NCDXF RECEIVES MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS
MEMBERS AND DONORS CREATE SPECIAL FUNDING
by Jack Troster, W6ISQ

GENEROUS APPRECIATION FOR MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

NCDXF announces, gratefully and appreciatively, that financial support from the membership has not only continued, but reached a high during the last several years. Moreover, it was done so in spite of low sunspot activity, which could easily have dimmed interest in even the most veteran of us!

Such contributions are the backbone of our activities. They make it possible for us to add excitement and accomplishment to DXing by funding DXpeditions to the interesting and rare places we all want to contact. These on-going membership contributions are the means to on-going challenges for DXers by helping to put the rare ones on the air—on all bands. That’s what we’re looking for, right!

Incidentally, we note with pride, these DXpeditions performed magnificently during this period of poor propagation. The past month seems to have given some indication that we’ve passed the solar minimum, as more of those great little sunspots continue to show up. DX Spotting Networks list increased DXpeditions on all bands, especially 10 meters. This translates into Good and Better DX News for the next 10 years, so dust off the old rig and raise the antenna. Cycle 23 is coming in. Thanks for your contributions, which put us in the fore of the fun.

INDIVIDUAL MAJOR DONATIONS

THE SHAKLEE CHALLENGE

Last year, Lee Shaklee, W6BH, one of the founders of NCDXF and first president of NCDXF, offered the “Shaklee Challenge”, which provided that Lee would donate $10,000 if members would subscribe to match it. In just two months, Lee’s offer was matched! That gave the Foundation a very substantial boost. A great contribution success, full account and details of which were in our last issue.

J.C. DOWNING FOUNDATION ADDS TO ITS BEACON FUNDING

Some years ago, The J. C. Downing Foundation gave a generous donation to the general fund of NCDXF. Part of that donation was used to fund the experiment that produced the prototype of the present beacon unit used in the NCDXF/IARU International Beacon Network. An article about this system was published in September ’97, QST, and there’s a schedule of the 16 beacons now in operation, on page 10 of this Newsletter.

Early this year, The J.C. Downing Foundation donated an additional $7500 to finance eight more beacons. This expansion of the network will be put into place over the next few years. Of particular interest is that the last 10-second segment of the expanded beacon schedule has been set aside to be used by major DXpeditions in the same manner that the VK0IR DXpedition used it. (See aforementioned QST article). We are highly grateful for this appropriation from the J.C. Downing Foundation, which will bring the Beacon Network to its full operating capacity and purpose. Many, many thanks.

John Downing is W2NA and you’ll find him on DXpeditions at his favorite DX contest location in Belize.
Scholarship Fund Created by Don Doughty, W6EEN

Don Doughty is a long-time friend and supporter of NCDXF. Over the first several months of this year, starting right after the VK0IR DXpedition, he has donated a total of $16,000 to the general fund. In May, Don, prompted no doubt by his early career as a university physics teacher, stepped up his support even further and donated $20,000 to NCDXF to create a Scholarship Fund.

Interest from the principal will provide a $1000.00 yearly scholarship for a collegiate amateur operator. The first of these will be awarded for the '98-99 academic year. NCDXF will use the experienced scholarship management of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, headed by Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, to select our scholarship winners. Don has stipulated that the recipient be a HF operator, not, as Don so aptly put it, a shack-on-the-belt operator. Right on, in line with the principles of a DX oriented organization. Proud thanks to Don Doughty.

On The Bands

Len Gerald, K6ANP,
President, NCDXF

Len is a second generation San Franciscan born, educated, and stabled, in the beauteous City by the Bay. His friend, the late W6PZA, who had a commercial crystal set, piqued his early interest in radio. Len decided he'd build one too, so he and the friend went to the local radio emporium. As they were selecting parts, a gentleman walked in and asked them if they were hams.

They were not, so the gentleman went to the magazine rack, bought two copies each of ARRL's "How to Become a Radio Amateur" and two copies of the "License Manual." He presented them to the Len and friend. They never did find out who their benefactor was, but that was their introduction to ham radio.

At San Francisco Technical High School, which Len chose so that he could take courses in Electronics and TV, he also studied for his ticket and received his call, KN6ANP in March, 1953. Four months later he upgraded to General. (Now he's Extra Class). He went on the air with an S-38, a home brew 6L6 Oscillator, and a 40M dipole. His first DX was a ZL and he got so excited he couldn't sleep all night. Later he built a 6146 rig and went after WAS.

After Junior College, Len went to work for Pacific Bell Telephone where he remained for the 36 years that comprised his entire professional life. He began hooking up wires in the Central Office, but he wanted to get into microwave, so he transferred to the Remote Unit which did pickups at football games, the Republican National Convention and other outside activities. Len had now moved into a Johnson Viking II, NC-183D and a Tribander, making DXCC with that setup. He was an active member of the San Francisco Radio Club, and at one of those meetings he met Rac, daughter of fellow member W6GGG. See, guys, there's more than one plus for going to meetings.

Anyhow, Len being a high-powered operator (ed: couldn't resist) it didn't take long before he and Rae were married and established a home in Santa Rosa. Len then was promoted into first level management. He became involved in designing multiple point circuitry for customers such as Dow Jones. Later he became a Supervisor of crews installing data transmission systems. Promoted again, he was also transferred to Bellcore Labs New Jersey to work in engineering support for fiber optics and security emergency preparedness radio systems. Len and Rae have four children. Anthony, 33, is manager of a bus company in San Francisco. Alan, 32, W6GGC, is an attorney in San Francisco, and incidentally, got his maternal grandfather's call via the vanity call route. Rebecca 31 is a graphic artist for a computer firm, and Daniel, 30, KA6JHM, has just finished law school. When Len moved back to California from New Jersey, he re-erected the antenna farm, which he had developed before his eastern move. It boasts a 160M delta loop, 80M delta loop, 6 element 20M, 3 element 40M, 2 element 30M, 4 element 15M and 4 element 10M, plus handling a SYSOPS station for his area. His station is a FT-100D, Alpha 76A, and no-surprise; its all computer controlled. Yes, he has a Big Signal! He's active in selected contests such as CQWW-CW, SS, and Field Day. He has operated overseas from FO0, VP5 and was a member of the DXpedition to YK0A, SYria, in November, 1994.

Somewhere about the time Len reached the age of 40, a doctor friend told him he was a dedicated lounge lizard.
Bob Vallio, W6RGG, accepting on behalf of the NCDXF, the Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Award from the FOC. The Award was presented by Al’s widow, Maud Slater, at the annual FOC Dinner held in London during October 1996.

and should do a little exercising. Never one to go half way, Len opted to take up running and not just the casual jog around the block to the supermarket, but the long distance stuff—marathons! Major. He has run the Boston twice, Marine Corps once, Portland Oregon twice, Big Sur once, San Francisco three times (last run he was 4th in his age group) and others I’m too tired to mention. Next month he’ll run the Sacramento International for the third time. Len runs NCDXF the same way, with complete dedication and a commitment to do an outstanding job. But then you’ve noticed.

Len Gerald, K6ANP, crossing the finish line at the Portland, Oregon Marathon. This was the race that qualified him to run in the Boston Marathon.
The S21XX-story

by Hannes Schmidt - DL3NEO

A group of German hams made up of DL3DXX, Dietmar YB1AQS/DL8WPX, Joerg and DL3NEO, Hannes activated S2/Bangladesh on the HF-bands from February 2 to 18, 1997. The aims were to operate mainly on CW and to concentrate on the low bands. Everything succeeded after a lengthy license procedure.

Preparations and license

At the end of 1995 DL3NEO had the idea to go to S2 for a single DXpedition. It was supposed to be a trip just to activate the usual bands as can best be done. Later, during a meeting with the friends YB1AQS and DL3DXX, the low bands came into play. The whole enterprise would not be able to get off the ground before 1997; it would need at least two week for stay and operate and February would be the best month (depending good propagation on low bands). The S2 spot was decided on at the Ham Radio Fair in Friedrichshafen in June 1996 ("the" ham-fair, the place where hams meet hams). Hannes now had to do all the organizing, and to have correspondence regarding destination, licenses, QTH, etc. 100% clarified well before departure. In the coming seven months he filled up a thick file with papers and his monthly telephone and fax bills swelled rapidly. Everything was very tedious and on several occasions even a convinced optimist like Hannes wanted to scrap the whole game. It was often a case of using a letter/fax or the phone to convince an influential person that they should support an enterprise without having met them face to face. That cannot compare with the much better situation if you reside in the country and apply for a license. Success with the licenses was substantially due to official support from B.A.R.L. The airline tickets had been paid for at the beginning of January and in short - we got the individual licenses S21XX, S21XY and S21XX during the last week of January, just a few days before departure. We were on our way.

Flight, arrival and QTH

On Sunday morning February 2, 1997 we landed in Dhaka, coming from DL and YB. We met up at the baggage claim. Everyone had plenty of excess luggage. In the arrival hall, a QRL-friend of DL3NEO was waiting for us, along with four members of B.A.R.L. (Bangladeshi Amateur Radio League), including President Saif (S21A) and Secretary Nizam (S21B). After brief introductions and welcoming, the first photos were taken. We received an invitation to come to a ham-evening with the local OMs. We felt that was a good start.

We then left the city by car in a northerly direction. What will the QTH be like? We knew the QTH (rented in advance) was in a garden in the countryside, measuring 120m by 100m, with a bungalow, 3 beds, toilet and tables for the equipment. There were no industry or overhead lines in the vicinity. There was enough space for antennas. A 3kW generator would be available as there was no direct power supply connection. A cook would be there to provide us with food and other supplies. That may not appear to be much, but whoever knows the situation in Bangladesh will recognize that it was a lot.

If you come from abroad, all you can book in the travel agencies for Dhaka is two luxury hotels, and that was out of the question. A booking for Chittagong or Cox’s Bazar, towns in the South with bungalows for tourists, would have meant more traveling days and would therefore have cost us operating days. A DXpeditioner who has traveled the world a bit, ex-
lows with beds, running cold water and toilets. The owner had shortly before installed a solar panel to light the bungalows. The cook spoke some words of English. The generator was there, installed in a small house. But there was a problem after all...

**QRV on February 2, 1997**

We did a quick inspection of the terrain. Then, unpacking shortly before dark, installed one R7, one R7000 and a 30m wire vertical. We quickly measured the SWR. We had agreed long before that we (by operating from the same place) would use only one callsign (this strengthens team spirit and reduces double QSO rate). Dietmar made the first QSO on 30m with JA3REK. On the very day of our arrival the S21XX was on the air at 14:35 UTC! By the way, first North American log entry was VE7KDU, first US station was K7ZZ on 80m.

The larger bungalow became QTH #1 with two note-books operating/networking and two transceivers for low bands; the smaller bungalow about 25 meters away became QTH #2 for the high bands with one transceiver to dipole for WARC+40m and also an R7 vertical.

To return to the problem mentioned above, this generator was causing general scratching of heads and ques-


tioning looks. It had hitherto been there just for lighting and an irrigation pump. It was not a motor generator unit, but a engine only, coupled to the generator by a fan belt. It was not possible to run up the speed for operation under load. When just one transceiver was keyed, the voltage fluctuated instantly between 170 and 240 V. Simultaneous transmitting with more than one transceiver was out of the question. And worse still, that evening after about 2-3 hours, the cook came and asked when he could switch off the generator to give it a rest. But it had been agreed that the generator was extremely important for us and would be running round the clock. So there was a problem, and not a minor one.

On the second day Dietmar and Hannes drove a rental car to Dhaka. Help came via Hannes’ QRL (subsidiary of the German Company); a brand new 7KW1/14PS Coleman gasoline-powered generator was obtained without red tape that very day. The next day it was delivered, new lines above ground to the bungalows were laid and the generator immediately put into operation. It ran well. We could now have all three stations operating simultaneously without difficulty. That meant no more problems; we were now properly QRV.

We had evidently got it right with the QTH in other respects; it was reported to us later during conversation with local hams that a noise level of S6 prevailed in the city of Dhaka.

**Operation days**

With 20 litres in the tank, the generator ran for exactly 6 hours. The operating instructions prescribed a cooling phase of 30 minutes prior to restart, a wise precaution for safe refueling, in case gasoline were to splash onto the still hot engine. These 6 hour phases and restart breaks were arranged in line with optimal band-openings but there were frequently pile-ups lasting longer than expected and sometimes we suddenly disappeared from the band without announcing the QRX or 73’s and QRT (please excuse).

Throughout the next few days Jörg set up, tensioned and optimized more new antennas. There were a total of 7 antennas, verticals and one wire beam for 20m. The trees served for tensioning or as towers for extra height. What would be possible to get on 160m and 80m? Can the U.S. including the West Coast be heard? This was the question we asked ourselves most. We were therefore particularly interested in having a beverage antenna for listening on 160m. On the second day, the V80E vertical (Titanex) for 160m, 80m, 40m and 30m (with matchbox in the base and elevated radials) was set up. The 160m band surprised us with strong signals from Europe and Japan. Soon after dusk in Europe the Big Guns were in the log and subsequently we would reach a great number of Europeans who had previously hardly worked 160m DX. In some particularly good nights stations even from the U.S. East Coast came through the EU pile-up, even if the signals were very weak. As soon as we had the chance of working on the U.S.A., the most difficult target from Asia, we asked the other stations for standby. We were overjoyed when, on several occasions, we could work on stations from the U.S. West Coast, including KH6AT from Hawaii. We closed our top band log with a happy total of 923 QSOs. How many of those may have been "new
ones”? We shall know when we have evaluated all those received QSL cards. The high bands were not critical to operate. All we wished to do here, as after midday local time (i.e. 0830 UTC), was to watch on 15m and 17m, so as to start opening the bands to Europe. That usually succeeded only on 17m; OHs and SPs were frequently the first stations. About three minutes after the first QSO we were put in EU in some packet-clusters and could work off the pile-ups. JA’s always came with high volume and with familiar discipline. Station 3 kept a hand log; these QSOs were keyed into the notebook when no operations were going on and merged with the overall log (CT/expedition mode). The 12m openings, if and when they came, unfortunately frequently lasted only twenty minutes. The 10m band was unusable for the whole time. Just once some Japanese were taken onto 10m, after 12m QSOs with these stations, producing just a few QSOs on 10m.

Until shortly before the end of our activities we stuck with the principle of working mainly in CW and on the low bands, although on the higher bands there would have been more QSOs. After a good first week, Jörg then discovered a liking for the RTTY-OMs and entered the RTTY contest. A total of 461 QSOs for this mode went into the log.

**Daily routine**

Our daily routine quickly aligned itself according to band openings and generator run times. All the days were sunny with temperatures around 25°C with relatively low humidity - almost like a German summer. At night, however, it was perceptibly cold at the station table (12-15°C). February is the coldest month of the year. In the morning until midday we caught up on lost sleep or slept in preparation for the next night, frequently interrupted by welcome visits by our friends from Dhaka. Whoever wasn’t asleep at such times, explained and showed everything to the visitors and had to politely decline kind invitations to Dhaka, with such reasons as “we’ll still be asleep then”, “that’s just when 80m or 160m are open”, or “we must on air then”. The OMs understood that, the non-radio hams maybe shook their heads, but we didn’t see that, hi.

We purchased gasoline were from the local market and had it delivered by taxi. Hannes maintained the generator by doing oil-changes after the generator had run for some 40 hours.

Our cook always let us know when the day’s two small meals were ready with his call in Bengali language which sounds “makaan, makaan”. He and his two assistants always kept up a supply of tea and coffee. The food was almost exclusively vegetarian, just what was available from the garden. Every day we had carrots, kohlrabi and lettuce fresh from the garden. Fried eggs and potatoes were available if requested, everything included in the rental. These guys were unable to comprehend why we couldn’t always come to eat at the times concerned. We arrived at a compromise (by negotiation, hi) whereby in such cases food was brought directly to the transceiver.

**The country and its people**

Bangladesh means “the land of the Bengalis”. Formerly East Pakistan, this state on the Indian subcontinent came into being twenty-six years ago. There is much to astonish the western traveler. The area of the country is comparable to that of Switzerland, but the population is 120 million. The average life expectancy is officially quoted at 47 years. Religion plays an important part in everyday life. 85% of the population are Moslems, 14% are Hindus. Buddhists, Christians and others make up only 1%. The whole country is only slightly above sea level so floods and cyclones ravage the country several times per year. And yet the people have the
amazing strength to be almost self-sufficient with food. There is likewise now an almost 100% supply of good drinking water. The bustling city of Dhaka alone has between 6 and 7 million inhabitants. The streets of the capital are busy and full of traffic. Life out in the country is still much as it always was; there are green fields with rice, sugar cane and wheat. Fish and rice make up the staple diet. An interesting experience is buying food on the local markets. (Everything looks appetizing with the exception of raw meat). We had no problem there in immediately purchasing the three woolen blankets which we needed and all the plastic fuel tanks for our generator. The most exciting experience for us (with the exception of the pile-ups, naturally!) was driving a car outside Dhaka. The roads are full of trishaws, autorickshaws and devil-may-care bus drivers. Everyone claims his share of the road and they drive at quite a pace. There are plenty of near misses and we never knew how one of our trips was going to end.

*Invitations, visits and media*

On February 5, we accepted the invitation extended to us on the first day to join the regular meeting of OMs in Dhaka on the first Wednesday of each month. These meeting takes place in the home of one of the OMs. The evening was most informative; the twelve present OMs introduced themselves. They mainly work in SSB; DXing in the form known to us is not common. When we asked incidentally for a DXCC award, nobody had one on the wall in the shack. It was not until 1992 that amateur radio was permitted. There are currently twenty licensed radio hams in Bangladesh, most having a single-digit suffix in the call. Efforts are underway to secure more widespread recognition for amateur radio in the country. There is cooperation with the Boy Scouts, e.g. special stations with special calls. There is always representation at the Searnet conventions.

We presented our gifts and had to do a lot of explaining. Visits to us in our QTH were agreed and eyeball QSL cards exchanged. It was an enjoyable evening. We went home by taxi that night and thought, ... that we could right now start to do something on 80m...

After ten days of our operation, a film team from the Bangladesh state TV service visited us in Rajendrapur and filmed a few scenes of our DXpedition (setting up antennas, radio operation and interviews). The next day a visitor brought a newspaper featuring an article about us.

*Departur 2*

For the subsequent DXpedition with DL7UFN and DK7YY from Papua-New Guinea (the call was P29VXX), Dietmar and Jörg departed with the low band equipment on February 14, 1997. During a good-bye dinner in Dhaka that evening, the 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. state TV news featured country wide a two-minute spot about our activities and "amateur radio in Bangladesh for the benefit of society". As of February 15, Hannes continued to keep S21XX on the air until February 18 as planned. As of that time with a dipole and R7 it was only possible to work 40m to 10m. The demand for S21XX declined noticeably; the pile-ups were soon worked off, QSY-ing with some stations on demand and some more SSB-QSOs were now possible. The last S21XX - QSO then took place on February 18, 1997 at 05:06 UTC/20m with 9V10K, before switch off the generator last time. O.K. - Hannes thought, this suffix can stand fine for the feeling at this moment. Then it was time to dismantle all equipment, say goodbye to friends and to prepare for the night-flight back via Dubai/Emirates to Frankfurt.

*Results, statistics and conclusion*

In operation a total of 12,839 QSOs (CW, SSB and RTTY) were logged, more than 150 DXCC countries and all continents were reached. We all agreed that the entire enterprise had gone well for us. We had had much luck, our friends from B.A.R.L. helped us considerably and showed us on site that there is true support for our activity. That is not the case in all DX countries. We did not get to know the country and its people as much as we would have desired, because we did not have one day without radio operation. But wherever we met Bangladeshis people, we experienced much hospitality and readiness to assist. We will always have happy memories of Rajendrapur and Dhaka.

QSLs were printed end of May, answering the direct QSLs started in June 1997. All QSLs coming in via the bureau will be 100% confirmed via the DL-bureau.

We think, 52 was a good spot.

We are grateful to all of those who helped us. Thanks to the NCDXF for support!
Don Doughty, W6EEEN

by Marguerite Troster, KC6NFE

Doing it big and doing it right is how you’d have to describe Don Doughty. Not a halfway guy at any point. He’s a native San Franciscan who was transposed to Oakland when he was but the tender age of nine. Fortune was smiling however, for it was here that Don could not only see the KGO BC transmitting towers from his window, but a friend gave him a crystal set. Putting the two together in his head, Don planned an ambitious career in hamming.

Just before WW2 began, Don was sent to a boys’ high school in Santa Cruz, CA. All able-bodied men had been conscripted in the Armed Forces or into war related jobs, so the students were required to learn not only from books and the classroom, but from participating in practical matters around the school as well. This hands-on learning was not lost on Don and paid dividends in improvising and managing later in life. He entered University of California at Berkeley as an Electrical Engineering major because of his long and growing interest in radio. However, a funny thing happened on the way to the rig. An uncle of Don’s was into midget car racing. One day the midget was wrecked, and Don was there to help put it back together. This sparked an exciting interest in racing midgets, and pretty soon Don’s expertise in the many facets of this, sparked his being asked if he could help develop a photo cell timer for the track. Of course he could, so he dropped out of college halfway through sophomore year and did it. A year and a half later, when he re-entered Cal, he switched to Mechanical Engineering. At the same time, he was hired by the University to be a Research Assistant to work on a heat metal transfer project. This led to Don’s constructing a wind tunnel for the University, which was capable of winds to 450 mph. Meanwhile, not occupied quite enough, Don published technical papers in the Journal of Aeronautical Science and Instrumentation magazines. Berkeley kept him interested, but Don was still fascinated with electronics. He bootlegged on 10 meters using a surplus, souped-up BC-1335 tank radio. One day somebody opined, “Really Don, you should get a license”. So, in September, 1951, Don went legit, got his Novice ticket, WN6EEEN and upgraded a few months later. His first station was SX28A, and a Globe Scout (bellooo Leo). Don used this to better his code speed and a few months later, upgraded again. Now, of course, Don checks in as Extra Class. Don continued at UC Berkeley and in 1954 received a Ph.D. in Engineering Science. He stayed on teaching and doing research, but after a year, decided it was time to make some money. So he made an obvious choice with his background and training, and went into installing back yard swimming pools. He put them in so well that in ’59, with friends, he formed the Lafayette Savings and Loan Association, starting out as, what else, Chairman of the Board.

Don was too busy at this point to have much time for radio. He had tried to operate from a condominium but after the neighbors cut down his antenna a few times, he got the message. Back to the money game. After a while, he was only spending about 20% of his time at the S & L, so he branched out and began building subdivisions of houses. Still not busy enough, he took up
flying, got his pilot’s license, and was appointed to the airport commission of the local airport. In ‘82, he merged his S & L into San Francisco S & L, and took up semi-retirement. Right. In that mode he moved to a residential area called Discovery Bay. It had boats. Don bought a boat, a big one. Then he bought a dozen big boats from Taiwan, up to 50 footers, and sold them. Meanwhile he got to know every harbor in San Francisco Bay and the Delta. In addition, he joined five yacht clubs and he had fun.

Springs area. Don carefully investigated the whole Palm Springs dessert area, finally choosing about five select sandy acres in the county, which later became Bermuda Dunes. Don has developed this spread in his usual nothing-is-impossible-mode, so that it now grows four 100-foot towers capped by Big Beams, plus a two position—soon to be four, Contest Station. If you want to see his shack, look up March 1995 CQ magazine. There’s Don, on the cover, smiling—who wouldn’t in that shack? Need it be added that all the engineering design and construction work is done by Don. Also the tower climbing. One can’t omit that Don and Phyllis are outstanding hosts and great company at any gathering. They are also persons of erudite, cultivated tastes, especially so of musical arts. Don grew up in an atmosphere of opera and classical music. His mother was a musician and produced theatrical and musical events in San Francisco. Opera remains a favorite musical genre for both of them. In the Palm Springs area, Don runs a local two-meter DX spotting network from a mountaintop. During his several terms as President of the local QCWA group, he developed and generously hosted a very special kind of meeting every February. Word spread and they became a must-be-there, kind of mini-convention, attracting members from coast to coast. He’ll be Chairman of the National QCWA Convention to be held in Palm Springs in 1999. Will that be a great time? You’d better believe it—Don’s in charge.

Don, we thank you for your continued support of NCDXF. A Scholarship Fund is a commendable and worthy addition to our work, and we’re justly proud to have it.
Sixteen Beacons on the Air!

by Jack Troster, W6ISQ and Bob Fabry, N6EK

The sixteenth NCDXF/ARU beacon came on the air on August 31, 1997. We are making progress on licensing for the remaining two beacons which are expected to be in Russia and China. It looks like the Russian beacon may go into Novosibirsk and the Chinese beacon may go into Hong Kong, at least initially.

The rising sunspot numbers and the article on page 47 of the September 1997 issue of QST have generated a lot of interest in the beacons right now. Take a listen and check out the latest beacon information on our web site, www.ncdxf.org.

Interference to the beacons on 14.100 continues to be a problem in some areas of the world. Please ask your digital friends to be sure that their sidebands do not fall into the beacon allocation of 14.099.5 to 14.100.5.

The table below gives the minute and second within each hour for the start of the first transmission of each of the five-band beacons on each frequency. Each transmission is repeated every three minutes. A transmission consists of the callsign of the beacon sent at 22 words per minute followed by four one-second dashes. The callsign and the first dash are sent at 100 watts. The remaining dashes are sent at 10 watts, 1 watt and 0.1 watts.

### Beacon Frequency and Time Schedule

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President's Message

from Len Geraldi, K6ANP

As the newly elected president of the Foundation, I assume the responsibilities with mixed emotions. First of all I follow in the footsteps of Eric, W6DU. Eric has served the foundation with dedication and drive that will be difficult to match. His many years of service have benefited not only the Foundation, but also the entire DX community. There is an article about Eric starting on page 13 of this issue.

My other feeling is one of being honored to be able to serve in the organization that is supportive of the very activity we enthusiastically enjoy, DX! The transition has not resulted in inactivity by the officers and board members. Following are several important actions taken by the board.

1. Filled the vacant board of directors' positions with the election of two very talented and capable people, Glenn Vinson, W6OTC and Al Burnham, K6RIM.

2. Elected advisor, Chuck Ternes, N6OJ who is serving as the foundation's liaison for individuals or estates that wish to donate equipment to this organization.

3. Agreed to the provisions of W6EEN, Don Doughty's generous donation that the Foundation establish a perpetual scholarship fund.

Remember our active participation in the DX world is only possible with your continued financial support. If you have ideas or suggestions please contact me via our WEB site, www.ncdxf.org or directly email me at k6anp@earthlink.com. Of course there is always snail mail.

73 and happy DXing,
Len, K6ANP
HEARD ISLAND FEVER
by Glenn Johnson, W0GJ

Spending two and a half weeks with several fellow hams in cramped quarters on Heard Island toughened me up psychologically. There are numerous kinds of "Cabin Fever" brought on by the boredom of enforced confinement over long periods. Living here in the north woods of Minnesota, the long winters are known for their ability to cause "Cabin Fever." Because I have had a tendency to become irritable during our long winters, I thought the best way to get away from Cabin Fever would be to go somewhere where it was summer while it was still winter. Naturally, I jumped at the chance to go to Heard Island on the VK0IR DXpedition, as it would be summer in the southern hemisphere while it would still be winter here in the northern hemisphere.

However, as a physician, I have found by far the most deadly fever is Heard Island Fever. It is worse than any "Cabin Fever" found in Minnesota.

I had the opportunity of studying this closely just a few weeks ago during the VK0IR operation. Some Ph.D. type expedition organizer CAD designed two specially cramped living quarters for twenty men to "live" in during the DXpedition. Each shelter was a "tent" 12 x 24 feet. In each tent the computer told us we could get ten cots and ten containers for each occupant and that there would be plenty of personal space for everyone.

I was fortunate to bunk in the very corner of one said shelter. From this vantage point, I could observe those around (or, near) me. We had the opportunity to spend hours in our shelters waiting for the storms to blow over. It was horrible seeing those poor fellows around me go to pieces as Heard Island Fever overtook them. Fortunately, I was spared, because of my immunity built up here in Minnesota.

For a while, during the first few hours of the first storm, we were entertained by the prospect that we might momentarily be using the tent as a hang glider. After the wind died down to a modest gale, we were able to devote our whole attention to the rippling of the tent enveloping us. Fascinating as this was, its power to distract was limited to a few hours.

My good friend, Ralph, was from southern Minnesota, and I thought for sure that he would be immune from the fever as I was. Ralph is a calm, quiet chap normally, and it was terrible to see him go pieces the way he did, after the fever overtook him. Slowly but surely, he began to exhibit certain signs of neurotic behavior. I was in a good position to observe him, as his bunk abutted my bunk.

"I hate to ask this, old chap," I said, kindly enough, "but would you mind not chewing that gum quite so loud?"

Ralph replied with uncharacteristic snappiness. "For the fourteenth time, I'm NOT chewing gum!"

Mild hallucination is one of the early symptoms of the fever. Not only did Ralph fail to realize that he was chomping and popping his gum in a hideous manner, but he clearly was of the impression that I had mentioned the matter to him numerous times previously. Since hallucinations do not yield readily to logical argument, I thought that confronting him with the empirical evidence might work. Unfortunately, Ralph was now in the grip of paranoia and responded to my effort by shouting out that I had "gone mad." I suppose he was referring to the manner in which I had grabbed him by the nose and chin and forced his mouth open, a maneuver that proved ineffective, since he had somehow managed to hide the gum from my vision and probing thumb, possibly by lodging it behind his tonsils. Such deception, I might add, is not at all unusual among victims of the fever.

Ralph remained quiet for some time, although I could tell from the look in his eyes that the paranoia was tightening its hold on him, and I began to wonder if my Life might not be in danger. I warned him not to try anything.

"Why don't you get some sleep," Ralph replied. "Just try to get some sleep!"

"Ha!" I said, not without a trace of sarcasm. "Do you really think I'm going to fall for that old one?"

I twisted around in my sleeping bag and propped up on
an elbow so I could watch Ralph more closely. It was easy to see that the fever was taking its toll on him. He was pale and trembling, and stared back at me with wide, unblinking eyes. He looked pitiful, even though posing no less a threat to my life.

As I regarded Ralph, Hans, one of the Swiss, who shared the end of the tent with me, started making this irritating noise with his nose. It sounded like he was trying to send CW by sniffing. Poor guy, I think he had just finished a six-hour shift in the CW tent.

"Why are you making that noise with your nose?" I asked.

"I'm just breathing," he snarled back.

"Well, stop it!" I said. I knew right then that the fever was contagious. He had the same wide, unblinking eyes, so characteristic of Heard Island Fever.

The wind picked up again, shaking the tent. I know that David had used the Hilti drill to drill our tent anchors into rock but I had discovered that a major earth fault lay directly beneath my end of the tent. I could hear the anchoring bolts pulling out as the fault lines widened. I just knew that we were going hang-gliding with the next gust of wind. Fortunately, the wind died down to an insignificant gale. That is when I heard it. plip... plip... plip.

Then, as if our situation were not perilous enough already, I noticed that Harry, in the bunk to my right, had dandruff. Under normal circumstances, I can take dandruff or leave it alone, but not in this tent. It wasn't the unsightly appearance of the dandruff that bothered me, but the little "plip... plip... plip" sounds it made falling in his sleeping bag. It didn't take long for me to deduce that Harry had contrived this irritation for the sole purpose of annoying me, a sort of Chinese dandruff torture, although I hadn't realized until then that Harry was Chinese instead of Russian. I informed him that I was on to his little game. I told Harry to get his dandruff under control or suffer the consequences. Not surprisingly, he denied any knowledge of his dandruff or its activities. I asked Ralph and Hans about Harry's dandruff, but they only stared at me. Finally, I retaliated by doing a maniacal laugh every time I heard a "plip." Harry countered by doing his impression of a man paralyzed by fear. It wasn't that good as impressions go, but I withheld criticism of the poor devil's performance; since it seemed to take his mind off the fever. I knew he had it now, too, as he had those wide, unblinking eyes, so characteristic of Heard Island Fever.

At the first break in the storm, Ralph, Hans, and Harry shot out of the tent, leaving me alone. In spite of the serious affliction of Heard Island Fever, they were on their way to their radio shifts. What dedication! I'm sure they made contacts with some poor souls in the Northern Hemisphere, sitting by their radio, trying to ignore the cabin fever closing in around them in the depths of their winter while we enjoyed our summer. such as it was on Heard Island

I sure am glad that affictions like cabin fever and seasickness never bother me. It was refreshing to "miss" cabin fever this winter, even though I did get a little queasy on the ship coming back home.

---

**Heavy Hitters**

by Dick Dievendorf, K6KR

We sincerely thank all those who contribute to the operation of the Northern California DX Foundation. We especially thank those stalwart individuals who step up to the plate and make big contributions. Thanks to you all.

$10,000 or more

W6EEH

$1000 or more

Southern California DX Club

$500 or more

Alamo DX Amigos (S628 of this was a memorial contribution in memory of K5DB), N6HVZ, W6JZH, and WB6ZUC.

$200 or more

W6CP, K6MD, K6RIM, LA7XB, N8CEO, W6OSP, and WB6UOM.

$100 or more

ERIC EDBERG, W6DU, NCDXF PAST PRESIDENT

By Jack Troster, W61SQ

NCDXF Past President, Eric Edberg, W6DU, presided during the years we participated in some of the great DXpeditions, Peter I and Heard Island, being two of the most notable. Consummately dedicated to the job, he adroitly handled mountains of correspondence and kept the board firmly on track. P.S., you'd be aware of his thoroughness if you have ever contacted Eric requesting information.

Eric was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and when he was 6, his family moved to Brooklyn—New York, that is. Then, about high school age, the family moved to New Jersey, first to Arlington, then to Nutley. At Nutley High Eric met others who were interested in radio via Boy Scouts. He also read Boys' Life and one day noticed an ad offering information about how to become a radio amateur. Just send 10 cents to ARRL. Eric did, got the book, and became president of NCDXF as noted above. Well, there were a few intermediate steps in between those events. He practiced code via a wire connecting to his buddy next door. His Dad had purchased parts to build a receiver, but never go around to it, so Eric built it. On April 22, 1933, Eric took the required trip to the FCC in NYC, passed the written exam, and got the call W2FQW. Moving onward, he built a 45 TNT oscillator, a super regen receiver and strung a 133' Hertz out the window. He called CQ on 80 meters. No answer. To make a long story short, he called CQ and every station he heard for three days before he made his first contact with W2FL, two towns away. You can see he started out as this dedicated type who persevered 'til he accomplished it! So, he was on his way and has been pounding brass ever since. Eric moved to New York City to attend City College, CCNY, which had an outstanding engineering department. He lived on Riverside Drive, high above the Hudson River, and began DXing with a pair of 808s and a NC-81X. His major was electrical engineering and he at the same time, signed up in the Naval Reserve.

In November '40, he was called to active duty by the Navy, and had to drop out of college. After Basic Training, he was sent to the West Coast and assigned to the Radar section aboard the Carrier Yorktown, arriving just in time to ride the carrier back to Norfolk, VA. WW2 was soon to begin. After further training, he served on a Seaplane Tender installing radars in destroyers. During that tour of duty, as his ship was returning in Norfolk Harbor, Eric, naturally, as any ham would, began to read the blinker lights on various ships in the harbor. One of those messages he was reading was to the Carrier Hornet!

The Hornet cruised through the Canal to the West Coast, stopping at San Francisco. There Eric told his CO that a certain tube in the radar was burning out very quickly and he would need a huge supply of them to keep the radar operating. Needing to keep on schedule, the Hornet embarked without the tubes. But as they steamed toward the Farallon Islands, 25 miles west of the Golden Gate, they were intercepted by a blimp from shore delivering those tubes. Besides Eric's replacement tubes, the Hornet also had aboard Jimmy Doolittle and his B-25 bombers to be ferried to the Western Pacific to launch the Tokyo Raid.

Back to Pearl Harbor, then north to take station for what developed as the Battle of Midway. Hornet survived, but Yorktown went down. Two days after the battle, Eric plugged in the last tube remaining for that pesky radar. Then off they went to the South Pacific to support action in the area of Guadalcanal. However, on October 26, 1942, Hornet was sunk at the Battle of Santa Cruz Island by planes and torpedo bombers. Eric jumped into the water and swam, finally being rescued by a destroyer which took him to Noumea where he spent the next several months, before being transferred to Espiritu Santos.
other way, by two months. Eric was next sent to a Mine Sweeper Squadron deployed to sweep mines off the coast of Okinawa. They were still there when WW2 ended, and after the usual Nafus, he finally got back to San Francisco. Eric was a Chief, and as everybody knows, the Chiefs run the Navy and seem always to be in position to take advantage of the best deals. For Eric, that great deal turned out to be Shore Patrolling the WAVE barracks in what is now the Marines Memorial in San Francisco. What do ya know? He got a WAVE named Mary, first night on duty, and after their respective discharges, they were married in California. They returned east where Eric began work in the Klystron Tube Applications Group of the Sperry Corp on Long Island NY.

Eric and Mary always had in mind to return to California some day, and in 1950, when a friend offered Eric a job with the Tube Division of Varian in Palo Alto, CA, they accepted with alacrity, moved, bought a house, and settled in to stay. Eric became W6JWD. In the early years, he was not able to put in much time at the key, although he did occasionally get on to work a little DX. He joined the Northern California DX Club in ’62 and served in several offices, including President, and has received DXCC Honor Roll #1 status. He joined NCDXF, first as an Advisor, later as a member of the Board, then Secretary and finally as President for six years. Although turning over the gavel, he remains on the BOD.

Eric and Mary have a daughter, Karin, a grade school art teacher now living in Yuma, AZ with husband, an ex-Marine helicopter pilot, and two sons, Jason and Erik. Eric retired in 1982 and sadly, Mary passed on in 1988. Nowadays, Eric’s on the air all the time, mostly on 20 CW, prowling the FOC frequencies. But a great part of the time he is calling CQ. He says he’s basically a DXer, but what he really enjoys is a nice long rag chew with anybody and everybody, near or far. Eric runs an Icom 761 - TL922A - K7 34 A, and a WARC 3 band dipole plus wires for 40 and 80. He’s also on the DX spotting net.

With his Norse heritage and his naval experiences, Eric quite naturally, has become an authority on naval history. He says that during the war, all he heard was scuttlebutt about what was going on, so he resolved to find out what really happened. Which he did — about WW2, and on back to antiquity. If you have questions about how many ears rowing a trireme, ask Eric. And look for him on the air almost any time. We of NCDXF are much indebted to Eric for his exceptional tour of duty as President, his devotion and effectiveness in promoting the goals and usefulness of the Foundation, and just for “being there”.

New Shows

By Ron Steiner, K6KEO

There are two excellent additions to the video list. The first is a professionally produced video of the 1996 World Radiosport Team Championship that was held in the San Francisco Bay Area. This video is suitable for showing to ham and non-ham audiences alike as it really gives the flavor and excitement of the event without being filled with jargon.

The 1997 VK0IR Heard Island video, by Peter Casier ON6TT is a must-see video. This video is very well done. It shows the thrills, trials and tribulations of putting on a major DXpedition in one of the most inhospitable locations on earth.
SLIDE SHOWS AND VIDEOS

Clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The amount can be learned from the postage on the package when it comes to you, and is usually about $3.00. 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 material promptly, so it will be available for others. Request should be mailed to: Ron Stinner, K6KFO, 3154 Dominic Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546

We have the following slide shows available:

2. The Arctic in Colour. (17 slides).
3. The Archimedes. (216 slides).
5. 1985, Clevelander Expedition. (191 slides).
8. Midway, by AN8K and K0IPF. 150 (slides).
10. V56L, Pilcom, Mar Apr 1979, by ZL1AMO and ZL4AI. (51 slides).
12. RUGFT, Trunca, by G3HHD and G3EUB. (93 slides).
13. TVA, Bome, by QM3HT, Q81I. (61 slides).
15. AM, Moruya, by RUS1E and F1HHK of 1983. (45 slides).
17. Burstel Reef, July 1985, PAS6GAMAGIOGB. (100 slides).
20. 1985, Clipperd by W8ODN, WASGT, ADL, NJY4O, WORGC. (170 slides).
22. NP3E, 1986, COGAG DC CW Contest. (50 slides).
23. NGX4, Mrakker Reed, N8UOX, G8SOX, G8NPO, G8DBGJ, GAIVJ. (45 slides).
27. 1989, CrossMan, Rey by the above operators. (88 slides, 25 min).
29. Banaba Is., T3USJ, T3DDJ and T72G, by K0NLWJNCS. (80 slides, 60 min).
30. 4X-4U, by KH1D, 11X4I, 8XN1Q, DJ1G1X, OH2JG, JI4RMD, K0IRK and KI6PI. (40 min).
31. Publishing Desk the DX Bulletin, by Chad Harris (24 min).
32. Rotuma, 15 slides, by W6QZS. (73 min).
35. ZSF5, Marion Is., by Peter Yzarko, ZS6PT. (80 slides).
36. VE1VLA, Flamingo, by G6PIAM, Melamenda. (20 slides).
37. VL Dingled to Wallis Is., June 1989, by N6TM, M7HAT, N4DOK, KARMB. (20 min).
38. AS15U, Beimaliya, by VK1N, Jim Smith. (60 min).
42. VK9K0, VK2NLK, Willis Is., Oct 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (30 min).
43. SO Bangladesh, 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (26 min).
44. Christmas Is., 1992, VK9K0, VK9AMQ, by VK9NS. (20 min).
45. Janiva, KH2, 1993, by WA8AEM. (45 min).
47. Palmona, 1993, by G6LQX, I6BAH, I6BAH, 8D1DAF, W7SK, O5KX, ODI0 (40 min).
49. Dominican, 1993, by N6K and K8KXVX

Do you have the following VHS programs:

1. XRUT9I (plus 8V6L and BVOJX), (about 35 min).
3. VK8K0, 1987, by ZL1AMO, (plus CQ in 1987), (25 min).
5. JF7VYL, Expedition to Oklone Tokelau Islands. (25 min).
6. Australian hookey, by Big Screw Island. (10 min).
7. Ham Radio In The South Cook Is., by ZK1CA and ZK1CT. (70 min).
8. VE8OM by ZL1AMO and ZL1AQG, copy of above slides by Jim Hunt, W3C College and W4VWA
11. North Texas Contest Club, towers and contests, by K8JKL. (45 min).
12. It Started With A Broken Fence - JEF7EFJ'S Tall Tail Tower. (35 min).
13. X6U2, Expedition to Wallis and Futuna. (30 min).
14. FOX02MFD, French St. Martin, DXing Senior Style - Another wolverine to DXing.
15. VK1L, Lizard Island 1985, DSDP, VK8VM, plus 1983 VK8MH from TV. (about 40 min).
16. The 8G6A carded station story. (30 min).
17. HK0TGU Dingled of 1963, Malagasy. (25 min with audio translation by K8KXVX).
18. The New World of Amateur Radio. (30 min).

Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter
1997 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 $25 or its equivalent in foreign currency or IRCs. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the Foundation for financial reasons. If $25 is not within your budget, then please give whatever amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of $25! The NCDXF is an organization as 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: ________________________ Callsign: ________________________

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Total enclosed or charged (contribution plus supplies)

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Please print or type clearly

Are your name, address and callsign 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 contribution to:
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Stanford, CA 94309-2368 USA

Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ My Check is enclosed

Expiration Date: ________________________ Card Number: ____________

Please also send me the following Foundation supplies:

NCDXF Pin $6.00 ea. ______

Roll of NCDXF Labels $6.00 ea. ______

NCDXF Rubber Stamp $6.00 ea. ______

(for charges only)

Signature: ________________________

Please use this form or a copy when sending a contribution or ordering supplies

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