



# Newsletter

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Spring 2003

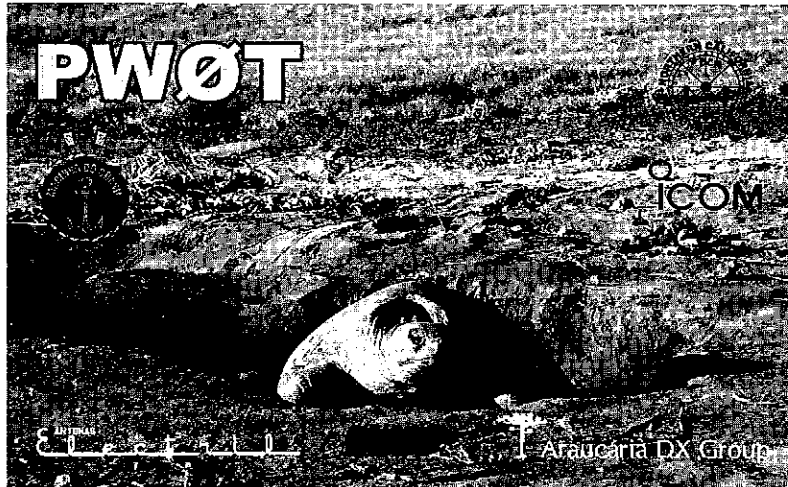
Steve Thomas, N6ST, Editor

Northern California DX Foundation

## PWØT – TRINDADE 2002

By Bill Smith, W9VA, PYØZFO

Trindade is located in the south Atlantic Ocean, about 700 miles (1100 km) north east of Rio de Janeiro at 20°30" South, 29°49" West. It was discovered by the Portuguese navigator Joao de Nova in 1501. After a few short periods of occupation by the Portuguese and British, in 1882 it became part of Brazil, and since 1957 Trindade has been administrated and controlled by the Brazilian Navy. Currently it is the home for the Trindade Oceanographic Station, manned on a rotating basis by about 35 Brazilian navy personnel. The archipelago, which consists of Trindade and nearby Martin Vaz islands, is of volcanic origin, rising from the ocean floor about 3 million years ago, with the highest point being about 2,000 feet (620 m). It enjoys a tropical climate, monthly temperatures ranging from an average high of 86F (30C) in February to an average low



of 63F (17C) in August. Annual mean temperature is 77F (25C). It is the home of the caranguejo land crab and is the main nesting area for the green sea turtle. Because of this, ecological preservation is a high priority. Trindade also includes a meteorological station and has a marine band radio station for communications with the mainland.

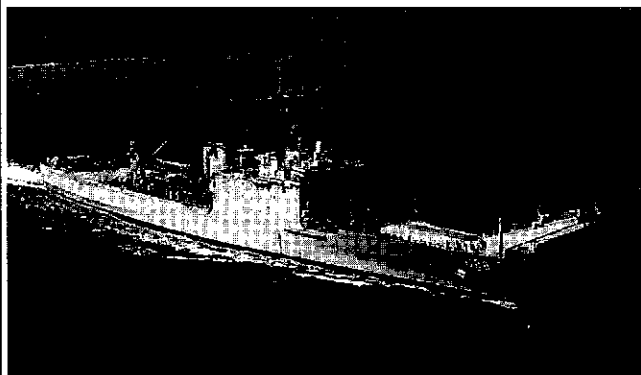
Trindade ranks #26 overall in "The DX Magazine" 2001 "Most Wanted" survey. This overall ranking masks that Trindade is particularly rare for certain modes and areas, being #13 Most Wanted World Wide on RTTY, and being in the top 10 Most Wanted on RTTY in Asia. Looking at Trindade on the map you might wonder what the problem is. Why not just rent a boat and go there? Of course it is not quite that simple, which helps to explain the rarity. As mentioned above, Trindade is administered by the Brazilian Navy. Navy permission to visit the island is required but not particularly difficult to obtain. Almost every year a Brazilian ham or small group obtains this permission. The real problem is in landing. The island is protected by coral reefs, there is no dock and no safe landing area. In the past, attempts to land have involved a sort of raft on pulleys. After approaching the island by zodiac, people and radios are placed in the raft and hauled to shore. The raft can and has overturned in the surf, resulting in injured people and lost radios. For many years now the only accepted way to get from boat to island is by helicopter, and this is how the Navy gets people and things back and forth. Usually the Navy ship makes a run to Trindade every two to four months, but it stays only long enough to unload supplies needed on the island, pick up empty containers, and other routine maintenance. This requires only a day or two, and amateur

radio passengers are sometimes allowed – space permitting - which explains the not infrequent but very short DXpeditions to Trindade.

What if we could persuade the Navy, on one of its routine trips, to stay longer, say ten days or two weeks? Well, that is exactly what happened, allowing the PWØT team to arrive on the island on February 18, 2002 and depart on March 4. It may have helped that there were two other groups that wanted to visit Trindade – one from the TAMAR Project, a group focused on studying and protecting the sea turtles, not only on Trindade but all along the Brazilian coast, and a second group from the Gazeta organization in Vitoria, which sent a team of journalists and a video photographer to put together an article on the Navy and Trindade. Gazeta includes a newspaper, radio and television stations, and other interests.

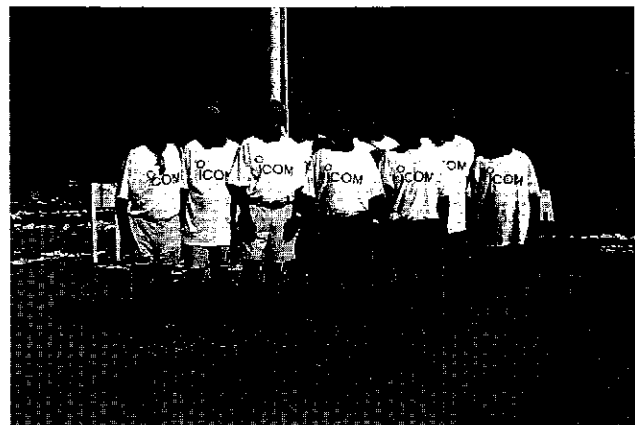
Jumping back a bit to February 2001, four Brazilian hams set off for St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks, a journey that would be marked by horrible weather, extremely difficult landing conditions, and some equipment problems. Nevertheless they persevered, and the PWØS team delivered over 7,000 QSOs under extremely difficult conditions. By the time they were back to the mainland they were already thinking about the next adventure – Trindade. These four, Jim PY7XC, Elisio PT7BZ, Ciro PY7ZY, and Andre PYØFF, would be the nucleus for the Trindade team. Elisio and Andre came up to the 2001 Dayton Hamvention to present the PWØS story at the DX Forum. Later that day, Elisio and Andre, along with Steve KU9C - the PWØS QSL Manager, Dennis K7BV, Oms PY5EG - the head of Brazil's Araucaria DX Group, and myself, met to create a plan for a major operation from Trindade. The key element would be to obtain the cooperation of the Brazilian Navy, and Oms was in a position to make that happen.

We left Dayton with the plan that Oms would handle obtaining the necessary approvals and cooperation from the Navy. After months of delicate negotiations by



Oms and one of his associates, Cleofas Uchoa – a former high ranking navy officer, a written response was received from the Navy in November – good news and bad news. The good news was – Yes! We will authorize the operation and arrange transportation for a ten day stay on the island – The bad news was the cost of doing so would be in the area of \$65,000 – much more than we could ever consider paying. Although disappointed, we continued to negotiate with the Navy and hope that something good would happen. It did! In January the Navy informed us that circumstances had changed and our payment could be significantly reduced – what probably happened is that the two groups mentioned above signed on so that the Navy's cost could be spread over a greater number of passengers. In any event the reimbursement to the Navy was now down to a manageable number. The Navy gave us a departure date from Rio de Janeiro of February 15 – leaving very little time to recruit operators and acquire the necessary equipment. The navy ship would be the "Mattoso Maia," originally a U. S. Navy LST built in 1970 and used in the 1991 Persian Gulf conflict, then acquired by Brazil in 1994. This is a big ship, with a length of 550 feet (171m) and displacement of 8,450 tons.

In addition to the four PWØS operators – Jim, Elisio, Ciro, and Andre – Fred PY7ZZ, and Peter PY5CC immediately joined the operating team, joined shortly thereafter by Herminio PY5HSD, Bill W9VA, Dick N6FF, and Rolf PY1RO, a three time Trindade veteran. Dennis K7BV, who had been disappointed about having to miss the PWØS adventure, was again disappointed as the sale of his business prevented also his going to Trindade. Although tied down in the United States, Dennis served as PWØT webmaster, and performed the extremely valuable service of keeping the DX community advised of our progress – before, during, and after the DXpedition.



There was, of course, a frenzy of activity in the less than four weeks between the decision to go and the departure from Rio. Team leader Andre PYØFF was particularly busy putting together the list of needed material and keeping track of who was bringing what. We were delighted when ICOM agreed to loan three IC756 Pro II transceivers, and other rigs, amplifiers and antennas were collected from many sources within Brazil. Heil Sound donated headsets, the Brazilian antenna manufacturer Electil donated antennas, and many others contributed in various ways to get everything in place for a February 15 departure. Although not able to go himself, the one most responsible for making PWØT happen, Atilano Oms PY5EG, traveled from his home in Curitiba to Rio to join the operators for a wonderful dinner party the night before our departure. After lunch on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> we went to the Brazilian Navy Base



near Rio and boarded the Mattoso Maia for the journey to the island.

The two and one-half days on the ship actually passed

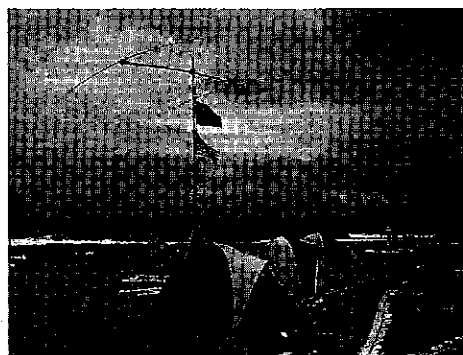
quickly. The Navy crew was very accommodating, and we had a chance to meet the other two civilian groups that would be on the island. On Sunday we received permission for limited maritime mobile operation, and quite a few contacts were made with a very modest whip antenna, confirming that propagation from that area would generally be excellent.

Monday morning we were excited about landing, as Trindade slowly grew on the horizon. The helicopters were ready to go and we and our equipment were among the first to land. The Navy graciously allowed us to set up in the building used as the Meteorology Station. The rigs were quickly unpacked, and the antenna work began. The first tribander went together smoothly, and the first contact was made on 20 SSB at 2049Z. At the same time Peter, PY5CC, was setting up the 6 meter station, featuring the huge seven element yagi, and shortly thereafter was happily working Europeans on the "Magic Band." The remaining antennas went up on Tuesday, and three stations were then on the air. In addition to the three Electil tribanders, we had an Electril WARC band yagi and a two element Cushcraft yagi for 40 meters. The QSO count was accelerating.

By Wednesday a separate tent had been established for the 80/160 meter operation, and those bands were being activated every evening by low band gurus Rolf PY1RO and Dick N6FF. RTTY was also fully operational at that point, and there would also be PSK31, SSTV and Satellite before the end of the operation. The final QSO count was over 65,100, including 2,175 RTTY, 169 PSK31, 108 SSTV, and 3 Satellite. Particularly remarkable was Peter's final 6 meter result of 1,918 contacts in 88 countries over the 13 day period.

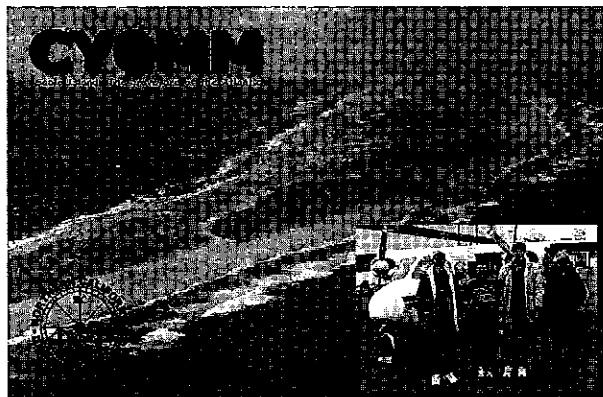
The original plan was to leave the island on Friday, March 1; however a last minute extension was obtained so that the group could operate the ARRL SSB DX contest that weekend. As much of the original setup had been taken down in anticipation of a Friday departure, a SSB station was hurriedly set up for the contest, and a second station was set up to operate primarily CW during the contest period. Before leaving, the Araucaria DX Group dedicated a transceiver and tribander that was being left on the island, as well as some new equipment for the naval base kitchen. Monday morning the area was cleared for an early departure, and soon all the equipment and operators were back on the Mattoso Maia for the return to Rio. The arrival in Rio on Thursday was followed by a well-earned celebration dinner party. Oms again joined the group as well as several of the officers from the Mattoso Maia.

Of course we want to thank our sponsors and supporters, particularly the Northern California DX Foundation which provided very significant support, ICOM America which made three IC765 PRO II's available for the DXpedition, and other clubs and individuals throughout the world. Thanks also to NCDXF for essential support to the above mentioned 2001 DXpedition to Saint Peter and Paul Rocks (PWØS), which was the predecessor and the inspiration for this 2002 Trindade operation. There are many more who contributed in various ways,



and I urge you to visit the PWØT web-site for a full list of sponsors, as well as many more details about the operation. Special thanks to Steve Wheatley KU9C, who serves the team as QSL manager, and Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV, who did such a professional job as webmaster. The team also wants to recognize the Pilot Stations, lead by Rod WC7N and assisted by Carl N4AA, Duncan ZL3JT, and Toshi JA1ELY. Thanks also to Andy G4VPM and Steve N7TX, for creating and implementing the on-line log feature, available at the [www.qth.com/k7bv/trinidad/](http://www.qth.com/k7bv/trinidad/) website.

A final note – the success of this operation can be measured in many ways, but a particularly satisfying measure is the change in Trindade's ranking in "The DX Magazine" overall Most Wanted listings. Trindade dropped from #26 overall in 2001 to #97 overall in 2002. As a result of significant attention to the digital modes, Trindade dropped from #13 overall on RTTY completely off the list in that category for 2002. Thanks again to NCDXF and all others who made this possible!



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#### CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2002

**\$2000 or more**, - Southern California DX Club;  
**\$1500-\$2000** - K6ANP, W6OTC.

**\$1000-\$1500** - W6OSP, K6RIM, W6EEN, Northern California DX Club, San Diego DX Club, anonymous.

**\$500-\$1000** - K0IR, W6AQ, W6OAT, W6SZN.

**\$250-\$500** - LA7XB, N1CYA, WA2HZR, W3UR, N4JJ, N5KO, K6AW, K6IPV, K6KO, K6TA, KI6WF, NW6P, W6JZH, W6RW, Redwood Empire DX Association.



## JOHNSTON ISLAND REVISITED

by Gary E. Belcher, KH6GMP

I had spent a lot of time in the hamshack on Johnston Island in 1953 and 1954. Yes, I was stationed down there way back in the early fifties for an entire year. The US Air Force had seen fit to allow me to spend my first overseas assignment there on that little rock in the Pacific Ocean, about 800 miles southwest of Honolulu. I had just completed training at Cheyenne AFB in Wyoming as a Communications Center Specialist. I felt fortunate to be sent to Johnston since everyone but me in the class had been sent to Korea. I was not licensed at the time but there was a ham station there and I hung around almost any time I wasn't working just watching and listening. I can remember the transmitter was a BC-610 and the antenna was a 500 foot longwire that was strung between the station and the roof of the barracks and if I remember right, the call at that time was KJ6FAA. I spent my 20th birthday at JI, and this year, December 11th, I spent another birthday, my 69th, at JI.

I've just returned from a little mini-DXpedition to Johnston Atoll. I can assure you that this was the greatest, most memorable thing that's happened to me in my 34 years of ham radio. I had asked for permission to visit the island in the spring (maybe for the WPX Phone Contest) but was told the building where the amateur radio station was located was scheduled for demolition in January. I had wanted to make it for my Golden Anniversary. I had to go a bit before the fifty year anniversary, 49.9 is close though. I was able to fly down on the 10th of December via a military contract flight out of Hickam AFB in Hawaii. It was a short flight, only a couple of hours. As we approached the island, I couldn't believe the change that had occurred since the early fifties. So much dredging has been done that the island seems about ten times what it was back then. I couldn't recognize anything. As soon as I arrived I was met by David Faucher, KH3AC. David has been on the island since 1989 but he is not very active since he works so hard and such long hours. Luckily I arrived during the lunch hour and he had the time to take me on a guided tour of the island and then he dropped me at the shack, (KJ6BZ Club Station), so I could get started. I got my gear set up and on the air by 3pm local time and made contact with my friend Gary, K7OX. Shortly after that the pile-ups began. What an incredible week it was. One pile-up after another. Mostly sideband but quite a few QSOs on RTTY. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest was on during my stay but by then I had lost my good antenna and had to run

the whole contest with a very ineffective low mounted multiband wire antenna. I ran with that antenna literally right up until I had to QRT to catch the plane to come home. All-in-all, 3016 contacts total, of which 701 were in the 10 Meter Contest and 206 were on RTTY. The equipment I carried down with me was the Yaesu FT-100D HF Transceiver, a Vectronics VC300DLP Tuner. I carried a G5RV but was unable to put it up. For RTTY it was the little Dell Laptop (just recently purchased on Ebay for \$150) and interfaces to its sound card, of course the Heil Boom mike/headset and Writelog software for all my logging in the laptop. For about half my phone operation I used the Yaesu FT-1000 that was part of the station equipment down there. The big TH7 triband yagi had been my mainstay antenna up until Friday the 13th, 40 minutes prior to the contest, the coax opened or shorted up at the rotor and it was 'done'.

It was a surprise to find that they were providing me with a car (I never did get around to operating "Mobile KH3"). My car was a golf cart which they assigned to me for the duration of my stay to go between the station and the dining hall or my quarters. My quarters were very comfortable, air conditioned, private bath and shower, 16 channels of commercial television and daily maid service. I lived within an eighth mile from the station but the dining hall was about a mile so the "car" sure came in handy. Speaking of the dining hall, those people that live on Johnston Island really eat well. I would give the place "4 Stars" no problem. Right now there is only a very small detachment of US Air Force personnel there but the majority of the population, which is between 800 and 900, are civilians that work for the contract companies that are preparing the island for its eventual turnover to the US Fish and Wildlife Service during the later part of 2003.

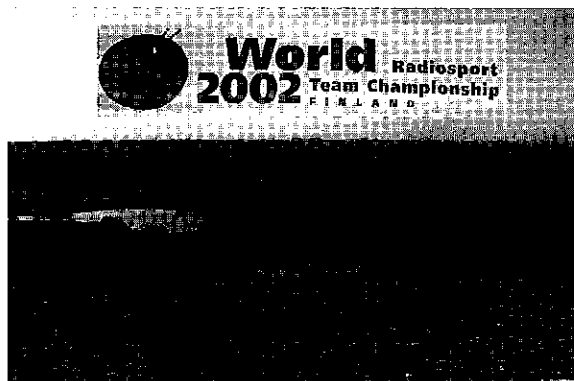
I have made up a couple of slide presentations and published them on the internet. In case anyone is interested they might try my page at <http://home.hawaii.rr.com/kh6gmp> (this one requires RealPlayer and is best viewed with the player set to full screen) or <http://home.hawaii.rr.com/myalb.html>.

And I must express my most heartfelt thanks to Colonel Timothy Bridges, the US Air Force Commander for his approval of my visit to the island, and to the Northern California DX Foundation for their support. My sponsoring clubs were our local Kona Hawaii DX Club (KH6DXC) and our Sister Club, The Spokane DX Association, K7SDX). And many thanks and a big ALOHA to all the DXers that were in there calling right up to the end. I know I wasn't able to work everyone that wanted KH3 for a new country but I did my very best and I'll just have to say "I'm sorry" to the ones we missed.

# WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2002 & NCDXF – A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

## Let the Games Begin

The normal West to East jetlag has made it impossible to get a good night's sleep. Maybe the fact that the sun never really did go completely down might have been a factor as well. Nevertheless, I am up early with



excitement in my heart as I rush to join the others in the central picnic table area.

The news is out - all overseas invited guests are finally in camp. The loud laughter emanating from a large number of visible small groups confirms that fact as they greet each other. I also notice that hundreds of local DXers and contesters are mingling with the guests to help celebrate the official opening of the WRTC2002 competition.

As I look across this gathering of DX from all over the globe, it is hard to believe how many countries have come together in one place. I cannot think of a DXer function in the past that has brought together people representing so many different DXCC entities.

One could log nearly half a DXCC just by listing the current call signs of the people in my immediate field of vision. Additionally, nearly all of these people have gone on one or more DXpeditions—many have operated from 30, 40 or even more different entities. Not taking time to do the time consuming task of tracing the world

bounding footsteps of each of these people, I still have no trouble imagining that these operators have helped fill DXCC needs from nearly an Honor Roll size list of stops. When I look from a slightly different angle at those smiling animated faces in front of me, I find that I am looking at a very impressive number of operators who also list being *on* the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll amongst their many accomplishments.

It is a beautiful day for them to be outside soaking up the warm sun under blue skies relaxing in summer attire. Most already have forgotten they are just a few hundred miles from northern latitudes known more for their frigid Arctic winters than short summer days. They are much too wrapped up in enthusiastic chatter and spirited laughter while leisurely drinking their favorite refreshment and sampling the local unique (and quite tasty) picnic sausage cuisine.

The vast reaches of the cultures, religions, and languages represented by this gregarious group have obviously been reduced to the smallest yet most important common denominator – Amateur Radio camaraderie. I find myself reflecting on how grateful I am that the good fortunes of life brought me to his hobby so many years ago; years spent collecting countries from nearly every foreign guest I gaze upon at this moment.

One other very obvious observation I quickly make as I wander amongst the guests shaking hands and meeting old on-the-air friends in person for the first time is that these people are arguably the *Best of the Best* contest operators in the entire world. All DXers know that contests provide a terrific way to work on one's band/country counts.

Operators like these we are talking about in this article delight in spreading themselves around the world in rare spots for their contest fun. What this means to the DXer is a well controlled pileup run by an operator who not only can make 5,10, or more contacts a minute but who *actually likes doing it!* An informal survey answered by some of operators mentioned here indicates that they have collectively logged somewhere over 10 million contacts. Friends, that is a lot of DX contacts for you.

Still not sure if these assembled guests at WRTC2002 mean anything to you, a devoted DXer? See if you recognize these call signs: OH2BH, OH2MM, K4UEE, A61AJ, W6OAT, YT1AD, W6OSP, G3SXW, OH0XX, N5KO, 9V1YC, ON4UN, F6BEE, N6TJ, N6ZZ, N7BG, OH2KI, N7NG, W0GJ, IV3TAN, K7BV, DL6LAU, OE2VEL. These are but a few of the hundreds who made the pilgrimage to WRTC2002 in Finland.

As Ambassador-at-Large for WRTC2002, it gives me quiet satisfaction knowing that I was lucky enough to have a small but important part in bringing these people together to talk DX, contests and most important of all – to share the simple joy of being amongst brothers and sisters of the world.

So too should you feel that satisfaction, members of the Northern California DX Foundation - your kind donation helped bring them together.

### **WRTC – World Radiosport Team Championship**

The World Radiosport Team Championship - WRTC in short - represents a large gathering of the world's best in Amateur Radio contesting - as selected nationally - coming from some 35 different countries in the spirit of competition, using the same playing field and allowing pure skills to determine world champions in two-man team, 24-hour nonstop competition.

WRTC was born in 1990 under the auspices of the Goodwill Games that were the brainchild of Ted Turner of CNN fame. The first Games took place in Seattle,



Washington, focusing on areas of cultural exchange, arts, and other unique subjects - one of these being amateur radio and WRTC.

In 1996, the WRTC traveled to San Francisco, and in the shadow of the Golden Gate, the event provided an historical setting and a ticket of continuity. At the same time, the WRTC Steering Team was born in the U.S. to promote the concept, to select future sites and to be of valuable help to future events.

It was in 2000 that WRTC expanded internationally, as the newly born country of Slovenia - on the sunny side of the Alps - set the stage. WRTC 2000 was another historical event for the benefit of those present as well as those following the event on the radio waves from all corners of the globe. The entire country of Slovenia was

actively involved, once again upholding the spirit of WRTC.

### **WRTC2002 – Finland**

Honoring the declining sunspot cycle, the 2002 event came only two years after the previous competition. Contest Club Finland (CCF) and the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL) jointly hosted the event. While the actual headquarters and center of competition was in Helsinki, the entire populace of WRTC2002 made a bus and car trek to the SRAL Summer Camp (field day) resort area in Himos for a few days of social wonderfulness before the actual competition. Some 2000 people, DX and locals, reportedly enjoyed the Opening Ceremonies and other festivities while in Himos.

### **Financing WRTC2002**

Before committing themselves to the event, the Finland DXer and Contester organizers were able to secure 50 percent of their budget of USD 200,000 from local sources. Nokia Corporation stepped forth as a local title sponsor while Vaisala, Elektobit, SAS and Texas Instruments contributed further to the initial success.

The remaining USD 100,000 had to be raised from international sources during a twelve-month period preceding the actual games. Co-Chairman, Martti Laine OH2BH assembled a team of volunteer regional fund raisers in the United States and elsewhere and tasked them with raising the remaining needed funds. The initial USA team was composed of Jeff Briggs, K1ZM – Eastern USA, Bob Allphin, K4UEE – Southern USA, and me Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV – Western USA. Later, I move to the East Coast to go to work for the ARRL and Steve Merchant, K6AW replaced me on the West Coast.



The NCDXF graciously volunteered to serve as the bank for USA fundraising efforts. Rusty Epps, W6OAT kept the records while Bruce Butler W6OSP made certain that all transactions were handled in a professional and secure manner.

Carefully crafted international business meeting scheduling mixed with DXpedition travel allowed me to do active fund raising work on all continents except Africa so Martti decided to appoint me WRTC2002 Ambassador-at-Large, an honor I humbly accepted. By the way, I fixed the Africa problem on my way to WRTC2002 by stopping by Madeira Island CT3 – AF-014 – for a few days of operating and fundraising. After dinner one evening, the local DX contingent – Luis CT3EE and the rest of the CT9M contest team – were indeed generous with their financial support.

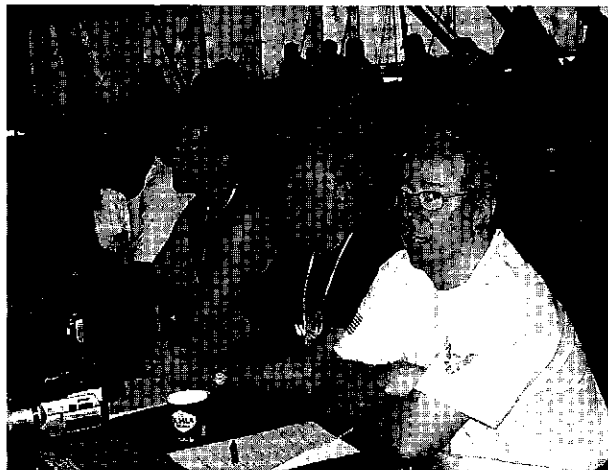
The needed USD 100,000 generally had to be raised one dollar at a time through individual donations



collected at hamfests, conventions, club meetings, and through just good ol' one-on-one arm-twisting. At times, the work was tedious. Nevertheless, in all cases we had a fabulous time manning a table or booth and chatting with a non-stop line of DX and contesting friends coming by to make a contribution to the success of WRTC2002. Repeatedly we were delighted to humbly accept incredibly generous contributions from private individuals who wished to support the spirit of the international tone of WRTC2002.

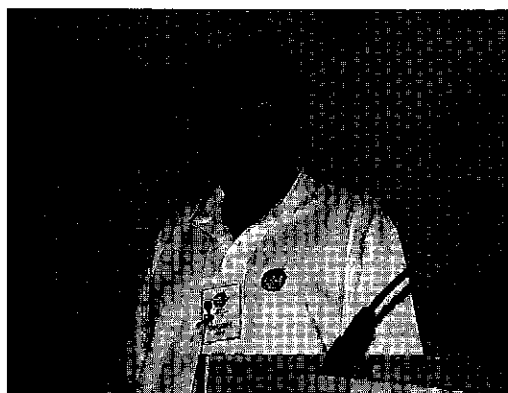
Our fundraising efforts took Jeff, Bob, Steve, and me to events all over the USA. I also enjoyed spreading the word about WRTC2002 and taking in contributions in Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, and Japan. We came up with promotional tee shirts and special gifts for higher levels of generosity.

Every stone was turned over. In many cases, those "stones" were repeatedly turned over and their pockets dumped out to such an extent that the "stones" would run from us whenever we were spotted in the general



vicinity. Fortunately, none of us lost any friends in the process, although we all see lingering signs of suspicion today when we walk into a circle of acquaintances.

Dayton Hamvention proved to be a great place to raise money because so many hams gather in one place for this annual event. We were able to assemble a corps made up primarily of energetic Yankee Clipper Contest



Club volunteers that manned fundraising tables at numerous venues throughout the convention.

The ever-proud Texans and their neighbors dug deep down into their jeans at HamCom. They surprised us by coming up with the largest single weekend contribution total, thanks to the determined efforts of the Lone Star DX Association members and their president Bill Priakos, W5SJ.

The contesting gang most certainly gave their fair share everywhere we went; after all, this was their Olympics style event. However, without the robust financial and



moral support provided by DXers all over the world, it is likely that WRC2002 would not have become the history-making event it was destined to become.

Even with all that hard roadwork, significant amounts of funding had to come from other sources. That is



when NCDXF and a few others stepped up with the necessary monies to take us over the top. Thank you all for allowing NCDXF to become one of a small but very proud group of people and organizations given special recognition for their outstanding support.

**After the Dust Settled**

The actual contest competition provided a climatic close to the week of planning and gabbing. The Finland hosts had done an incredible job of preparing over 50 sites for the international teams. Each site, complete with a tribander, rotor, and a wire antenna for 80 and 40 meters, was ready for the arrival of one of the two-man teams. The warmth of true sincere friendship extended by the hosts all over southern Finland was evident at every home opened for the competitors.

Great conditions blessed the operators. Dreaded solar events that could close the bands from these northern latitudes did not occur thus allowing the entire world to take part in the fun by working the teams on multiple bands. The Finns spiced up the glitz by offering an "online scoreboard." Internet users could get updates of how the competitors were doing via this site. The site Webmaster was fed hourly score data from each site by the referees using 50 Nokia provided SMS equipped cell phones.

After the operating was over, the nearly 24-hour task of painstaking log checking was needed to confirm the very close scores turned in by a number of teams. The results, kept secret, were announced at the closing

banquet. Attractive awards were presented to the top three teams with much fanfare and cheers of appreciation and approval from the crowd.

Jeff Steinman, N5TJ and Dan Street, K1TO, two soft-spoken humble gentlemen in every sense, pulled off what seemed impossible – a WRTC three-peat leaving the rest of the world wondering what will it take to unseat these two incredibly gifted operators! The hundreds of guests at the banquet were also quick to congratulate the Second and Third place teams. Second place belonged to Harry Booklan, RA3AUU and Andrei Karpov, RV1AW while Third place honors went to Frank Grossman, DL2CC and Ben Och, DL6FBL.



**Thank You**

On behalf of the WRTC2002 Organizing Committee, competitors, referees, volunteers and the hundreds of spectators who journeyed to Finland, "Thank You" Northern California DX Foundation for your generous support. May the spirit of this event extend to you and your loved ones.



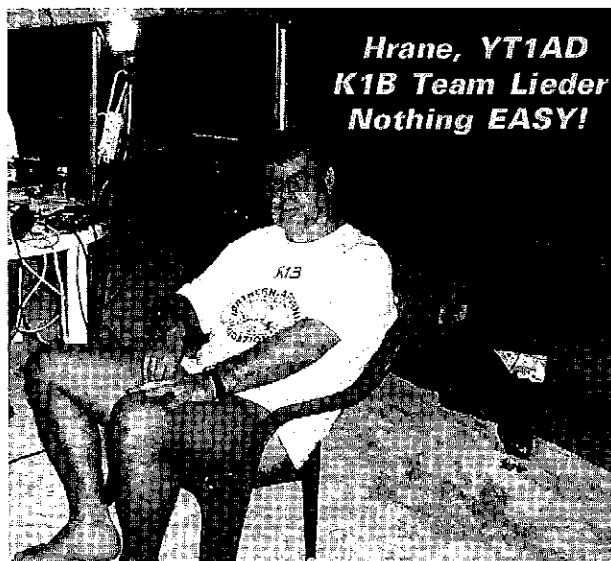
## DREAM OR REALITY – KH1, BAKER ISLAND

by Dr. Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD, K1B

As one expedition ends, it's difficult to decide when the idea of the next expedition originates.

After the 3D2CI expedition, while returning to Nadi, we discussed where to go next, the perennial question of DXpeditioners.

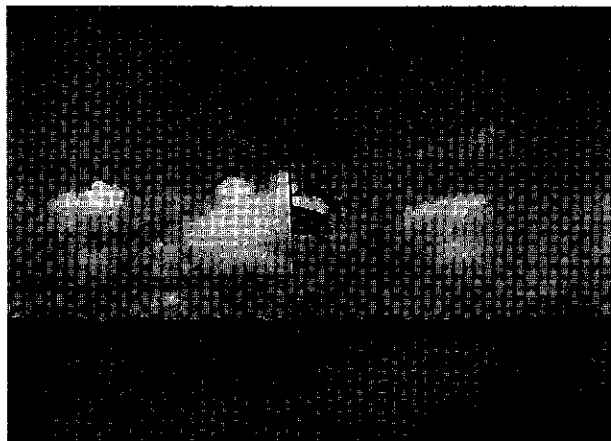
Many ideas were raised, but the most attractive, dangerous, and difficult possibility was Baker Island, KH1. Why? Because at this time, in the middle of 2001, Baker, KH1 is the 11<sup>th</sup> most wanted country in world and 4<sup>th</sup> most wanted in Europe.



Immediately, in my free time, I started to prepare an expedition to KH1. For this expedition there was no problem in obtaining a license, since the island is part of the US, but obtaining landing permission was a problem. First I decide to visit NI6T, Gary Shapiro, the leader of the K5K trip, and during my visit to him in San Jose, we exchanged experiences, his on Kingman Reef, and mine on Conway Reef. Gary told me it was very difficult to obtain landing permission for a remote American island, especially for Baker and Howland Islands, and his pessimistic opinion was that we would not be able to get this permission, since it had been tried unsuccessfully in the past, but he also promised that if we DID get permission, he'd pay for drinks for the

expedition members at Dayton. Gary will be happy that the members will not drink heavily at his expense.

After my visit to California, from my home I tried to telephone and email the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, the agency responsible for Baker and Howland Islands, but obtained no positive response. I decided to visit Honolulu and try to resolve the problem in person. For two days, we discussed the reasons why F&W would not grant permission. When I promised to follow



all conditions for this trip to KH1, the next question was Howland or Baker? Baker was the answer because it was interesting ecologically, and there had never been an amateur radio operation from there. Finally, I will never forget that on 12 August 2001 at 3PM Honolulu time, the pleasing decision from Ms. Beth Flint the responsible director: "You can have provisional permission for this landing, and can start preparations for this trip."

We decide the best time for this expedition was the end of April, and beginning of May. Our plan was to stay and operate from the island for 10 days with 6 stations, and try to break the record for "tent and generator" expeditions. The record was approximately 82000 QSO's.

On the first announcement, we had 27 applications to be members of this expedition, and 8 members of the Conway Reef expedition had already agreed.

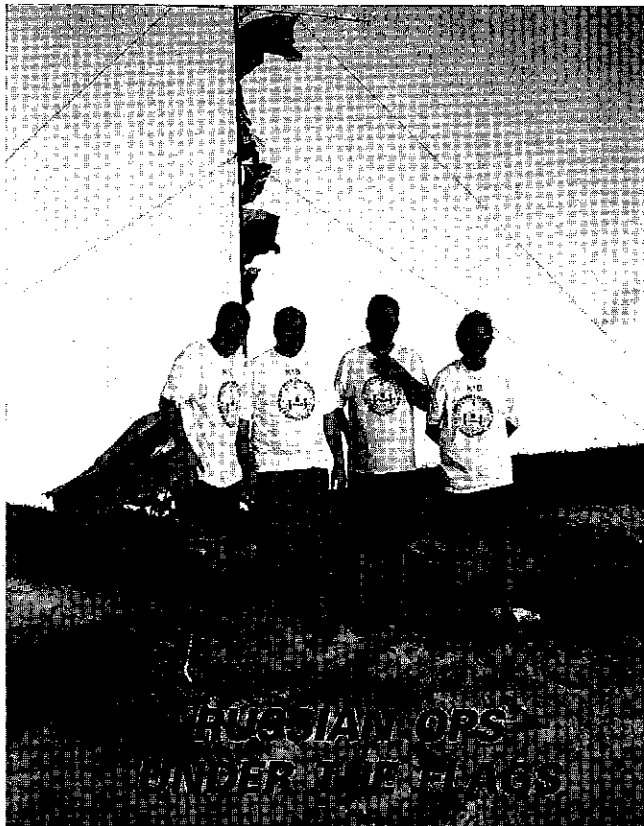
Finally, our trip started in April of 2002 from different parts of the world, with the majority of the team members meeting at LAX on 22 April, to fly to Nadi, Fiji.

After a long overnight flight, we arrived on the 24<sup>nd</sup>, early in the morning, since we crossed the International

Date line. In Nadi, half the group joined the boat at Savusavu for the voyage to Tuvalu and Baker Island. The other half of the group flew to Funafuti, Tuvalu, (T2) and operated from there with several calls: T2X, T2DA, T23A, T25A and T26U.

The team members of the expedition were YT1AD, YU1AU, YU1DX, N6TQS, KW4DA, RZ3AA, RA3AUU, RW3AH, Z32ZM, ZS6MG, S56A, LY3NUM, KD7RCD, and Doug Forsell, US F&W officer.

Finally a special thanks to Doug N6TQS for his help in development of this article.



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the entire team departed from Funafuti by boat and arrived 70 hours later on the edge of our dream, Baker Island. We set up three camps; American, Russian and Serbian, and start to work with the special call K1B (thanks to FCC, ARRL, and Dennis W4DC).



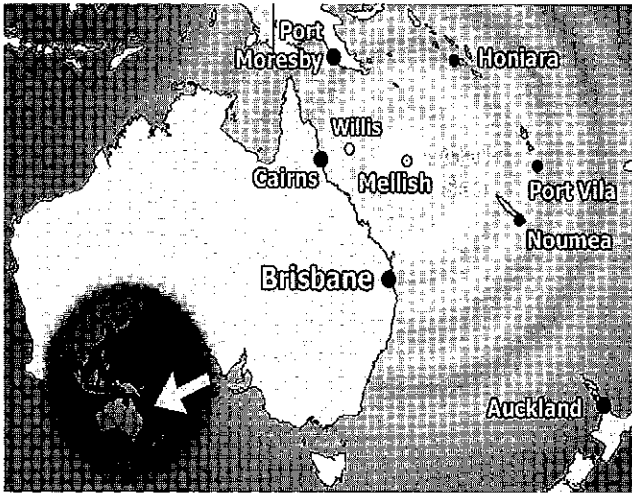
We worked from this island in difficult conditions: the temperature was 45C (116F) and at night we had strong winds and rain. After 9 and ° days, and cleaning the island to the satisfaction of Mr. Doug Forsell, our F&W supervising officer who had accompanied us to do a wildlife survey of the island, we left the island very content about the job we had done. We had broken all records by any other previous expedition, in our difficult category.

The final K1B numbers were: 95,127 QSO's, (89898 (SSB and CW), 4708 RTTY, 446 PSK and 75 SSTV).

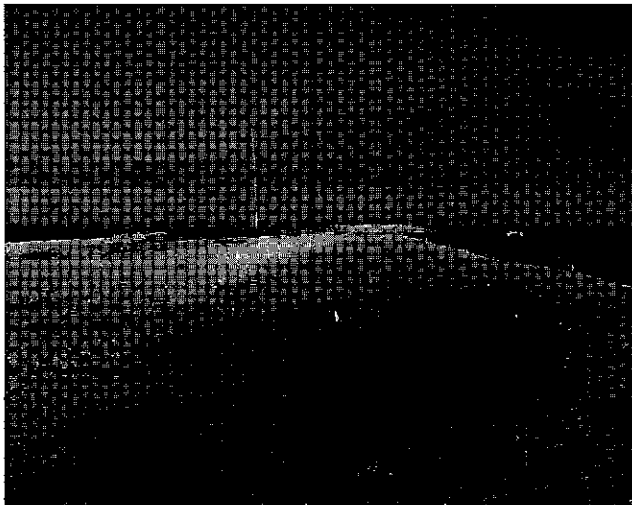
The total budget was \$102,000. US. The largest donors were YT1AD, \$16000.; RZ3AA, \$12,500.; NCDXF, \$6000.; ACOM, Inc., \$4000.; and many others.



# PICTURES FROM MELLISH REEF, VK9ML



Alan, VK4WR



View of VK9ML from northern end of the reef



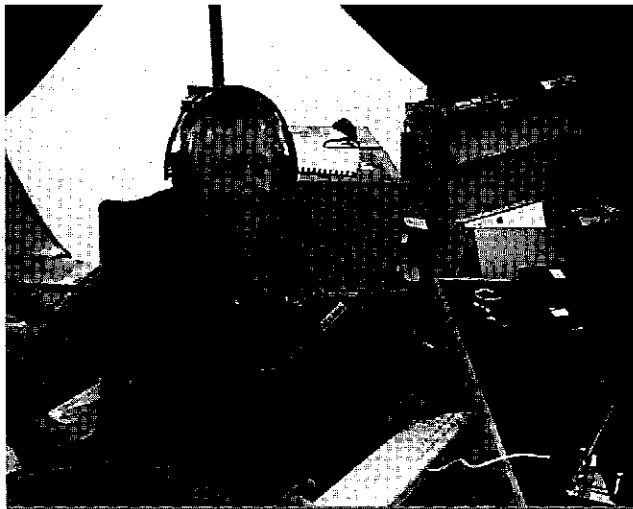
The boats at sunset



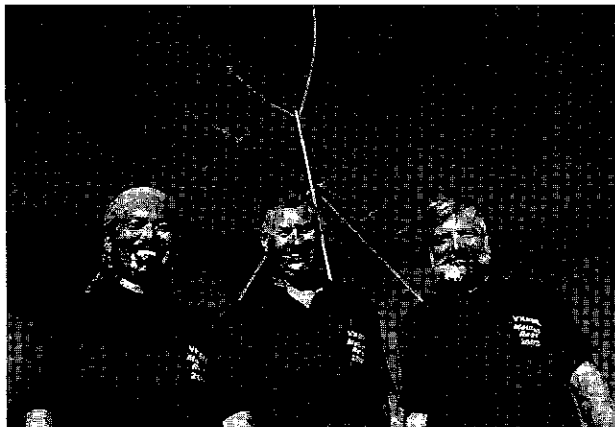
A masked booby, nesting



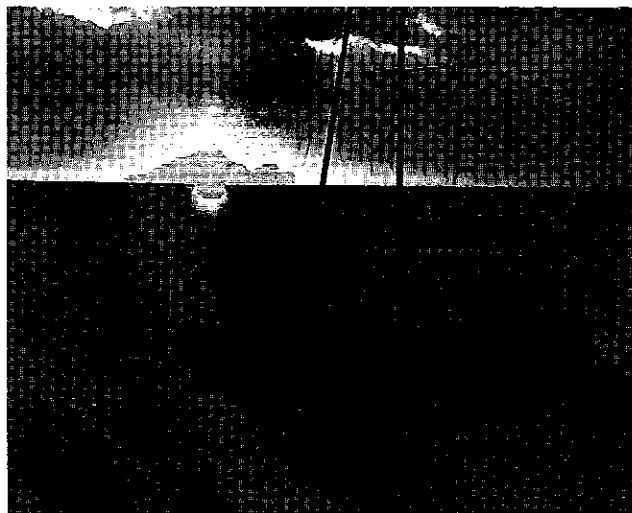
ZL2BR, K3NA, VK4WR - Where does this bit go?



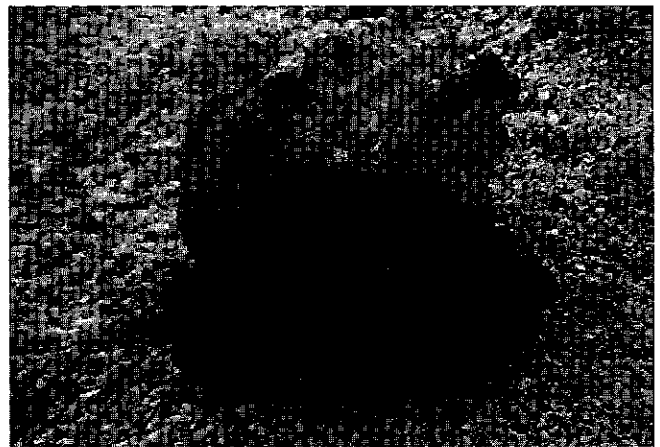
David, VK4GL



JH7OHF, VK4WR, VK4APG – 6m DXpedition World record holders, 4298 QSO's



The Green Flash (check out the PDF on the NCDXF website to see it in color.)



Hermit Crab



Hiro, JP1TRJ

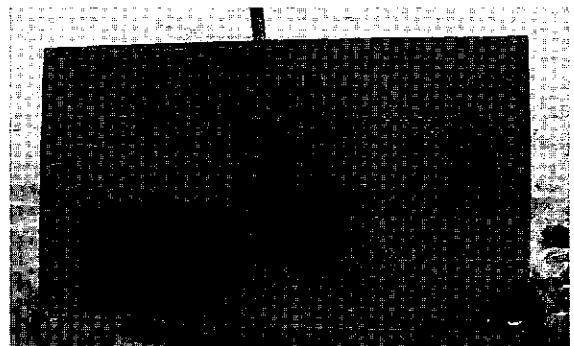


Lester, ZL4PO



Steve, G4EDG

Ted, JJ1LIB



The witeboard planner

## DXPEDITIONS FUNDED IN 2002 BY NCDXF

How many of these did you work last year? Here is a list of DXpeditions and DX operators for which NCDXF provided assistance in calendar year 2002.

We hope QSLs from all of these grace the wall of your shack.

**VP8THU** (January) South Sandwich (by EI5IQ, EI6FR, HB9ASZ, KØIR, K4UEE, K5TR, N5KO, PA3FQA, VE3EJ, W3WL, W7EW and 9V1YC)

**VP8GEO** (January) South Georgia (by EI5IQ, EI6FR, HB9ASZ, KØIR, K4UEE, K5TR, N5KO, PA3FQA, VE3EJ, W3WL, W7EW and 9V1YC)

**S9LA** (February) Sao Tome (by SM5COP, LA7THA, LA6FJA, LA5QKA, LC3EAT, LA5UF, LA6EIA, LA7WCA and SM5IMO)

**5UØT, 5U1A, 5U4R, 5U6W, 5U8B and 5U9C** (February) Niger (by I1HJT, I2UIY, I2YSB, IK2DIA, IK2WXV, IZ5BRW and 5U7JK)

**TI9M** (February) Cocos Island (by AD6E, AK0A, F5CWU, IK3RIY, IZ7ATN, KAØKKO, KI7WO, N4CD, N6KT, N7DF, PA3EWP, PA5ET, RK3AD, WS4Y and TI2HMG)

**PWØT** (February) Trindade (by PYØFF, PY7ZZ, PY5HSD, PY7ZY, PY5CC, PT7BZ, PY1RO, PY7XC, W9VA and N6FF)

**XRØX** (March) San Felix (by KK6EK, K5AND, K5AB, W6KK, N6TQS, KO4RR, DJ9ZB, N6MZ, I8NHJ, HB9AHL, N7CQQ and NP4IW)

**H4ØXX** (March/April) Temotu and H44XX (April) Solomons (by VK1AA)

**VK9ML** (April) Mellish Reef (by VK4WR, VK4GL, VK4APG, ZL4PO, ZL2BR, K3NA, JH7OHF, 7K1WLE, JP1TRJ and G4EDG)

**K1B** (April/May) Baker Island (by LY3NUM, RA3AUU, YT1AD, ZS6MG, YU1DX, RZ3AA, KW4DA, N6TQS, S56A, Z32ZM, YU1AU and RW3AH)

**TN3B and TN3W** (May) Congo (by EA3BT and EA3WL)

**BQ9P** (June) Pratas (by BV4FH, BV5CR, BV3FG, K4WA, K5YY, W5FI and W0IZ)

**8Q7ZZ** (July/August) Maldives (by MØDXR, MØTTT, EA2AIG and DJ1YFK)

**XY3C, XY5T and XY7V** (August) Myanmar (by DL4KQ, DF2IC, DL8KBJ, DF7KP, DL5OAB, IN3QBR, XWØX and YB0US)

**HKØDX** (August) San Andres & Providencia (by EA4DX)

**CE0Z** (October) Juan Fernandez (by CE6TBN)

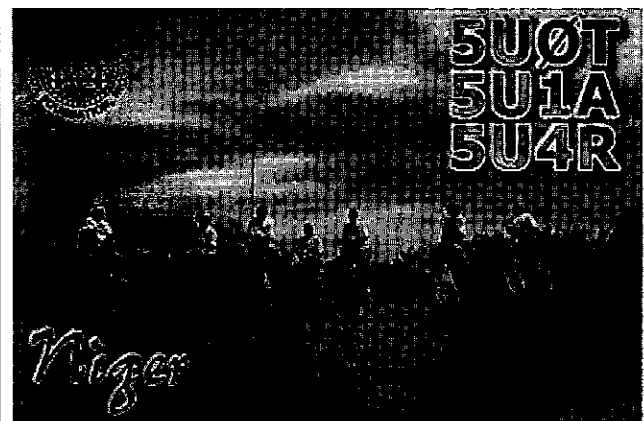
**3XY7C** (October/November) Guinea (by DL7DF, DJ6TF, DJ7UC, DK1BT, DL4WK, DL7BO and DL7UFR)

**CYØMM** (November) Sable Island (by VE3NZ, VE3EY, VE3NE and N1NK)

**KH6GMP/KH3** (December) Johnston Atoll by KH6GMP

**STØF** Sudan (ZS5WC op) - Transceiver and QSL cards

**ZD9IR** Gough Island (ZS6RI op) - Antenna purchase



## VIDEO LENDING LIBRARY

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 \$3.20. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet, and more than one choice of programs in case there is great demand for the item you want. Please return all material promptly, so it will be available for others. Request should be mailed to: Dick Wilson, K6LRN, P. O. Box 273, Somerset, CA 95684-0273. E-mail to k6lrn@arrl.net

### We have the following VHS programs

1. XU1SS (plus BVØYL & BVØJA). (35 mins.)
2. 7J1RL, Expedition of 1976 & 1978, (includes ZKØZR, Mellish Reef).
3. VKØZR, Expedition of 1978, (plus Ogasawara, 1978).
4. Frankford Radio Club ARRL phone parody, (plus JH7YFL WW CW).
5. JF1IST/7J1, Expedition to Okino Torishima of 1979. (25 mins.)
6. Australian travelogue, Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island. (55 mins.)
7. Ham Radio In The South Cook Is., by ZK1CA & ZK1CT. (70 mins.)
8. VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI, copy of above slides by Jim Hurt, W Geo College & W4VWA.
9. Looking Up In Rio Linda, 1986, by W6GO/K6HHD. (45 mins.)
10. Revilla Gigedo, XF4DX, of 1987, Produced by WA8MAZ. (15 mins.)
11. North Texas Contest Club, towers and contesters, by K5TCK. (45 mins.)
12. It Started With A Broken Fence - JH3DPB's Tall Tower Tale. (15 mins.)
13. Pile-Up Busters, by W8TN, ABØ1 & NØFVG. (10 mins. & usually sent with #12).
14. FG/W2QM/FS, French St. Martin, DXing Senior Style - Another wrinkle to DXing.
15. 1984 Laccadive Is. DXped, VJ7WCY, plus 1983 VKØHI from TV. (about 60 mins.)
16. The K6UA contest station story. (25 mins.)
17. HKØTU DXped of 1983, Maipo. (25 mins. with audio tape translation by KB8MZC).
18. The Ship That Shouldn't Have - VKØJS Heard Is. DXpedition. (90 mins.)
19. The New World Of Amateur Radio. (28 mins.)
20. SØRASD, The Western Sahara Story, 1987, by the Lynx Group. (37 mins.)
21. Auckland Is., 1988, by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, N7NG. (60 mins.)
22. Dr. Owen Gariot's first talk to hams about the Space Shuttle.
23. Russian Ham Radio Tour by WA6WXD, Oct. 1986. (45 mins.)
24. 3Y DXpedition, 1987, copy of slides by Jim Hurt, West GA College & W4VWA. (40 mins.)
25. Peter I, 1987, video from JA7ARW.
26. 1979 Spratly Is. DXpedition, by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BJL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A.
27. 1988 Malj Vysokskij Is., OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX. (23 mins.)
28. 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988, Produced by W4BRE.
29. Aruba, P4ØV, CQ WW Test 1988. (12 Mins.)
30. A Message From Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. (12 mins.)
31. Navassa of 1988, by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q & W3GH. (38 mins.)
32. Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SVØAA, April 1989. (40 mins.)
33. NØ1Z/KH1, Howland Is., 1988, by NØ1Z, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL. (20 mins.)
34. Boeing ARC at the Electronic Convention and Great Wall Of China. (audio tape for VHS, 30 mins.)
35. K C Club DXpedition to Tonganoxie Is., a spoof. (30 mins.)
36. Tuvalu, 1989, by K6EDV & AL1AMO. (27 mins.)
37. Visalia Convention of 1990, recorded by W6NLG. (2 hours).
38. Rotuma, 1988, copy of the slide show bby Jim Hurt, WGC & Henry Owen W4VWA. (73 mins.)
39. XW8CW & XW8DX, 1989, by HA5PP & HA5WA, Produced by W4BRE. (27 mins.)
40. XU8CW & XU8DX, 1990, by HA5PP & HA5WE, Produced by W4BRE. (25 mins.)
41. All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition, plus BY1PK. (32 mins.)
42. ZS8MI, by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show. (40 mins.)
43. Jim Smith, A51JS, visits the Bay Area, videotaped by WA6BXY. (80 mins.)
44. R9ZF/NN7A, NN7D & W7YS, August 1989, Lake Teletskoye, Siberia. (30 mins.)
45. VU7, Laccadive Is., 1984. (65 mins.)
46. VU4, Andaman Is., 1987, by Combatore Radio Club. (30 mins.)
47. 3Y5X Expedition, 1989, Video by JF11ST. (In Japanese, good photography, 35 mins.)
48. VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC, 1/8/91, VHS by K6IMN. (125 mins.)
49. 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle. (25 mins.)
50. ICOM's More Than Radios, The Legacy We Leave To The Young. (25 mins.)
51. T33R-T33T. Banaba, Nov. 1990, SM7PKK, TF3CW & OH1RY. (22 mins.)
52. This Is ATV, by Western Washington AT Society & Seeing Is Believing, by AEA. (47 mins.)
53. New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure, by AA6LF. (55 mins.)
54. YB3ASQ: Indonesian Stations and Sightseeing, by W7TSQ. (25 mins.)
55. XF4L of 1989, by JH4RHF, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, W6RGG, XE1L, OH2BU & N7NG. (25 mins.)
56. ET2A, by W4IBB, Jack Reeves, May 1991. (12 mins.)
57. ISØXV, by UW3R, et al, July 1990. (35 mins. or a 2 hour version, your choice).
58. Jarvis 1990, from K3NA & KN3T. (35 mins.)
59. 3CØCW, Annobon, 1991, by the Garrotxa Club of Spain. (20 mins.)
60. Araucaria DX Group, Brazil, Contest Station and Operators. (30 mins.)
61. 9L1US, by Dave Heil, K8MN, ed. by Jim Hurt, West GA. College & W4VWA. (45 mins.)
62. Dave Heil, K8MN visits Finland, edited by Jim Hurt & Henry Owen, W4VWA. (35 mins.)
63. Penguin Is., 1990, from a slide show by N7NG, Wayne Mills, produced by MoBre. (15 mins.)
64. P.J9W, 1990, Spirit Of Victory, Radio Team Finland, produced by WA7LNW. (48 mins.)
65. Empire Of The Air: The Men Who Made Radio, recorded by K16YB. (110 mins.)
66. Contest Night Live, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.)
67. DXing Kansas City Style, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.)
68. VP8ANT/G3CW1, Adelaide Is., Antarctica. (45 mins.)
69. H44, May 1991, by G3WVG, G3IXT & G3SXW. (12 mins.)
70. VP2EOH, Anguilla Is., by Northern Ohio DXA, 1992. 29 mins.)
71. T32T, Christmas Is., WPX SSB Test, Mar. 1990, narrated by VP2ML & video by JH1LBR.
72. VP8SSI, South Sandwich, 1992. (26 mins.)
73. More About Radios, Zman Productions, (How To Get Started In Amateur Radio). (28 mins.)
74. Navassa Is., Jan. 1992, by WA4DAN, AA4VK, NØTO, KW2P & AA4NC. (25 mins.)
75. Getting Started In DXing, by CQ Communications, Inc.. (52 mins.)
76. The Radio Ham, starring Tony Hancock, English comedy. (26 mins.)
77. Project Irma: The DX Truth-O-Meter, Northern Cal. DX Convention, 1993. (25 mins.)
78. ZL9DX, Auckland Is., by ZL1OK, ZL1AVC, ZL2TPY, JH4RHF & JR4DUW. (28 mins.)
79. CYØDXX, Aug. 1989, Sable Island by the Breton DX Group. (18 mins.)
80. V63-KC6-P29, by KQ1F & K1XM, slide copy by Jim Hurt & Harry Owen, W4VWA. (25 mins.)
81. Desecheo, KP5, 1992/3, with KW2P, NØTG, WA4DAN, WØRJU & AA4VK. (28 mins.)
82. E35X, Eritrea, May 31 - June 10, 1993, by LA6VM, LA1EE, JF11ST, LA9DL & LA7XK. (17 mins.)
83. AH1A, Howland Is., 1993, by ON6TT, WØRLX, K9AJ, WØCP, KØEU, W9IXX, K4UEE, F6EXV & G4LJF. (45 mins.)
84. 9G1AA, Ghana, by PA3AWW, PA3FUE, PA3ERA, PA3DEW & PAØTUK. (55 mins.)
85. 9MØS, Spratly Islands, 1993, N7NG, WA6AUE, OH6DO, JA5DQH, OH1NYP, 9V1YV, 9M2FK, OH2MAK and OH2BH. (30 mins.)
86. Journey to Peter I, 1994. (30 mins.)
87. ZD9SXW, Tristan da Cunha, 1994, by G3SXW. (18 mins.)
88. Last Voice From Kuwait, 9K2DZ. (25 mins.)
89. Malj Vysokskij Island, 4J1FM / 4J1FW, October 1992, by AHØW ex 4J1FM. (43 mins.)
90. 3CØGD, Annobon, 1989 by LA8PV. (20 mins.)
91. IAØKM & HV4NAC. (30 mins.)
92. H44IO, South Pacific DX-pedition, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM. (46 mins.)
93. The Congo, TN4U & TN2M, 1995, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM (40 mins.)
94. 3V8BB, 1994 (17 mins.)
95. Mission to Jordan, The joint Israeli/Jordanian DXpedition, JY74Z, in July '95. (43 mins.)
96. The Kermadecs DX Adventure, ZL8RI - DX AT ITS BEST (30 mins.)
97. World Radiosport Team Championship, 1996 (23 mins.)
98. VKØIR Heard Island 1997, by Peter Casier ON6TT (51 mins.)
99. Bell Lab's video. "Similarities in Wave Behavior" (27 mins.)
100. "Eric Edberg, W6DU Memorial Pacific DXpedition" by WA4FFW
101. Legends of Amateur Radio - W6EA, W6HX & K6OJ - Southern California DX Club (42 mins.)
102. DXpedition to the Spratlys - 1996 - Slide show on video (30 mins.)
103. H40AA, The Temotu DXpedition - April 1998 - (10 mins.)
104. 3B9RF, Saint Brandon, 1998 by K5KG (38 mins.)
105. ZL9CI, Campbell Island, 1999 by 9V1YC (60 mins.)
106. FØØAAA, Clipperton Island, 2000 by 9V1YC (60 minutes)
107. A52A, Bhutan 2000, Written & Filmed by James Brooks, 9V1YC (60 mins.)
108. XZ0A, Union of Myanmar, 2000 DXpedition, Central Arizona DX Association (35 mins.)

# 2003 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 \$50 U.S. or its equivalent in foreign currency. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the Foundation for financial reasons. If \$50 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of \$50! The NCDXF is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U. S. taxpayers.



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