
- North Texas Contest Club, towers and contesters, by K5TCK (45 mins.)
- FG/W2QM/FS, French St. Martin, DXing Senior Style — Another wrinkle to DXing.
- 1984 Laccadive Is. DXped, VU7WCY, plus 1983 VKØHI from TV (about 60 mins.)
- HKØTU DXped of 1983, Malpelo (25 mins. with audio tape translation by KB6MZC.)
- The Ship That Shouldn't Have — VKØJS Heard Island DXpedition (90 mins.)
- The New World of Amateur Radio (28 mins.)
- SØRASD, The Western Sahara Story, 1987 by the Lynx Group (37 mins.)
- Auckland Island, 1988 by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, N7NG (60 mins.)
- Dr. Owen Garriot's first talk to Hams about the Space Shuttle.
- Russian Ham Radio Tour by WA6WDX, Oct. 1986 (45 mins.)
- 3Y DXpedition, 1987, copy of slides by Jim Hurt, West GA College & W4VWA (40 mins.)
- Peter I, 1987. Video from JA7ARW.
- 1979 Spratly Island DXpedition, by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BJL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A.
- 1988 Maljy Vysoiskij Island, OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX (23 mins.)
- 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988. Produced by W4BRE.
- Aruba, P4ØV, CQ WW Test 1988 (12 mins.)
- Navassa of 1988, by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q & W3GH (38 mins.)
- Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SVØAA, April 1989 (40 mins.)
- NØIZ/KH1, Howland Island, 1988, by NØ1Z, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL (20 mins.)
- Tuvalu, 1989, by K6EDV & AL1AMO (27 mins.)
- Visalia Convention of 1990, recorded by W6NLG (2 hours)
- Rotuma, 1988, copy of the slide show by Jim Hurt, WGC & Henry Owen W4VWA (73 mins.)
- XW8CW & XW8DX, 1989, by HA5PP & HA5WA. Produced by W4BRE (27 mins.)
- XU8CW & XU8DX, 1990, by HA5PP & HA5WE. Produced by W4BRE (25 mins.)
- All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition, plus BY1PK (32 mins.)
- ZS8MI, by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show (40 mins.)
- Jim Smith, A51JS, visits the Bay Area. Videotaped by WA6BXY (80 mins.)
- R9ZF/NN7A, NN7D & W7YS, August 1989, Lake Teletskoye, Siberia (30 mins.)
- VU7, Laccadive Island, 1984 (65 mins.)
- VU4, Andaman Island, 1987, by Combatore Radio Club (30 mins.)
- 3Y5X Expedition, 1989. Video by JF11ST (In Japanese, good photography, 35 mins.)
- VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC, 1/8/91. VHS by K6IMN (125 mins.)
- 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle (25 mins.)
- ICOM's More Than Radios, The Legacy We Leave To The Young (25 mins.)
- T33R-T33T. Banaba, Nov. 1990, SM7PKK, TF3CW & OH1RY (22 mins.)
- This is ATV, by Western Washington AT Society & Seeing is Believing, by AEA (47 mins.)
- New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure, by AA6LF (55 mins.)
- YB3ASQ: Indonesian Stations and Sightseeing, by W7TSQ (25 mins.)
- XF4L of 1989, by JH4RHF, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, W6RGG, XE1L, OH2BU & N7NG (25 mins.)
- ET2A, by W4IBB, Jack Reeves, May 1991 (12 mins.)
- ISØXV, by UW3R, et al, July 1990 (35 mins. or a 2-hour version, your choice).
- Jarvis 1990, from K3NA & KN3T (35 mins.)
- 3CØCW, Annobon, 1991, by the Garrotxa Club of Spain (20 mins.)
- Araucaria DX Group, Brazil, Contest Station and Operators (30 mins.)
- 9L1US, by Dave Heil, K8MN, ed. by Jim Hurt, West GA. College & W4VWA (45 mins.)
- Dave Heil, K8MN visits Finland, edited by Jim Hurt & Henry Owen, W4VWA (35 mins.)
- Penguin Island, 1990, from a slide show by N7NG, Wayne Mills, produced by MoBre (15 mins.)
- PJ9W, 1990, Spirit of Victory, Radio Team Finland, produced by WA7LNU (48 mins.)
- Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio, recorded by K6YB (110 mins.)
- Contest Night Live, by the Kansas City DX Club (30 mins.)
- DXing Kansas City Style, by the Kansas City DX Club (30 mins.)
- VP8ANT/G3CWI, Adelaide Island, Antarctica (45 mins.)
- H44, May 1991, by G3WVG, G3IXT & G3SXW (12 mins.)
- VP2EOH, Anguilla Island, by Northern Ohio DXA, 1992 (29 mins.)
- T32T, Christmas Island, WPX SSB Test, Mar. 1990, narrated by VP2ML & video by JH1LBR.
- VP8SSI, South Sandwich, 1992 (26 mins.)
- More About Radios, Zman Productions, (How to Get Started in Amateur Radio) (28 mins.)
- Navassa Island, Jan. 1992, by WA4DAN, AA4VK, NØTO, KW2P & AA4NC (25 mins.)
- Getting Started in DXing, by CQ Communications, Inc. (52 mins.)
- Project Irma: The DX Truth-O-Meter, Northern Cal. DX Convention, 1993 (25 mins.)
- ZL9DX, Auckland Island, by ZL1OK, ZL1AVC, ZL2TPY, JH4RHF & JR4DUW (28 mins.)
- CYØDXX, Aug. 1989, Sable Island by the Breton DX Group (18 mins.)
- V63-KC6-P29, by KQ1F & K1XM, slide copy by Jim Hurt & Harry Owen, W4VWA (25 mins.)
- Desecheo, KP5, 1992/3, with KW2P, NØTG, WA4DAN, WØRJU & AA4VK (28 mins.)
- E35X, Eritrea, May 31-June 10, 1993, by LA6VM, LA1EE, JF11ST, LA9DL & LA7XK (17 mins.)
- AH1A, Howland Island, 1993, by ON6TT, WØRLX, K9AJ, WØCP, KØEU, W9IXX, K4UEE, F6EXV & G4LJF (45 mins.)
- 9G1AA, Ghana, by PA3AWW, PA3FUE, PA3FUE, PA3ERA, PA3DEW & PAØTUK (55 mins.)
- 9MØS, Spratly Islands, 1993, N7NG, WA6AUE, OH6DO, JA5DQH, OH1NYP, 9VIYW, 9M2FK, OH2MAK and OH2BH (30 mins.)
- Journey to Peter I, 1994 (30 mins.)
- ZD9SXW, Tristan da Cunha, 1994, by G3SXW (18 mins.)
- Last Voice From Kuwait, 9K2DZ (25 mins.)
- Maljy Vysoiskij Island, 4J1FM / 4J1FW, October 1992, by AHØW ex 4J1FM (43 mins.)
- 3CØGD, Annobon, 1989 by LA8PV (20 mins.)
- IAØKM & HV4NAC (30 mins.)
- H44IO, South Pacific DXpedition, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM (46 mins.)
- The Congo, TN4U & TN2M, 1995, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM (40 mins.)
- 3V8BB, 1994 (17 mins.)
- Mission to Jordan, The Joint Israeli/Jordanian DXpedition, JY74Z, in July '95 (43 mins.)
- The Kermadecs DX Adventure, ZL8RI - DX at its Best (30 mins.)
- World Radiosport Team Championship, 1996 (23 mins.)
- VKØIR Heard Island 1997, by Peter Casier ON6TT (51 mins.)
- Bell Lab's video. "Similarities in Wave Behavior" (27 mins.)
- "Eric Edberg, W6DU Memorial Pacific DXpedition" by WA4FFW.
- Legends of Amateur Radio — W6EA, W6HX & K6OJ — Southern California DX Club (42 mins.)
- DXpedition to the Spratlys, 1996. Slide show on video (30 mins.)
- H4OAA, The Temotu DXpedition, April 1998 (10 mins.)
- 3B9RF, Saint Brandon, 1998 by K5KG (38 mins.)
- ZL9CI, Campbell Island, 1999 by 9V1YC (60 mins.)
- FOØAA, Clipperton Island, 2000 by 9V1YC (60 mins.)
- A52A, Bhutan 2000. Written and filmed by James Brooks, 9V1YC (60 mins.)
- XZØA, Union of Myanmar, 2000 DXpedition, Central Arizona DX Association (35 mins.)
- Timor Lorosae, K7BV
- Ham Radio Olympics (WRTC 2000)
- K5K Kingman Reef, 2002
- D68C Comoros Islands
- Power Point I2UIY Niger/5U 2001 & 2002
- VP8THU South Sandwich, 2002
- VP8GEO South Georgia, 2002
- WRTC 2002, Finland
- 3XY7C Guinea 2002, DL7DF
- K4UEE Top Expeditions
- 3B9C Rodrigues, VHS or DVD
- T33C Banaba, DVD
- TJ3FR/TJ3SP Cameroon 2004, DVD



2005 Contribution

The **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION** relies heavily upon the generosity of its members to fund various projects. We urge each member to consider making an annual contribution of US\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the **FOUNDATION** for financial reasons. If \$50 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of \$50! The **NCDXF** is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers.



Name _____ Call sign _____

New member Renewal

Address _____

CONTRIBUTION \$250

\$100

\$50

Other \$ _____

E-mail _____

Please also send me the following **FOUNDATION** supplies: _____ NCDXF Pin (s) @ \$6 each.
_____ Roll(s) of NCDXF labels @ \$6 each
_____ NCDXF Rubber Stamp(s) @ \$6 each

Are your name, address and call sign on the newsletter mailing label correct? Yes No

Use the envelope supplied with the newsletter to send this form along with your contribution. If the envelope is missing, send your contribution to: **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION**, P.O. Box 1328, Los Altos, CA 94023-1328, USA.

My check is enclosed

Please charge my Visa MasterCard Card number _____ Exp date: _____

Signature (for charges only) _____

Please use this form (or a copy) when sending a contribution or ordering supplies or go to www.ncdxf.org and contribute online via our secure server.

Total enclosed or charged
(contribution plus supplies)

\$ _____

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1328

Los Altos, CA 94023-1328

USA

First Class Mail
US Postage Paid
Sutter Creek, CA
95685
Permit No. 33

Return Service Requested

