

# Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter



Winter 1984

N6ST, Editor

K6WD, Circulation

AA6AD, KD6S, Reporters

## YASME REPORT

by Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and Iris Colvin, W6QL, of the YASME DXPEDITION

We had made extensive plans to depart on a new YASME DXpedition to Africa about the first of October 1984. We wrote some 50 letters about this planned trip to various amateur friends and government officials in various countries that we want to visit and operate from in Africa.

We have been lucky enough to actually obtain licenses to operate amateur radio in some of these countries.

We are very sorry to announce that our YASME DXpedition to Africa must be indefinitely postponed. This has become necessary due to two unexpected problems. While we have traveled to various parts of the world in the past, our daughter and her husband have been taking care of management of a company that we own. They are no longer with us, and we have had to resume active operation of the company. At the same time, our company has run into several large legal problems which require our personal attention and will not permit us to leave the country.

## SLIDE SHOWS AVAILABLE

We would like to announce to anyone interested that, at the request of Ron, N6AUV, we have prepared a duplicate set of our 35mm slides of our recent trip and operation as W6KG/HK0 San Andres Island, W6KG/HK8 Galapagos Islands, W6KG/CEO Easter Island, and W6QL/CEO Juan Fernandez Island. We have also prepared an audio cassette tape to be played along with the slides for the four islands listed. This tape has been prepared in such a manner to allow time enough after each comment for translation to a foreign language; this presentation was recently made to DXers in France by Ron, N6AUV.

Both the slides and the tape for the four islands are now in the possession of the Northern California DX Foundation and are available for use by any amateur group desiring them.

All requests for any of the above should be addressed to:

Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC  
207 Evergreen Drive  
Kentfield, CA 94904

**NOTE:** Josephine also has available a slide show of the First Kingman Reef DXpedition, and San Hutson's, K5YY, First African DXpedition. Both are 35 mm slide shows with cassette tape commentary.

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## TV TREE ANTENNA

*I think that I shall never see  
An antenna lovely as a tree.  
(apologies to Joyce Kilmer)*

We have heard of these tree antenna experiments from time to time, but did not know much about them. Last Spring the Far East Economic Review published an article on the subject, and now this one appeared in the 19 April 1984 issue of the New Scientist (London). Maybe we have been missing something. We have heard stories about amateur use of trees for antennas; but, quite frankly, we were not

sure whether they were a joke or not... even though otherwise good friends told us about them. Apparently there is something to it.

Have any of you readers heard about "tree antennas" or had any experience with them in amateur service?

A good tall palm tree, top loaded with ripe coconuts, may not get you DXCC, but it is sure interesting isn't it!

Thanks to the New Scientist for permission to reprint this article. Let us hear from you about what you know of the subject. Thanks.

de W6ISQ

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## BEACON WATCHER REPORT SUMMARY

To date (10-8-84) we have received 407 pieces of beacon correspondence from listeners in 33 countries. Our most active beacon observers are concentrated in Northern Europe. Overseas countries with the most activity can be summarized as follows:

# of Reports	# of Reporters	Country
36	15	W. Germany
39	7	Gr. Britain
29	6	Netherlands
17	9	Japan
14	2	Belgium
13	6	Denmark
6	2	Kwajalein
6	3	Sweden
5	3	Czechoslovakia

The most reports from one person have come from Ron Cross, BRS84869. He's followed very closely by Cam Placlet, ON7SU and Peter de Jong, BDXC 459. Andre Schmidt, DL8WX is currently the most active from W. Germany. Of course, we receive excellent, regular reports from Nose, KH6JJ, but we find it hard to count KH6 as "foreign".

From the U.S. beacon watchers the most regular reports come from Joe Dreher, W2TKG (he's in my college alumni association, but that's irrelevant), John Hudelson, K5DL and George Armbruster, N2CV/4.

Through July of this year the incoming correspondence ran about one letter per mail delivery. But, currently, the mail has dropped off almost exactly as the sunspot count! With the poor conditions of the past months, the reports are loaded with "Zeroes". Your monthly reports would be appreciated.

Beacon QSL's: Send your "SWL" report after you hear all 8 beacons and receive the beacon QSL card.

Thank you. de W6RQ

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THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
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FOUNDED 1972

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NCDXF BEACON NET - 14,100 KHZ

SEQUENCE OF BEACON STATIONS

TIME	STATION
00:00	4U1UN
00:01	W6WX/B
00:02	KH6O/B
00:03	JA2IGY
00:04	4X4TU
00:05	OH2B
00:06	CT3B
00:07	ZS6DN/B
00:08	South America*
00:09	South America*

\* To be announced soon.

Sequence repeats every 10 minutes, 24 hours per day.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total Foundation membership as of 10/30/84 is 2950, a gain of 450 members thus far in 1984. Fourteen months remain to reach our goal of 5000 members by 12/31/85. We will have to do better than the present rate of new memberships to meet that goal.

Some statistics on membership distribution may be of interest. We compared the number of NCDXF members in some typical U.S. states to: (1) the number of licensed amateurs with a General Class license or higher, and (2) to the number of licensed amateurs with an Advanced or Extra Class license, to determine the % NCDXF membership in each of these license classes.

State	# OF NCDXF Members	% Gen. Class & Above	% Adv. & Extra
Alabama	20	0.5	1.0
California	573	1.7	3.1
Connecticut	36	0.9	1.8
Washington DC	16	5.1	10.0
Florida	91	0.6	1.2
Illinois	73	0.7	1.3
Louisiana	38	1.2	2.3
Massachusetts	55	0.8	1.5
Mississippi	18	1.1	2.2
Nevada	12	1.0	2.1
New Jersey	99	1.2	3.1
New York	123	0.8	1.5
Ohio	58	0.5	1.0
Pennsylvania	55	0.5	1.0
Puerto Rico	12	1.7	3.0
Texas	104	0.7	1.3
Virginia	44	0.7	1.3
Washington	47	0.8	1.2
Wisconsin	34	0.8	1.7

AVG. FOR ALL STATES: 0.7 1.3

A similar analysis of overseas membership based on total licenses issued regardless of class shows:

DXCC COUNTRY	# OF NCDXF MEMBERS	% OF LICENSED AMATEURS
Australia	16	0.1
Austria	16	0.3
Argentina	5	0.1
Brazil	49	0.2
Bulgaria	4	0.5
Canada	39	0.2
Czechoslovakia	6	0.2
Ecuador	4	0.3
England	34	0.1
Finland	142	3.7
France	17	0.1
West Germany	123	0.2
Hong Kong	3	4.0
India	2	0.1
Israel	7	0.7
Italy	50	0.3
Japan	78	-
Callbook licensee data not applicable		
Jordan	2	1.7
Mexico	8	0.4
Netherlands	17	0.1
New Zealand	9	0.1
Norway	23	0.4
Philippines	3	0.3
Scotland	2	0.1
South Africa	8	0.2
Spain	11	0.1
Sweden	62	0.6
Switzerland	26	0.7
USSR	9	0.1
Yugoslavia	12	0.2

We are pleased to report that there are 918 overseas NCDXF members, representing 31% of our total membership.

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

With the huge pileups on every rare and not-so-rare country, it is hard to believe that DXers are not a larger percentage of licensees. We believe the figures reflect that a lot of DXers are not NCDXF members. It won't take a very large increase in membership percentages to significantly raise the number of members in each country. Please help increase the % membership in your geographic area.

To further the membership drive we are planning:

1. To ask domestic and overseas DX Clubs to encourage their members to join the NCDXF. We plan to list as Sponsoring Clubs, those which agree to help and who are able to enroll part of their membership as NCDXF members. In turn we hope to serve their members by providing DX related slide shows and videotapes for meeting programs from the archives being collected by the Foundation.

2. To recruit a Country Advisor in each DXCC country outside the United States to work with the Foundation on membership recruiting and on communication with DXers in their country who request Foundation support.

#### DATABASE

The Foundation is collecting information for a database of DX and Contest clubs all over the world. We request that Foundation members forward to me, K6UD, the name, mailing address, and current officers of such clubs in their geographic area. The database will allow us to solicit the help of DX oriented clubs.

We would also like to have the names of active DXers in DXCC countries who might have the time and be willing to work in the Foundation's behalf just as Martti Laine, OH2BH, did in Finland. The large Foundation percentage membership in that country is the direct result of his efforts. We are pleased to report that LA8CJ in Norway and YB0BZZ in Indonesia have agreed to serve as country Advisors to the Foundation. We are in contact with individuals in several other countries who may be willing to be Country Advisors.

In the U.S., W0SH, Gary Liljegen, on his own initiative, reproduced Foundation literature and membership applications and passed them out at a hamfest in Des Moines, Iowa. Any other Foundation members who would be willing to recruit membership at local DX gatherings should contact me and I will send material for you to use for that purpose.

#### RENEWAL TIME

Member have asked about the timing of the membership year and the amount of the dues. The Directors have established a \$25 yearly contribution for membership. However, we recognize that overseas, retired and some other members may not be able to afford the \$25 cost; so, of course we will accept a lower contribution of \$10 and continue to send the Newsletter in those cases. Understand that we cannot support the additional cost of Newsletters and continue other planned DXpedition, etc. activities unless we have an average contribution of about \$20 per member.

My thanks to all of you who are helping with the membership drive. With action from enough present members we can meet the goal of 5000 members by the end of 1985.

I request your ideas on membership recruiting. Thanks and 73.

de Stan Kiesel, K6UD

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#### THOSE WWV "SOLAR INDICES"

by Al Lotze, W6RQ

Response to our Newsletter questionnaire showed that a good half of those who answered listened to WWV but had no great understanding of those "Solar Terrestrial Indices" transmitted by WWV at 18 minutes after every hour. The following paragraphs offer a partial explanation.

**SOLAR FLUX** ... The first figure gives us the Solar Flux. This is a measurement of the noise the sun is putting out on 2800 MHz, an S-meter reading if you will. We've always figured that this frequency was selected, in good part, because of the availability of surplus 10-cm radar receivers and antennas in 1946 when these measurements began. This Solar Flux figure ranges from a value of over 300 at the peak to below 70 at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. The flux varies almost directly as the Sunspot Number. A Solar Flux of 300 equates to a Sunspot Number of 365, a Flux of 67 is close to a Sunspot Number of zero.

**a-INDEX** ... The second figure given is the a-Index (a lower-case "a" is generally used, for some strange reason). This index is a previous-24-hour average of the disturbances of the earth's geomagnetic field

**K-INDEX** ... The third figure is the K-Index, the maximum disturbance in the earth's magnetic field during a three-hour interval.

The a-Index is calculated from eight three-hour K figures. Both a and K really measure the same disturbances but they are presented on a much different scale. A's go from 0 to 400, K's go from 0-9. to 400. The Solar Flux and the a-Index are updated daily at 1818 UTC, the K-Index is updated at 1818, 2118, 0018, 0318, etc.

#### THOSE "HIGH NORMAL" -"LOW NORMAL" EXPRESSIONS

The "High Normal", "Low Normal" expressions were first used in the George Jacobs, W3ASK, and Ted Cohen, N4XX, CQ magazine articles. They had empirically developed a chart which shows the quality of radio propagation related to the current values of Solar Flux and the a/K indices. This wonderful chart can be found in Jacobs' and Cohen's "The Shortwave Propagation Handbook" and in their CQ magazine articles of March 1975, August 1979 and October 1984.

In general, the higher the flux the better the radio conditions; the higher the geomagnetic index the worse the conditions become.

**DIFFERENT NORMALS** ... But, as you know, there is a different "Normal" for every (1) time of day, (2) time of year and (3) point in the sunspot cycle. And too, if you're planning to stay in amateur radio, these 11-year cycles aren't really all the same! A fellow readily observes the time-of-day and seasonal changes, but it takes more experience to appreciate that a "High Normal" today would have been called a "Low Rotten" five years ago at the peak of the current sunspot cycle.

#### THE FORECASTS

Those "High Normal"/"Low Normal" forecasts made by Ted Cohen and carried in QRZ DX, The Long Island DX Bulletin, etc., are based on the recurrence of similar levels of Solar Flux and a-Index as the Sun rotates at its 27 1/2 day interval.

Interestingly, the predictions are a bit easier to make at this point in the sunspot cycle. During the uphill and through the peak portions of the cycle, the geomagnetic disturbances are mostly the result of the somewhat unpredictable solar flare activity. But now, on the well-downhill portion of the cycle the consistent geomagnetic disturbances seem to be the result of the high-speed solar winds. This flow of rapidly-moving charged particles (mostly electrons and protons) coming toward the earth is controlled greatly by the size and location of the holes in the sun's corona. These "Coronal Holes" change slowly in both size and location and often survive three, four, or even more sun rotations.

#### USE THE A-INDEX OR THE K-INDEX?

It certainly seems reasonable to prefer using the current three hour K-Index rather than the 24-hour a-Index to get a feeling for current band conditions. But when we take a day like 22 September -a High Normal day with a Solar Flux of 75 and an a-Index of 11, we wonder. The K number jumped from 2 to 5 in successive threehour intervals, but "band conditions" seemed uniform throughout the day.

#### A TIME-LAG EFFECT?

There very often appears to be some time-lag or inertial effect in the relationship between the a-Index and observed band conditions. A day with an a-Index of 10 is going to be a much better DX day if the preceding days also had low values of a. In other words, yesterday's a-Index of 37 will keep today's index of 10 from living up to expectations. This is the sort of observation we're stumbling into while reviewing our logs of 20-meter beacon observers.

While writing this another thought comes along. For the first half of October we have recorded Solar Flux and Sunspot Numbers very similar to those at the lowest part of the past sunspot cycle. But radio propagation conditions have really been a bit better than "bottom of cycle." We've had much better ten and fifteen-meter openings than we had in 1975-1976. Could our "timelag" between radio propagation and the observed solar conditions be counted in even months, or years?

#### SOLAR FLARES AND DISAPPEARING FILAMENTS

During the first -we might say two-thirds- of the sunspot cycle, the sudden ionospheric disturbances, the blackouts, are the effects of solar flare activity. A large solar flare erupts. Eight minutes later the high-speed particles reach the earth, the K-Index jumps suddenly to 7 or 8, and the bands go dead, but dead. We can get an almost complete recovery in 25 minutes or so. Then 24 to 40 hours later the heavy particles reach the earth, and we get K's of 4, 5 and 6 for two or three days. Of course, an overlapping series of flares can upset this neat scenario, and we can't tell which flare is causing which disturbance.

At this point in the sunspot cycle, the sudden high jumps in K are being attributed to "disappearing filaments." These "disappearing filament" aren't counted as flares, although their effect seems much the same. If you read about the relationship of flares to "disappearing filaments" in seven different astronomy books, you'll find seven different answers!

Anyway, we'd suggest ignoring the K figures on the Jacobs and Cohen chart and just stick to the a-Index for the day. But of course you'll say, "But the a-Index is for the previous 24 hours!" That's right, but that's where our "Time-lag" observation fits in!

We would certainly appreciate some comments on your observations on these subjects.

#### NEW SUBJECT:

The very best Grayline Propagation article for a long long time, is one by Bradley Wells, KR7L in August 1984's "Ham Radio" magazine, page 77. W6RQ

73 de W6RQ

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#### TRIVIA

##### DID YOU KNOW THAT ... ?

The world's first WAC (Worked All Continents) award was issued by the ARRL in April 1926 to Brandon "Brandy" Wentworth, u6OI. Brandy's station was located in a cow pasture on the Stanford University campus near the TRIVIA present location of the Stanford 150 foot radiotelescope. The recent K23OG and W84OG Olympic Games stations (see the last NCDXF Bulletin) also operated from the same pasture. Brandy is still around as K6UJ, living up in Maine. The NCDXF 14.1 MHz beacon station W6WX/B is about onequarter mile from this location. de W6CF

##### DO YOU KNOW WHAT... ?

We would like to hear from you about your favorite trivia tales.

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#### WITH THE DXPEDITIONS

##### DESECHEO - DXpedition, July 22-26

by Carlos Flores Roman, NP4KA

*Here is a good story of the "on again, off again" problems of a DXpedition from the beginning dream through to completion with the usual unexpected hurricane thrown in to add to the excitement!*

#### THE DREAM

Two young Ham operators whose ambitions were to be in a DXpedition on an island somewhere in the Caribbean, finally became a true adventure during the last week of July, from the 22-26 on the Island of Desecheo.

This island is located between Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic some 17 miles off the coast of its mother island, Puerto Rico, in the Mona Passage Channel surrounded by deep waters. Desecheo is uninhabited except for goats, monkeys, cats and dogs. The temperature normally runs from 75 Degrees F to 84 Degrees F and is about 360 acres in size.

WP4ATF, Jose, and HI3RST, Rodolfo, were always talking and reading about the great expeditions around the world with all its adventure, excitement that went on until one day Rodolfo came to Jose with the idea of a DXpedition to an island somewhere in the Caribbean, but which one would it be, and how about the funds, equipment, personnel transportation, etc.? After some thinking and looking at the map they saw an island that was perfect and was not exploited like other islands as Navassa. Seeing that Desecheo had "KP5", and remembering the last DXpedition to that place was about three or four years back, it would appear to be perfect for such operation, knowing that lots of Hams would want to work a "/KP5".



*These are the intrepid operators on the Desecheo DXpedition: Left to right: HI3RST, WP4ATF, KP4HA, KP4HC, NP4C, NP4KA, NP4Z (in front)*

#### PRELIMINARIES

So work began on the plans for the trip, knowing it was not going to be easy. The first thing was to seek information where to write asking for permission for an operation of this nature. After gathering information from the local authorities, they got the right addresses and whom to write to. Jose, without wasting any time, sent a letter to Department of the Interior in Washington requesting to operate from Desecheo for the month of January, 1984. After some weeks went by, Jose received an answer to their petition. Jose was informed that they would have to write or call Mr. Furness in Cabo Rojo who is in charge of any activity on such islands, and that they have already notified him of the permission Jose and Rodolfo requested. But Mr. Furness would give the last OK. Since the island belongs to the Federal authorities, and due to its wildlife refugee status, it took several months writing letters and explaining in detail. News was spreading by bulletins about a DXpedition to Desecheo for January. But soon they both become aware that time was running out. Also writing here

and there was not going to make it for January, so the expedition had to be cancelled and new date chosen which would be from May 23-31. All was going great up to this moment, but their hopes for the permit seem far, far away. Jose and Rodolfo announced the new date to several DX bulletins and magazines.

Weeks went by and the news again got out to Hams all over about the new date in May. This time, after several weeks, they finally got from Mr. Furness the permit to operate on Desecheo. Both Jose and Rodolfo could not believe it at first, thinking what took David, KP4AM, two years to obtain only took Jose and Rodolfo six months. So now their hopes opened new doors to the DX world.

At this time Jose, WP4ATF, and Rodolfo, HI3RST, received some small contributions through the mail from Ham operators, who read the DX bulletins, since "/KP5" was something new. Jose was a little worried at this time because they still needed lots of help and time would be running out soon. So, they went to a meeting of the P.R. DX Club with Edwin NP4GD, to seek help for the trip. At the meeting they were greeted with some hopes, but also were told that time was kind of running out for an operation of this sort. But NP4GD gave all the encouragement possible to Jose and Rodolfo for the DXpedition. So after the meeting, and talking to some of the local operators, they were informed about Carlos, NP4KA, an operator who just started about 1 1/2 years ago as a Ham, but had experience backpacking, camping and photographing on other small islands off the coast of Puerto Rico, and who could be of great help in organizing for Desecheo.

The next day they met Carlos, NP4KA at his apartment. All three talked for long hours Carlos suggested postponing the operation until July 23-31, due to the time running out again. Also it would be very difficult to gather all the necessary equipment for the remaining seven weeks among other things. Finally, Jose and Rodolfo gave lots of thought to this situation and decided to take a chance on a third new date. It would be at the final date. Hopes were not so high because the bulletins and magazine had already announced twice. A third time could be interpreted as a phony DXpedition. So now with Carlos pulling strings at his end and putting in all his efforts there was new hope. All three operators went to the Radio Club of Puerto Rico. For help where the President and the Board were very skeptical of the entire operation, knowing it has been postponed two times already. But Carlos insisted with Jose that all was OK, and finally the club decided to also contribute some funds.

#### NCDXF HELP

On the other hand Carlos wrote immediately to the Northern California DX Foundation asking for funds. And finally, after several phone calls here and there talked to Jack Troster, W6ISQ, President of the NCDXF. Jack informed Carlos that the Board of NCDXF decided on sending funds to the DXpedition. At this time Carlos made phone calls to other sources for help with Jose for equipment, transportation and finding four more operators for a total of seven.

#### FINAL PREPARATIONS

Now the DXpedition was composed of Jose WP4ATF, Rodolfo, HI3RST, Carlos, NP4KA; Edwin, NP4GD; RAFY, WP4D; Dave, KP4OUR; Tim, KP4BZ.

Weeks went by and everything was going great with high spirits among the operator. Gerard A. Wurback, President of the Mosley Electronics, supplied all the antennas.

At this time three operators informed Carlos that due to their jobs they would not be able to go and were dropping out from Desecheo, an immediate meeting of the remaining four decided to find three more operators. So after a couple of days of talking and calling over phone three new operators were found. Now the group would be WP4ATF, HI3RST, WP4KA, NP4KA, NP4C, NP4Z, KP4HC, WP4D.

All went well the last days prior to the Desecheo expedition. According to plans, the operators assembled at the nautical club in Boqueron, Cabo Rojo, where the group would be leaving for Desecheo. The 37-foot boat named "Orca"

was being packed with all the equipment. They finished packing about 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 21 July, and departed at 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

So the group relaxed. Once on the way to Desecheo most of the group just slept because at 4:00 a.m. you can't see much. It seemed forever.

#### ARRIVAL

Once at Desecheo all the equipment was lowered to shore and everyone said good-bye to Velez, Captain of the Orca, until July 28 when he would return to pick up the group for the return home.

Carlos started to set up camp with Jose and Rodolfo. Luis, Felipe, Carmelo and Rafael started on the antennas and rigs. It was a hot day in the 80's (F.) and it took almost all day to set up. After everything was set up, a good chow, cooked by Carlos, was the reward for the day. Now everyone was just eager to start to operate. But by terms of our license, it would not be until after midnight that we could begin the operation. Since it was only 6:00 p.m. there was 6 hours of rest...and they would need it.

Finally 12:05 a.m. Monday, July 23 NP4KA announced the commencement of Desecheo DXpedition 84. Then Jose, WP4ATF/KP5, with HI3RST/KP5 took over, using Jose's call for CW and Rodolfo's call for phone. Once they started, pileups formed very fast for long period of time. It was just great. At this moment, NP4C and NP4KA outside the tent said "We've made it. Let's celebrate..." Victoria al fin.

During the next couple of days it was tremendous trying to work Desecheo. The operators took their turns at the rigs, pulling in QSOs. The other resting after working for long hours, or taking a swim in the crystal clear water of Desecheo, or taking pictures and exploring the island itself.

#### STORM WARNING

On Wednesday the Coast Guard flew low dropping an air-note advising the group of bad storm conditions. So the group decided to call on 2 meter to hams on the big island to call the Coast Guard and ask how serious the storm was. After a couple of minutes Desecheo was informed it was pretty bad weather on the way, so the decision was made to keep Desecheo on the air as long as possible.

All operators who were not actually working the rigs would start to pack up for an immediate pickup next morning by the Orca. The Captain of the Orca was called via radio on 2 meters to come next morning. At this time heavy winds were blowing on Desecheo with heavy tides. Next morning the Orca arrived, but had to stay 600 yards from where she entered the reef last time due to high waves. The small dinghy was having a rough time getting in and out with the rigs, so Captain Velez decided that it was too risky for the rest of the equipment. It had to be left on the island. Perhaps the Orca could return in two days, if possible, and pick up the rest. Once on board enroute to the big island and once in the Mona Channel, waves from 8 to 10 feet high were encountered making the trip rough. It took 5 1/2 hours to get back to the Boqueron, Cabo Rojo. After lowering the equipment that was brought back from Desecheo, Captain Velez said he would go back once conditions settled down some. So everyone went home.

Next morning the Orca was on its way back to Desecheo for the rest of the gear. Upon the Orca's return to the harbor, Carlos and Jose, who were waiting at the dock, were just looking at the sunset thinking of the thrill of the DXpedition, how enjoyable it was. After all the gear was on the trucks to drive back home, they thought, "7,000 QSO's in 3 days was not bad at all. We did it!" But there is one question still remaining: "When will we go for another DXpedition to Desecheo Island?"

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#### DID YOU KNOW THAT ... ?

In 1930 the ARRL transferred administration of the popular WAC (Worked All Continents) award to the International Amateur Radio Union. The first WAC award issued under the auspices of the IARU went to Sam Cantor, W2BOZ, now W6TSQ. NCDXF member Sam still burns up the low

end of the CW bands from his Mill Valley, CA home. Once a DXer, always a DXer! de W6CF \*\*\*\*\*

## BAKER & HOWLAND ISLANDS NOT TO COUNT AS A NEW COUNTRY.

On Sept. 18 the ARRL Headquarters Awards Committee rejected the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee that the DXCC country of Baker, Howland & American Phoenix Islands be deleted, and that Baker & Howland Islands be a new DXCC country.

The decision came as a surprise and a disappointment, for it was our conviction that a strong case had been made for new country status of Baker & Howland Islands. Full details are given in the last issue of this NCDXF Newsletter. Briefly, a Treaty of Friendship between the U.S. and the Republic of Kiribati became effective as of Sept. 23 last year. By this treaty the U.S. relinquished all claims to the Phoenix Islands. Baker and Howland Islands were not affected by the Treaty, and remain American territory. But the effect of the Treaty was to remove from U.S. jurisdiction fully 90% of the land area and 100% of the populated areas of the DXCC country of Baker, Howland & American Phoenix, including Canton Island, the origin for virtually every (and perhaps every) postwar DXCC credit. It was our belief that these were truly massive changes to the country, and that a deletion was called for.

### REASON GIVEN

Our understanding is that the Hq. Awards Committee based its decision primarily on the lack of any political change to Baker & Howland Islands. That is, prior to the Treaty the DXCC country consisted of islands under a form of U.S. jurisdiction, while after the Treaty came into effect an entity still existed under U.S. jurisdiction. To be sure, that entity is considerably smaller now than before, but the Awards Committee felt that the lack of administrative change in the remaining portion of the DXCC country outweighed the admittedly significant geographical changes which took place.

de W6CF \*\*\*\*\*



*BV2A/B at the operating position (OH2BH photo).*

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## MONACO - CW DXPEDITION

**F6EYS/3A - F6HIX/3A, JULY 31 - AUG 6  
PLUS: How to get a license in Monaco.**

1) LICENSES: To get a "3A" license:

6

- Write to the Ministry of Telecommunications, asking for a form.

- Fill it in and specify your address in Monaco. - The license will be delivered at this address after a technical control of the Telecommunications inspector, and a three day delay (two signatures are necessary: one for the government, one for the Minister of Telecommunications).

- Don't try to get help from local OM's!!

### 2) OPERATORS:

- During the last week, and for professional reasons, F6EQG, now TK5EP, had no possibilities for a holiday.  
- Two operators only for our operation: F6EYS and F6HIX.

### 3) HOTEL:

- Reserve your room at least one month before you go. Many hotels are full; others don't accept Hams or antennas.  
- We were staying at the Terminus Hotel, near the railway station (an 8 storied building, flat roof).  
- No QRN trouble with elevator.

### 4) ANTENNAS:

- First of all, we got the 3 elements tribander beam (from Fritzel) ready, with a 2 X 2 meters mast (the third element was too heavy to get up for two persons) and a Ham IV rotor.

- On 40 and 80 meters, we had tied a dipole between the hotel and the next building across the street (strictly forbidden, Hill).

- To avoid TVI, we tested on different TV channels and hotel's internal broadcasting before starting.

### 5) CW OPERATION:

- FT 102 and IC 740,  
- FL 2100 Z linear amplifier,  
- 2 Bencher paddles + Curtis keyers,  
- MN 2700 match box, etc....

### 6) CONDITIONS:

- We had poor conditions for stateside operation, due to the season and lack of clearance. The best for USA is plain winter season beaming long path.

- There are 1000 m high mountains covering West through North to East. One good propagation night, we got 449 reports and gave 559 reports!!!...

### 7) QSO's: We worked 5064 QSO's in 5 days.

- Just about 150 W's.  
- Half a hundred South American stations.  
- About 220 JA's (100 on 40 meters band).  
- Thousands of Europeans (mainly from USSR, YO, LZ, YU ... big signals)  
- For us, an operation without U.S. stations is not a good operation and that's the reason why we stopped the DXpedition early. We began the operation the 31th of August and stopped the 6th of September. Send QSLs to F6EYS.

73 from F6EYS and F6HIX \*\*\*\*\*

## UPCOMING CLIPPERTON DXPEDITION

All papers have now been filed for proper operating authority, permits, etc. etc. for a Clipperton DXpedition. Expected operation to be April 3-11, 1985.

Present plans are for 16 operators/from 7 countries to be on duty! Several rigs will be on the air at all times. With all those operators, it is expected that most major languages will be handled easily by somebody there!

Details will be released well before departure date. Stay tuned.

de W6OAT and W6SZN

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## NCDXF PINS PINS PINS PINS

We thank all of you who ordered NCDXF lapel pins. And we must apologize that we have not yet mailed them out to you! We learned that our shipment of pins was lost in the mails! We tried frantically to trace the shipment but alas and alack - no trace of it.

We have been promised delivery of a replacement shipment of pins in December. As soon as they arrive, our pin-mailer, K6DC, will be busy, busy, busy! We thank you for your understanding and patience!

And yes, you may still order your pin for \$5.00!

\*\*\*\*\*

### DID YOU KNOW THAT ... ?

Having problems getting on the Honor Roll? Consider the example of NCDXF member Bob Locher, W9KNI. Starting in 1975, Bob worked his way up the ladder from zero to the Mixed Honor roll level in 7-1/2 years. Now, after 9-1/2 years, he is only four countries short of having all DXCC countries worked. And he did it all on CW, to boot! de W6CF

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## THE ASIAN DESK

by JA1BK, NCDXF Asian Advisor

The unnaturalness of describing about Africa in a report from Asia is caused by different unnatural circumstances that, casually enough, I happened to undertake the role of QSL MGR for 5X5GK.

I was informed that 5X5GK came on to 15 MHz SSB. Though 5X5 was not particularly a novel country for me, I was looking for him because 5X5 was a new one for me on CW.

When I found a pile up on 5X5GK on 14 MHz SSB, I called him and got a direct answer. In ending the QSO after report exchange, Jerry told me "I heard about the system which is called QSL manager. Would you kindly become my QSL manager?"

In a moment, random ideas ran in my brain. "Why on earth should I...," "If I undertake that..." and so on. Immediately I answered that I would see to it and his QSL would be printed here in Japan.

Two months later, a fat mail envelope arrived here from Jerry via USPO BOSTON. Now I keep about 400 SASEs at hand which have to be transacted quickly. I had QSL cards printed in a great hurry. They are going to be mailed after the middle of October.

I never had this sort of experience through my DX hunting for as long as 30 years. I wonder why Jerry asked a Japanese who does not speak much English for becoming his QSL manager despite the fact that he is almost a stranger to me.

On the other hand, I think Jerry was lucky enough to find a reliable QSL manager. Perhaps the hand of God has led Jerry who is a churchman.

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## REPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN DESK

by Martti Laine, OH2BH, European Representative

### DXPEDITIONS AND "ISLANDECIES"

During my recent travels which took me to a semi-rare country, I had the pleasure of meeting with the local DX group and operating from their tiny country. In the small wee hours and over a pint of beer, we got down to the basics and they presented another view on DXpeditions that I would like to share with the NCDXF group since

raising a second opinion about DXpeditions can always be valuable.

So let me walk you through it, if I may - it will surely be a two-way avenue, though...

**1. Making a DXpedition to any ham-populated country amounts to an expression of no-confidence against the local hams. Why a DXpedition if there are active hams in that country? Go to an uninhabited island - that's the place for a DXpedition.**

Being through more than 90 countries, I can assure you that in any island community or country with an active ham population of less than 10, the "islandecies" (i.e., a warped and malicious attitude toward DXpeditions) is evident. We should take that as a fact. You would not believe what I have experienced over the years on the part of my "fellow hams" as the outcome of their islandecies. Just be happy if they only put a solid carrier on you...

Frankly speaking, it surely looks to them like a vote of no-confidence when a DXpedition moves in with that high QSO target. They will not believe you when you promise them not to run their country dry on DX since they may not know that DX will always be reborn overnight and that there will be hundreds of new DXers every day anxious to work them on many bands and modes. They may not understand that making a DXpedition is the dream-come-true of every ham - it is everyone's life-time plan to be wanted - **the one in the midst of all things mundane.** It is not an expression of no-confidence against anyone.

But, let's be fair to the locals. Let's try to listen to their points of view we may win their confidence with very little effort. If you tell them that their country was chosen because of certain practical considerations - or just ask them if they would like to be part of your effort during your off-time. And, always remember to credit them and their country in your QSL card. Come on guys - we're all on an ego trip.

**2. In many of these semi-rare countries, the locals have a set of regulations - or at least expectations of decent behavior. The DX show moves into town with 2 kW amplifiers and knocks out all TV sets and stereo systems for seven days before anyone even knows what it is all about. And then they leave. Why should the local hams pay the bill and lose all the good things they have done for amateur radio in their community, just because of a "one-shot DXpedition"?**

Surely, we cannot disagree much with the local hams. The DXpedition must be carried out without causing problems to amateur radio or the immediate community

Let's try to choose a local where we will not be burning RF at the most central hotel venues or in areas afflicted with RFI & TVI.

In every country, there are some special facilities that will better meet your DXpedition requirements. Either consult the local ham group or arrive in the country with an open mind and some flexibility in order to be able to settle down without a rush. A minute-by-minute schedule on a DXpedition will spoil most of the goodwill. One day's buffer at the beginning and one at the end will also add the needed social elements to the game.

3. If the local group is willing to assist one DXpedition, they will receive many more inquiries which are sure to get beyond their capacity. Should they assist all the inquiring hams equally? That, again, would end up with their country turning into a popular DX location and might require full-time personnel.

The locals cannot assist all of us. Let's allow them the right to select the criteria. That's up to them to figure out. It will certainly not be fair if they avoid everyone not coming because they cannot serve them all. **They must be able to decide.**

Can it be done twice a year? Or, is it your good past record that counts? Or, maybe they prefer the one who

would like to do it together with the local group? Whatever, let's approach the hams in the semi-rare countries as human individuals and opening tell them what we are up to. Just don't think that they would straight be as excited as you are about your forthcoming adventure nor just say we're coming and here are our requirements. Never count on borrowing the gear locally unless it is specifically offered since the gear is always viewed as an article of great value -parting with it is like loaning your car in a situation where you only have one.

There is nothing more fascinating than going on a DXpedition. Let's all do it once in our lifetime. But -let's do some good for amateur radio while being on the road.

A traveling DXpeditioner is one who should behave like an Ambassador for our fraternity. He should never fail on his QSO target but should not be found wanting in diplomatic behavior, either.

Bon Voyage, OH2BH

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## ARGENTINA

U.S. Amateurs recently rallied in support of the required code license for the amateur operator's license. The Bulletin of the Grupo Argentina de CW report similar discussions in Argentina.

At the most recent meeting of the National Council of Argentinian Amateur Radio Clubs. There was discussion of a proposal concerning the elimination of radio telegraphy from the Amateur Radio examination.

It is the opinion of the GACW that such actions would only hurt Amateur Radio in Argentina. The GACW members as a whole place a very high value on their Amateur Radio licenses. We point out that radio telegraphy is a regulation not placed on us by ourselves but rather it is a world wide regulation of the I.T.U.

A survey of the membership of the GACW showed that 59% of the membership are dedicated professionals in communications, 23% are professional radio-telegraphers, 63% have professional technical backgrounds and 6% are presently undertaking educational courses in electronics.

(abridged and translated by KD6S)

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## REPORT FROM INDONESIA

The NCDXF Country Advisor in Indonesia, YBOBZZ in a letter to K6UD writes:

"For your information, by law all Ham has to become a member of ORARI (ORGANISASI AMATIR RADIO INDONESIA) here, there is no individual Ham, everybody should be under the district and regional section of ORARI, but we do have problems also due to our geographical situation which consist mostly of islands, its as wide as west to east coast IUSA, therefore a get together between regional committee is only once per 3 years. We in Jakarta the capital city which is the Zero call area together with the National committee will always be the Barometer through out the country.

I am sitting now as the advisory council of ORARI and also taking care of the National QSL/Awards Bureau since January 1984 (formerly was the secretary 1981-1984), the National QSL Bureau was a shamble, only 1% of ORARI members DX. Only 8 members manage to obtain DXCC since 1968, only 13 members manage to obtain the very easy WAC since 1968. So, Stan, there's a lot to be done here to be upgraded, out of 40,000 members, who knows about DXpedition??, anyway I am very optimistic that with our upgrading program specially on How to DX etc. will try to get 10 to 20% of our members to become good DXer."

de YBOBZZ

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW NCDXF MEMBER DATABASE

### Is your address label OK?

Our new and expanded membership data base is finally on line after more than a year of planning and work. This new computerized system has already made the Secretary's job easier, which also means that we can respond more quickly and accurately to your letters and donations. Of course, a few gremlins always seem to hit new systems, and we don't expect ours will be any different. Your mailing label, which was prepared from the new data base, now includes your membership number as well as your call. Please check your label carefully and let us know if there is anything wrong with it. Many thanks! de W6CF

\*\*\*\*\*

### HELP - NO DELIVERY

When a newsletter is returned to us because of an undeliverable address, we send it out again to the latest callbook or supplement address (if it is different than what we already have). If this Newsletter comes back again, we have a problem!

Can you help? If you know anyone on this "no delivery" list or know any change of call or other address information, please let us know.

### NO DELIVERY LIST

WA1DVE, W4GD, WA4ITA, WB4MQE, N4XS, W5BPT, W5ILR, N5KC, K50A, W5SJ, W6BIL, K6OW, KR6Q, W6JQT, K6VVA, W7MPZ, KB7OB, WB9APC, W9RY, C21EF, FB8WJ, OE1ETA, VE3JGC, Mike Geeraert - Belgium, M. Guy Francois - New Caledonia.

Thanks for your help.

73 de K6WD

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### CHANGED YOUR CALL LATELY?

License upgrading is still a way of life, and quite a few NCDXF members wind up with new calls each year. If you have recently upgraded and picked up a new call, drop us a line so that we can correct our records. Our main records are sorted according to call letters, so it will help us if you give your old call as well as your new. Check your mailing label -the call we have in our books for you is printed there. de W6CF

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE AMSAT - OSCAR REPORT

by John Browning, W6SP, Chairman

You may recall that NCDXF will supply the trophies for the first AMSAT-Stoner Anniversary Challenge Cup.

Word comes that WOCA has won the AMSAT-Stoner 25th Anniversary Challenge Cup with more than twice as many points as his nearest rival. Nick's final score was 3,959,296 points. Second place garnered by SV1OE with 1,580,128 points. Third went to K3SA with 316,370. WOCA plans to be at the AMSAT Annual Meeting to accept the Stoner Cup trophy from Don Stoner, W6TNS, himself on 10 November in Los Angeles.

### POSSIBLE DXCC FOR AO-10

DXers will be interested to know that AMSAT Board will probably recommend that ARRL initiate the DXCC award for high altitude satellites. (like AO-10) The recent contest showed that about 1000 users and just over 100 countries on the satellite.

Consider this on your next DXpedition and take AO-10 capabilities.

\*\*\*\*\*



## WA2MOE's ROCK

About Stu Green's letter and the St. Peter & St. Paul rock (letter printed elsewhere).

A couple of years ago, when Stu Green announced that he would be one of the operators on the St. Peter & St. Paul DXpedition, it was suggested to him that one way to "prove" the DXpedition was actually on that island was to bring back a rock, because rocks from there are quite distinctive.

Stu did just that. His letter is his tongue-in-cheek confirmation that his rock was really from that rock. Someday we will have a photo of Stu's black rock (it's about 1" x 2" x 3"). The coral and shells were collected by Stu during the AD1S/KH5 DXpedition.

## SEND YOUR ROCKS

Hey---Stu started something. How about all you DXpeditioners sending us a small rock from those DX spots? Make it a "typical" rock...no bigger than about 2 x 2 x 2 inches. No boulders, please. And state exactly where you picked it up or chipped it off...de W6ISQ.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## WE GOOFED

Our apologies. We left out several calls of members who donated memberships to other operators. Among these omissions was W6GYM who donated a membership for UWOMF. Others?

We also gave the wrong call for a donor. It was K9XJ who made a donation in memory of his long-time friend, WB9FUM. We're sorry about those mistakes.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## QSL MANAGER

Any DXpedition or DX station need a QSL manager? Write volunteer WOJRN.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## FREE NCDXF QSL LOGOS

We have received many requests for camera-ready NCDXF logos for use on QSL cards. If you would like a selection of these logos for use on your QSL, write us. An SASE will speed the return and save NCDXF the postage. Tnx.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## VOLUNTEER "MAILMAN" FOR NEWSLETTER

The summer Newsletters addressed to European/African members were stamped and mailed by Martti Laine, OH2BH, from Finland. This did not save so much money, but it did mean that the Newsletter was delivered 4-6 weeks earlier than if we had mailed it from USA. We sincerely thank Martti for this work.

We also thank Mathias, DL8ZAJ, for volunteering to mail the Newsletter from Germany. We appreciate his concern and offer, but we had already made arrangements with OH2BH. Are there any volunteer "mailmen" who could handle Newsletter mail from VK/ZL? We would airmail the addressed Newsletters to the volunteer with mailing address labels already pasted on. The volunteer would then just put on local postage and mail. Of course, NCDXF would reimburse the mailmen! This would save a month in transit time.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## WHAT IS A "GOOD DXPEDITION"?

Comments continue to come in about our "general questionnaire" question about "what is a good DXpedition"? These comments also would apply to rare DX stations.

Here is composite of some of those ideas (not necessarily in the order of importance):

1. 24 hour-a-day operation, if possible.
2. Have experienced "pile-up" operators.
3. Equal time on CW and SSB, if possible. (Sometimes only one mode is allowed by licensing authority).

4. Equal time on all bands as far as possible. (Some say keep a 20 meter station operating all the time).
5. Work split frequency (usually).
6. Try to work "with" the skip on all bands. (i.e. be aware of where the openings are for each band for a given time of day).
7. In huge pileups, work by districts/areas (many disagree with this).
8. Take along good equipment (including beams) and run maximum power permitted.
9. Stand by once in a while for QRPers, mobiles, etc. (KDOJL, DL8ZAJ, OH2JI, DA2ER and others. Some ops do not agree).
10. It was a good DXpedition if I worked it (K6DC).

Yes, there are other items. Send in yours. Also, you can be sure that many of the items above have a lot of disagreement. Well, we guess that too is part of the DX game.

MESSAGE FOR DA2ER/W9VI. QSL your P.S. on note. And 73/88 to Traudell! ---de W6ISQ.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## DID YOU KNOW THAT ... ?

NCDXF member Ellen White, W1YL, doesn't spend all of her time writing "How's DX?" for QST. In addition to her ham radio activities, Ellen putters around with gardening, needlework, photography, science fiction, and plays a mean game of billiards. But above all, she is crazy about --cats. Big cats. Little cats. Cat salt and pepper shakers. Cat pillows. Cat figurines. CATSI (But it is not true that OM Bob, W1CW, eats only milk and tuna sandwiches for dinner...) de W6CF  
\*\*\*\*\*

## THE "IN" BOX

de W6ISQ

MAGAZINE DX COLUMNS, NEWSLETTERS AND DX CLUB BULLETINS.

We subscribe to many magazines and DX newsletters from all over the world and also receive many DX club bulletins. We find them all very interesting, each in their own format and varied content. We wish we had space to reprint some of their comments and notes, or at least to paraphrase them for your reading enjoyment and information. We will try to do more of this in the future if we can obtain permission from the Publishers.

We do thank all DX column and newsletter editors for their kind remarks about NCDXF and for carrying information about the 14.1 MHz beacon net.

## FROM THE MAILBAG

We do not have much space for the "In" Box this time. Actually, the box is overflowing - we just don't have enough newsletter pages to share the interesting comments of the membership. But, we will try to include more of your interesting comments next issue. Here are a few items we will share with you this time....

"The Chod Harris 73 Magazine article of June 1984 prompted a good note from one N6RS, who was an ART/c in a patrol squadron with me in the summer of 1944! I mailed him a photo of him working on a large radar reflector which I had him installing on a mountain top."

de W6RQ (W6RQ is NCDXF beacon manager and was mentioned and pictured in that article).

From the Southern Africa DX Association..."It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of the SADXA committee to inform you that Honorary Life Membership has been conferred upon you by unanimous vote at our Annual General Meeting held on June 13th, 1984. On behalf of the Committee and myself I would like to pass on sincere congratulations and best wishes from all of us down here to you and all NCDXF members...etc. etc." de Bill Smith, ZS6XD, Chairman - SADXA. (NCDXF is indeed grateful for this Honorary Membership and we thank Bill Smith and the SADXA membership!).

"Just came across your article in QST June 1983. I checked out the beacons and they are really neat"... de W2DTC.

"Just finished reading the latest letter and thought I would drop a line to say how much I enjoyed it. Most "newsy" I have read. So many things going on and coming up, it is enough to rekindle my interest in DXing which has not been very high for a long time"...de K5HT.

Several letters commented on the report by VK6FS published in the Summer Newsletter (about the "repeats" in the Heard Island log). They all lamented the DX hog attitude of some ops who like play King-of-the-Hill...de N9BUL, N5NM, others.

From Bahri, DJ0UJ. Regarding ZA operation. "After a long hectic two tries (September 8 and 24) I couldn't get a visa to ZA...I'll try again, of course, but it will take a long time. Thanks for your support and cooperation. Best regards to everybody and to all NCDXF"...de Bahri, DJ0UJ.

We will continue next time, 73, W6ISQ.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## HF MOBILE -- CALIFORNIA STYLE!

*A Rare Type of DXpeditioning...*

*by G. Kip Edwards, W6SZN*

With the worldwide proliferation of 2 meter radios, most amateurs have operated mobile. Far fewer have operated mobile on the HF bands. But how many out there have simultaneously operated two complete KW stations, with a 2 element yagi, cruising the freeways at 55 miles per hour?

Through the imagination and ingenuity of Tom Schiller, N6BT, that's exactly what happened during the California QSO Party. Each year, during the first weekend in October, the Northern California Contest Club sponsors the California QSO Party, a rare 30 hours when the world actually wants to work the Suffering Sixes! The object of the contest for non-California stations is to work as many California stations in as many of the 58 California counties as possible during 24 hours. The NCCC makes a big effort each year to activate all 58 counties during the contest. Because of the size of California, and the remoteness of many counties, putting the "rare" counties on the air means a county expedition. That's what got N6BT thinking, and what led to an 8 county multi-operator expedition for the 1984 renewal of the contest.

TWO-kW rigs plus a beam - mobile in motion!

N6BT's truck was first equipped with a 2 element tribander about 10 feet above the roof of the truck, complete with tie lines on the boom and elements to make sure that the antenna didn't blow away at 55 m.p.h. Lots of verticals and wire antennas were loaded up for quick installation at various stops along the way. Two stations, with transceivers and KW amplifiers, were installed in the front and back seats, with operating tables for logs, keyers, paddles, and maps. Now, what about power to run everything? Two NCDXF-owned 3 KW generators were made available for the operation. With the generators secured to the truck's tailgate, we attracted a lot of attention driving down the freeway and at small towns where we stopped, despite our assurance that we were not CIA agents.

Beginning at Placer County at North Lake Tahoe, we operated from eight California counties, ranging in altitude

DF6FK (left) and DJ6SI relax at the Singapore Hilton 6 days after rescue.

from sea level to 10,000 feet above sea level. QSO's were made on all bands, including a memorable 2 meter QSO with N6QR from Sierra County (#52 out of 58 for an all 2 meter worked all California counties effort by Adam). We apparently did something right, judging by the number of QSL cards received from county hunting amateurs after the contest.

What's in store for next year? We've already started talking about parking on a double or triple county line and going at it again, multi-multi mobile of course!

73, Kip, W6SZN

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## MEMBERS DONATE MEMBERSHIPS

We thank the following members who donated NCDXF memberships as follows: W0ZKA for N0ABE, OH2BH for BV2A, W6MVCV for BY1PK, KC9DJ for BY4AA, WA6TKT for BY8AA, DK2KX for DH1FAP, KL9LAI for DL5LAW, OE7HPI for YK1AO, W6ORD for ZL4LZ, CX6BBY for JY5AZ, JY5AZ for JY5ZM, AA6AD for 4X4DH, 4X4FQ and 4X4FU, OH7VR for OH7MU and OH7XY, OZ1GLN for OZ8YP, UY5LK for UA6HZ, KB5AK for UA9OS, K6TMB for UB5JAT, ZL1AMO for YN1CC K4PR for WA4GKT, ZL1AMO for YN1CC, W8RV for W8HN, W6GYM for UWOMF, ZL1AMO for W4WMQ, K6UD for I2ZQAQ, K6XT for KC7LL, W7TE for K7LJQ, K2ON for DU9RG.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ended June 30, 1984

Receipts:	
Memberships and Contributions	\$ 40,566.84
Interest	9,930.72
	-----
Total Receipts	50,497.36
Disbursements:	
Scientific Expeditions	23,803.99
Capital Equipment Expenses	4,128.56
QSL Cards	2,811.57
Newsletters	1,875.26
Administrative and General Expenses	4,654.51
	-----
Total Disbursements	37,273.89
EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 13,223.47
	-----
Cash balances at July 1, 1983	\$ 116,768.08
Excess receipts over disbursements	13,223.47
	-----
CASH BALANCES AT JUNE 30, 1984	\$ 129,991.55
	-----
Petty Cash Fund	\$ 200.00
Checking Account	2,148.72
Money Market	27,152.83
Certificate of Deposit	100,490.00
	-----
	\$ 129,991.55



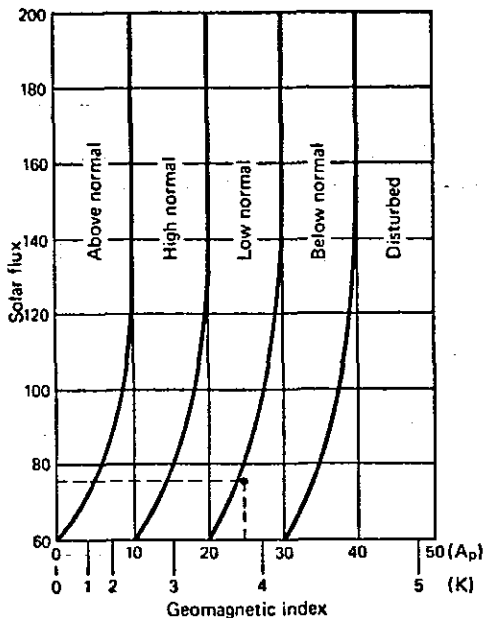


Fig. 1- Intersection of given values of solar flux and geomagnetic activity determine expected h.f. ionospheric propagation conditions. (Example: Solar flux is 75 and Ap is 25; expect Below Normal conditions.)

This chart is from: The Shortwave Propagation Handbook, 2nd Edition, by George Jacobs, W3ASK and Dr. Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX. Reprinted by permission of the authors.

This book is suggested for all who are interested in gaining a better understanding of the propagation of radio waves. It can be obtained from CQ Publishing, 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville NY 11801, U.S.A. The cost is \$10.95 postpaid.

State of New York )  
 ) SS  
 County of New York )

I, Stuart Phillips Greene, being of legal age, sound mind, and disposing memory, hereby attest and affirm that the piece of rock sent to John Troster on July 26, 1984 was picked up by me on the second day of October on the year of our Lord, 1982 on the Rock of St. Peter. The Rock of St. Peter is part of a group of islands known as Las Pinaduras De Sao Pietro E Paulo situated at 00 degrees 35 min. north and approximately 27 degrees west. Upon information and belief the Rock consists of Basalt or cooled lava. Any whitish discolorations probably are bird fecal matter and can be as old as 10,000 years or as new as 60 seconds before I collected the rock.

The collection of this rock occurred as the final incident on the Rock of St. Peter during the course of an amateur radio expedition sponsored by the Northern California DX Foundation.

I also attest that the Northern California DX Foundation did not instruct the operators to utilize the entire 20 meter phone band and upon information and belief any fecal matter upon the subject rock might have been placed there by outraged avian specimens who sensed that the 20 meter band was not being used but abused.

Upon information and belief, I am not crazy although I am aware that this is an open question.

I also attest that the piece of coral accompanying this affidavit was personally collected by me on the 10th day of November 1983 from the beach at Jarvis Island and if it reminds one of a familiar salutation, I am deeply sorry. Upon information and belief it is known as finger coral. I attest that the two seashells also accompanying this affidavit were collected by me several days later from the north beach of Christmas Island in the Kiribati Republic.

Further the deponent sayeth not

*Stuart Phillips Greene*  
 Stuart Phillips Greene

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of August 1984.

*John J. ...*  
 Notary Public  
 JOHN J. ...  
 NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York  
 Its Comm. Expires March 28, 1986

Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter



Spring 1984

NEST, Editor K6WD, Circulation AASAD, Reporter

JY1 And The Shuttle Columbia

By Dave Det. W6AO

It all started with a call from Roy Neal, K0DLE. Would I be interested in going back to Japan and seeing how the newly King Haman on Talk 211, in conversation with Owen Garret, W6FL, at Garret's office 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 Yucca Valley covering the flight of Hubble and the flight of the space shuttle in the middle of the month. Not a problem, I was planning on coming home for a few days in the middle of the month. I'll make sure that no other DXer's will be leaving home that day. I'll return to America on my way out.

There are many Russian stations on the air now as there were the last time I was in Amman, in 1978. The contact between JY1 and W6FL 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 operation, Dave Deiberg, W6DMA, and I got all of the video equipment to the royal ham shack, and I left it up to the ham shack's commercial radio shop, Alastair Smith, JY1 and Bruce (Barrett) Beckburn, JY200 (W6V). I'll be taking two meter gear.

I returned to ...  
 GARY LILJEGREN W6WH  
 BOX 75  
 DES MOINES, IOWA 50301  
 USA

ATTENTION DX'ERS....AND THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DX PURSUITS!

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT AND BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION. THE FOUNDATION IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ASSISTING IN MANY WAYS, THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUALS WORLD-WIDE WHO ARE MAKING DX CONTACTS WITH RARE AND SEMI-RARE COUNTRIES A POSSIBILITY. THE FOUNDATION HELPS EXPEDITIONS, DX OPERATORS, MANAGES THE BEACON NET ON 20 METERS, WRITES A NEWSLETTER, AND MAKES THE FUN OF WORKING DX AVAILABLE TO MORE PEOPLE IN THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. THERE ARE MORE THAN 2600 MEMBERS WORLD-WIDE....A VERY DEDICATED GROUP OF DX ENTHUSIASTS, AND MANY WHO ARE BEGINNING IN DX AND LEARNING THE ROPES.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT AN EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION AND AID OTHERS IN MAKING DX AVAILABLE TO YOURSELF AND YOUR DX FRIENDS, TAKE A MOMENT AND FILL OUT THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM. SEND THE APPLICATION AND \$25 (OR A LESSER FIGURE IF YOUR BUDGET DOESN'T ALLOW \$25) TO:

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION, INC.  
 P. O. BOX 236#  
 STANFORD, CA 94306

THIS IS ANOTHER WAY TO ENJOY WORKING DX! JOIN THE NCDXF AND ADD THE NCDXF LOGO TO YOUR QSL'S.



W6H creation for generating interest in DXing at fair. It's great! Thanks.

Radio WØJRN  
 This confirms our QSO on 14.000 MHz on 13106MT member of  
 AAARS ORS  
 AFE RCC  
 ARRL WAC  
 BPL WAS  
 FEARL WBE  
 IRE  
 RMX DLA NICE  
 QSL TIM

Have no Colorado Code for this.  
 TOKYO JAPAN 977 - no pic  
 Send all mail to  
 71 Signal Service Battalion  
 APO 300  
 Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. U.S.A.

**2AHI**

EX-FARID-K7KG  
 W7KC-W7YA-W6AHI  
 W6KFD-W6TQ  
 on air since 1929

OPR HR  
 Iris Colvin  
 Lloyd Colvin  
 Major Signal Corps

Stuart Phillips Greene is the alias of none other than DXer and intrepid DXpeditioner Stu Greene, WA2MOE. See elsewhere in Newsletter for explanation of letter.

WØJRN sends copy of 1947 QSL from J2AHI. Guess who? Lloyd Colvin, of course! Your scribe, W6ISQ, also has one of these collectors items of "early" Colvin. Others? Have you sent to YASME yet for your YASME Award?

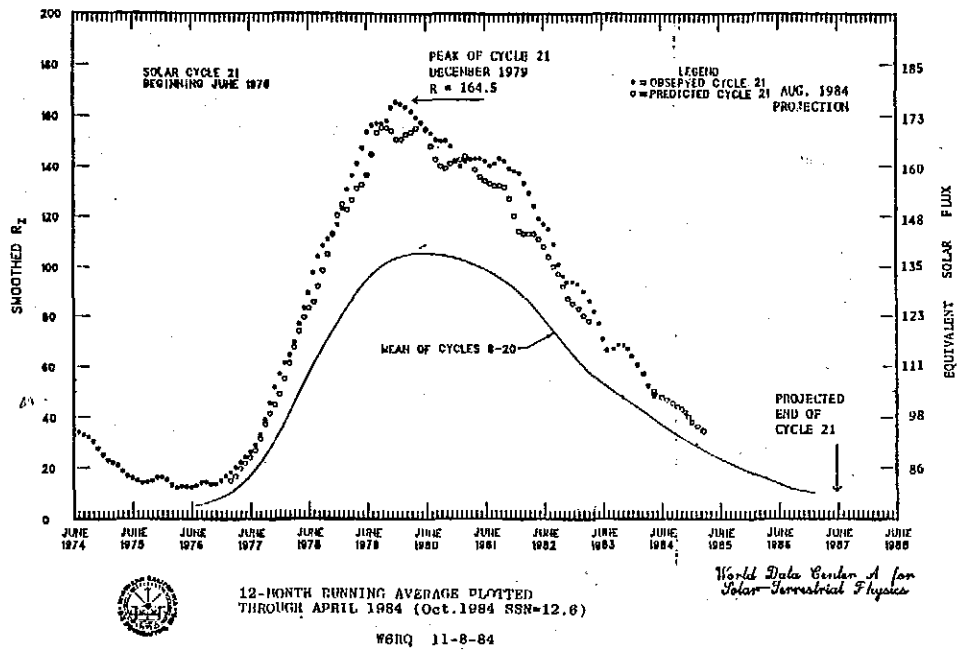
As of March 19, 1984

Country	Number of Kits
Algeria	.7
Antigua & Barbuda	.3
Bangladesh	.2
Belgium	.1
Belize	.5
Botswana	.13
Cameroon	.1
Chile	.3
China	.25
Djibouti	.1
Egypt	.1
Fiji	.2
French Polynesia	.1
The Gambia	.12
Hungary	.30
India	.22
Indonesia	.1
Iraq	.5
Jamaica	.7
Jordan	.10
Kenya	.1
Liberia	.15
Malaysia	.3
Malta	.2
Mauritius	.3
Montserrat	.3
Morocco	.16
Nigeria	.4
Niue	.3
Pakistan	.6
Panama	.1
Papua New Guinea	.10
Sierra Leone	.3
Solomon Islands	.8
Switzerland	.1
Tonga	.5
Zambia	.22

Total . . . . .258

ARRL's Project Goodwill sends 14 MHz transceiver kits to qualified radio instructors to use in teaching students in Lesser Developed Countries.

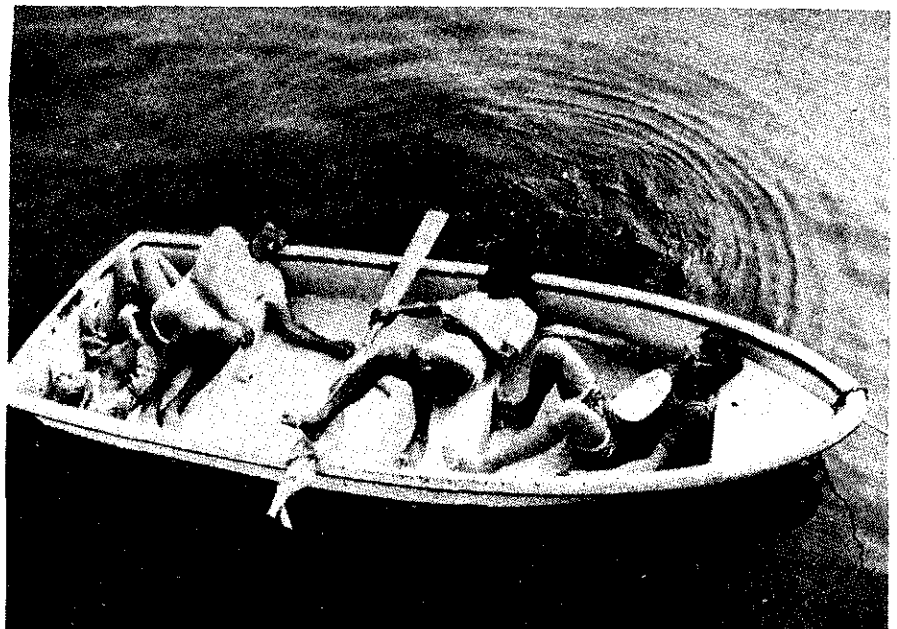
OBSERVED AND ONE-YEAR-AHEAD PREDICTED SMOOTHED SUNSPOT NUMBERS



Stop complaining about poor band conditions. Look what's ahead for the next few years! Ho-ho-ho. Anyone who is just starting 5BDXCC or 5BWAZ may have problems finding those distant countries/zones!

So--what are you going to do during the next several years when DX is generally poor of 10 & 15? Work hard on 40-80-160? Satellites? Long vacation? See questionnaire.

Baldur, DJ6SI, sent this photograph of a re-creation (in Singapore) of the positions of the survivors in the lifeboat after escape from their boat which was sunk by gunfire off the Spratly Islands. From left to right: DJ6SI; Peter Marx, Captain of the boat which was sunk; Jenny Toh, Captain's XYL; DF6FK in the bow.



## India cables TV to tree aerials

**G**REEN VEGETATION can act as aerials and receivers according to Dr S. P. Kosta, deputy director of the satellite centre at the Indian Space Research Organisation.

In a series of field demonstrations, he has shown that tall, healthy trees such as cypress, coconut, eucalyptus and mango can substitute for conventional metallic rooftop TV antennas and for transmitting and receiving voice signals.

The "green revolution" in TV signals reception started in the summer of 1980. Kosta thought that certain geometrically shaped plants, trees and vegetation could act as receptors of audio and visual signals. He made a bundle of freshly cut cypress leaves and put them in a conically shaped polythene bag. As expected, the leaves could sustain, propagate and radiate electromagnetic waves. Em-boldened, Kosta began experimenting with coconut, date-palm and casuarina trees. Using all these species he was able to obtain high-quality TV pictures; the taller and greener the vegetation, the better the reception.

According to Kosta, an easy to handle inexpensive cable can link a TV set to the vegetation. "All that one has got to do is to pierce the cable so that it touches the moist part of the tree or plant." The cable can be connected either to the leaf or to the stem.

Kosta feels that once he is able to evolve a technique to neutralise the impact of hostile natural elements, such as wind, rain and snow, that the TV antenna can be replaced by green vegetation. He hopes that

his findings will pave the way for television to penetrate India's heartland.

Field studies carried out by Kosta have established that TV signals, radiating 1 kW, can be received clearly by healthy date-palm, coconut and papaya trees. He says that the signal is transmitted via the xylem and phloem which carry a plant's food and water. The pictures were found to be better quality than those received in TV sets using conventional metallic antennas.



In October, 1983, Kosta transmitted and received voice signals over distances up to 30 kilometres through trees such as eucalyptus, cypress, mango and jack-fruit.

In the future, he plans to study whether or not creepers and climbers are suitable for transmitting telephone signals.

The BBC is very sceptical about the idea. It does not doubt that the Indian Space Centre can receive and transmit radio waves with living plants. The phenomenon is wholly predictable, but BBC engineers have serious doubts about its practical value for telecommunications.

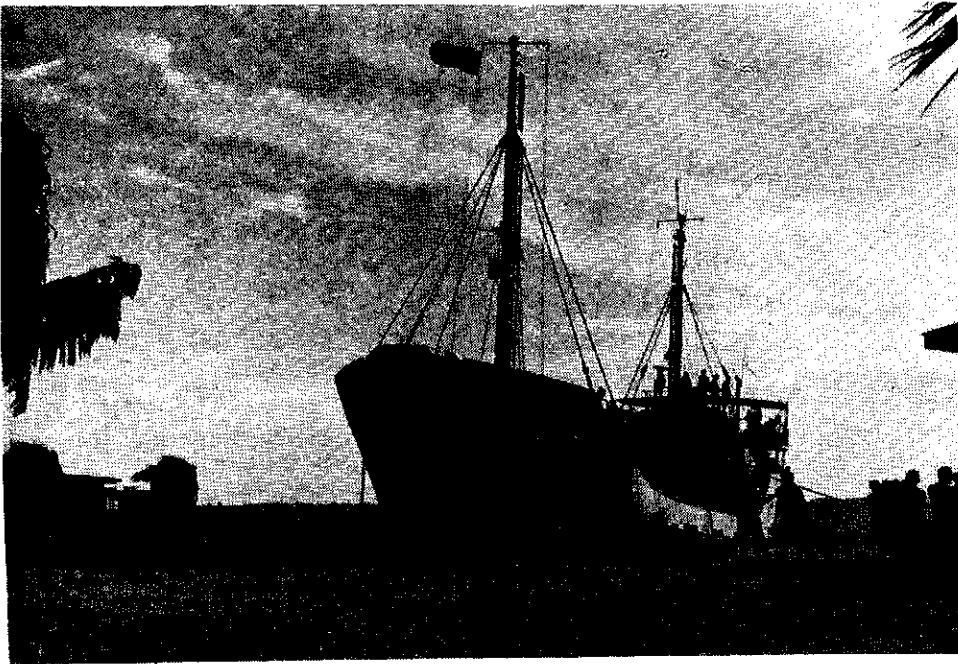
If a signal is strong, and the transmitter is close, a radio or TV will work with a piece of wet string connected to the aerial socket. Some sets will work without any aerial at all. Often they pick up enough signal from the screened coaxial cable which connects an aerial to a receiver or transmitter.

It is not surprising that a living plant, full of impure, electrically conductive fluid,

will work like a large wet-string aerial. The problem is to match the electrical impedance of the connecting cable to that of the aerial. If both have the same impedance, often 75 ohms, then received energy will transfer efficiently to the cable. A transformer could easily match a cable to the impedance of a plant. But if the plant grows, or the weather turns wet, the impedance will change and mismatch will reduce the received signal strength.

For high efficiency, an aerial must also be tuned in size to a multiple or fraction of the wavelength. A fast growing plant could go out of tune over the weekend, and again received signal strength would drop. So it would be foolish to rely on a plant as a transmission aerial.

An aerial engineer at the BBC says: "You can use anything as an aerial, old bed springs or a dead sheep, provided you pump in enough transmission power to compensate for its inefficiency. If you push kilowatts of radio frequency energy into a tree, you will make it get so hot that it dies and bursts into flames. You would then have a burning bush as an aerial." □



Ships park right on Main Street on Penrhyn Atoll in the Northern Cooks. Ron, ZK1XL/K60ZL, finally got off the island on this ship.



This is the west coast of Desecheo where the DXpedition camped. The square cement platform at the tip of the island is a heli-pad (not used by the DXpeditioners). In front of the heli-pad, is a break in the reef where operators and equipment went ashore by boat.



Gerben, PA0GAM, editor of Veron's DXpress, pictured during the BV0AA operation (OH2BH photo).

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. We are headed toward the bottom of the sunspot cycle (in 2 years). The 10 meter band is getting deader and deader, and 15 is moribund. What are you going to substitute for all that good 10 and 15 meter DX you will not work for the next few years?

2. Do you know about any amateur use of "tree" antennas? Did you ever use any strange antennas...i.e. bed springs, bird cages etc.? Results?

-----  
Here is my NCDXF Membership donation:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Here is an additional Holiday donation for a NCDXF Happy New Year for my friend:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

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