



Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter

SPRING 1988

MEA CULPA FROM THE EDITOR

Most of you by now have probably given up on ever getting another Foundation Newsletter. Many have inquired, complained or otherwise made known their displeasure. I wish I had a novel justification for the delay in getting this issue out the door -- but I don't. My excuses instead are more mundane: a job relocation resulting in substantially increased time demands and travel, a change in my personal situation, and greatly reduced access to word processing resources. I regret that my stubbornness prevented me from letting go of the editor's job so that a replacement could be found. In any event, the long delay is solely my responsibility. I apologize to each of you.

The Trustees recently concluded that the Newsletter should issue twice a year and be in the mails by the end of May and the end of November. We cannot compete with the various newsletters that provide current information on expeditions and other "real time" DX-related news. Thus, future issues of the Newsletter will continue to focus instead on what the Foundation is doing (the Beacon Project, expeditions supported and the results of those expeditions, etc.) and on feature articles about DX-related activities. The next Newsletter, for example, will consist

largely of the Foundation's "annual report" for 1987 (and 1986 as well, if space permits). In it we will describe what the Foundation did in 1987. It is, after all, your continuing support through contributions that makes it possible for the Foundation to continue supporting DX-related activities.

At the last meeting of the Trustees, two new Foundation Trustees were elected: Ted Algren, KA6W, current President of the Northern California DX Club, and Bruce Butler, W6OSP, current Vice-President of the Redwood Empire DX Association. Welcome aboard, Ted and Bruce! A complete listing of the Officers, Trustees and Advisors appears on the following page.

The last Newsletter carried a front page article by Stan, K6UD, which set forth the Foundation policy on membership donations. I have been asked to restate the policy in this issue.

- The initial membership donation shall be \$25.00 U.S. or its equivalent in IRC's at the current valuation of IRC's. This donation brings a Membership Certificate and entry on the permanent membership roles of the Foundation.

- A yearly donation in the amount of \$10.00, or its equivalent in IRC's,

will be required to keep your name on the active membership roles.

- Unless active membership is maintained, the Winter Newsletter will be the last one that you will receive. Your Newsletter mailing label will show the last year in which you donated to or made contact with the Foundation.

- The Board recognizes that there may be cases where prospective new members and old members may find it a hardship to meet the new donation schedule. We do not want anyone to be denied membership because of cost. If you can only handle a lesser amount, please write and let us know the circumstances (currency restrictions, retired, etc.). We will consider each case on an individual basis.

For those who are able to do so, consider sponsoring a DX'er whose circumstances may not make Foundation membership possible. If you're in doubt as to whether your proposed new member is already a member, drop me a note.

Remember, the Newsletter depends heavily on input from Foundation members. Please give some thought to writing an article on a DX-related topic -- and then do it and send it to me. In that regard, my new address is as follows:

3144 Brittan Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
U.S.A.

73 for now,
Kip Edwards, W6SZN

* * *

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 2368
Stanford, CA 94305 USA

* * *

President:	Bob Ferrero, W6RJ
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DON REIBHOFF, K7ZZ

[The last time Don Reibhoff was in California, a group of us got together with Don for dinner. Jack, W6ISQ, showed his movies of his expedition to XV5 land. Don regaled us with stories of close calls in Southeast Asia and of his super station in Portugal. It was one of those evenings you'll never forget. How sad it was to learn a few months later of Don's death in a tragic accident. The following memorial to Don was authored by Chod Harris, VP2ML, and appeared in his weekly publication, The DX Bulletin. -- Editor]

* * *

The DX and contest world lost a giant last month [January 1987], when Don Reibhoff, K7ZZ, was killed at the wheel of his Porsche in an automobile accident in Spain. Anyone who sat in front of a radio during the past 15 years heard, and probably worked, Don from a variety of locations around the world. Don's ability to put out a whopping signal and rapid-fire operating skills put him in thousands of logs. He will be sorely missed.

Don first came to the attention of the DX world in the late 1960's from Southeast Asia. As HS3DR, Don handed out thousands of Thailand contacts. The radio bug bit hard, and Don became a beacon from that part of the world over the next several years. As one of the main operators of Chester's XV5AC callsign from downtown Saigon (at the height of the Vietnam War), Don made over 50,000 QSOs from that embattled location.

During frequent trips to Cambodia (now Kampuchea), Don was instrumental in getting that country back on the amateur bands. He made more than 25,000 more contacts as XU1DX during the early 1970's.

First Documented Operation From Spratly - 1S

Then, in early 1973, Don and several other amateurs mounted a major DXpedition to nearby Spratly Island. The only previous operation from this "country" was by the notorious Don Miller, W9WNV. Although Miller's operation was accepted by the ARRL's DXCC desk as a New One, with Miller's reputation, we may never know if he actually went to Spratly. But there is no question that Don Reibhoff went there, as he ran his Super-8 movie camera the whole time! K7ZZ thus gets credit for the first documented operation from 1S, and perhaps the first real operation from there as well, as 1S1A.

Radio Portugal

Don's Southeast Asia exploits were enough to earn him a permanent spot in the hearts of DXers everywhere, but were only the start of his long DX career. In the late 1970's, Don set up a station high above the Atlantic on the coast of Portugal. As CT4AT, Don entered and won most major contests. He constructed a full-sized 40 meter quad that set new records on the band, and his 20 meter signal was a class above anything else out of Europe.

A short tale may best illustrate Don's prowess at producing one of the best signals on the band: In multi-single contest operations out of New England, this writer would leave strict instructions with the all-night, low-band operators to wake me up at the first sign of Europe on 20 meters, so that I wouldn't miss the multiplier-rich morning opening. Early one Saturday morning, the 80-meter op came hammering at the door, "Europe is coming through!" I sleepily asked, "What do you hear?" The other op answered "CT4AT is 20 over 9!" "Forget it," I responded, "Wake me up in another hour." Sure enough, about one hour later, other European stations began to come up from the noise.

CT4AT opened the band a good hour before any other station came through, and stayed in more than a hour after every other station had faded into the noise.

Don had operating skills to match his station-constructing expertise. He could knock off QSO's at over 300 an hour, hour after hour. He could hear through noise and QRM, and seldom needed a repeat. This combination meant that Don worked well down through the layers of stations calling, to real beginner DXers.

Perhaps another episode can illustrate this: Don set out to make a new record on 40 SSB from CT4AT. His signal hammered into the US, but many stateside stations simply didn't know how to master the art of working split on 40 SSB. As the night wore on and contacts became few and far between, Don enlisted this author to round up some more QSOs. I combed the Stateside 40 meter band, breaking into every contact and asking if the hams wanted to work Portugal. I guaranteed a QSO, if they would QSY to my transmitting frequency. Meanwhile Don rounded up a bunch of Europeans from below 7100 for me to work.

Then we'd meet on our respective frequencies, and run the small pileups we'd gathered. Don was even willing to wait for a station to spin the dial down to his transmit frequency for the report, and QSY back to the US phone part of the band for the answer. In this way Don put the first CT, and probably the first Europe, QSO in hundreds of logs. And yes, he set a new world's records. [And, despite Don's help, I lost!-C.H.]

Thanks to this and similar activities throughout the contest season, Don became known as Radio Portugal for his superior signal and consistent operating.

Conventions and DX Gatherings

In addition to being a fine operator of well-constructed stations, Don was an

excellent and entertaining speaker at DX functions across the country. Don carried a Super-8 movie camera throughout Southeast Asia, even as he was being evacuated from the area by one of the last helicopters. Through his films, slides, and banter, Don could draw his audiences into the excitement and thrill of his activities. Don's talks were always memorable, a true DX experience for old-timers and newcomers alike.

Don also had a flair for off-beat publicity. At the dead of winter near the peak of the Vietnam War, then-President Nixon ordered the heat in all government buildings to be no more than 68 degrees, to conserve energy. Don circulated a photo of himself at his high-power operating position in Saigon, surrounded by three high air conditioners all going full blast. Don was holding a copy of Nixon's degree, and a thermometer that read 74 degrees. Don's caption read, "Trying hard to get it down to 68!"

Other DXers and contesters will remember some of Don's photos from Portugal, usually including hundreds of empty bottles of Portuguese wine, and a very attractive, scantily clad female. Some of these photos would not be reproducible in a family publication, but gave a insight into Don's spirit and love of life.

"What Do You Do?"

At the New England Division convention some years back, a member of the audience asked Don, "Mr. Reibhoff, sir, what do you do?" Once Don recovered from being addressed as "sir," he answered, "Why, I contest!" with the accent on the last syllable. Don's nominal job was as a teletype repairman for the Department of State. Those who knew him always marvelled at the ability of this lowly repairman to command the resources of platoons of marines and tons of equipment!

His State Department career included assignments in Bagdad, Iraq, and Prague, Czechoslovakia, as well as Southeast Asia and Portugal. He was a fluent linguist, and mastered the local language as he did radio operating.

Don Reibhoff has been a major force in the world of DX and contesting for more than 15 years. His powerful signal, superb operating skills, and friendly and helpful attitude will long be remembered by DXers everywhere.

FROM EURO TO EUROS WITH LOVE

--Martti Laine, OH2BH

[Along with W6OAT and W6RGG, I was pleased to join Martti for dinner during his most recent stopover in San Francisco. As usual, the evening was memorable and filled with DX-related discussion: operating practices observed from the DXpedition operator's viewpoint, Clipperton 1985 and 1986, the activities of NCDXF, and likely spots for future operations. As the last of the Port disappeared from the glasses, I prevailed upon Martti for a Newsletter article and, of course, he came through. The following collection of wise thoughts was penned on one of Martti's many air trips, and was dispatched to Northern California as Martti left for his operation as EA9AM. Don't despair when you read the final paragraph. The NCDXF Trustees have developed an expanded role for Martti, lest one of the truly great ones escape. -- Editor]

* * *

It was one of those lonely days up in these northern parts when DX was hardly audible and recovery of the sunspot cycle still some miles away, when the Old Timer decided to head West, an area where DX is still alive and where the Deserving always have something in the works -- something relating to DX, the Eternal Enigmas and the Mysteries of the Ages.

It was only a matter of crossing some propagation zones, seeing the North Pole,

center of the magnetic field that tends to kill propagation in the northern village, when the Old Timer found himself standing at the Golden Gate Bridge, right in the vicinity of the corporate headquarters of the Northern California DX Foundation, the source of many DX-related stories over the past decades.

Here are the minutes of the DX-related discussions as they came to mind while the Old Timer was flying TWA 570 over the Atlantic back to the northern parts.

CRITICISM AND A WORD OF THANKS

("Critica y una palabra de gracias" in Spanish)

DX Professor Cass has stated that a DXpedition was great if you logged the country and made a few back-ups but it was a total disaster if you missed the one. It is one of the fundamental rules in DXing.

IN: DXpedition types must be able to stand criticism whether their seeming qualifications are based on 300 countries worked at the home station or not. Making a successful DXpedition is the result of hard work in the field in real-life situations. There are no textbooks, no out-of-site training. It is simply a matter of learning through your mistakes, exposing yourself to criticism and doing things better next time around. A top DXpeditioner will always leave a happy audience, be it located in Europe or faraway in the Orient. That is DX politics.

OUT: DXpeditioners often have to face severe conditions when it comes to air-conditioned operating or a good diet to meet the suggested blood sugar levels. You may even smell so bad that you can hardly stand it yourself. Under those circumstances, a word of thanks is very encouraging and very well deserved. Give the operator an honest "you're doing great," even though the QSO must be kept short, because it will make him happy. Do it afterward if you want to keep it short. DXpeditioners are listed in the Call Book along with the regular types. Avoid criticism based on your personal narrow thinking -- be a man of the world.

MANAGEMENT OF A DXPEDITION AND PILE-UP
("Il Controllo Di Un' Dxpedizione E Folle"
in Italian)

DXpeditioners are like wartime commandos heading out into the unknown. They always make up a group of fine individuals full of good thoughts and ideas. Taking them successfully to the final destination and target is only a matter of good management.

IN: Collective leadership is a portent of disaster and the line between success and failure is a very fine one. The leader should possess all the proven skills combined with such qualities as charisma and connoisseurship. When a chairman is elected, it is a smooth ride from the first announcement to the last QSL going out. Everyone will be proud to cooperate whether it is a day of rain or sunshine.

OUT: Behaving in the pile-up is also a matter of following the command. If you don't hear the station, you don't have to say it aloud. You need not say what you think but you need to think what you say. The DXpedition signal is weak and hard to catch because that's why you still need it. If you drive through red lights in Milan or insist on right-hand traffic in London, you offer no incentives for good behavior. If you hear one of your countrymen not following the common rules or not understanding the language, talk to him at the next club meeting or send a note to his parents. It seems that parental guidance or language studies were not completed successfully.

THE QUALITY OF OPERATORS AND CALLERS
("Le meilleurs operators" in French)

We all think we know how to approach and manage a busy highway intersection so that traffic continues to run smoothly with no one stopping or crashing into a car pulling up right ahead of you. Theoretically, yes. But in real life, the

rain creates static and there are more vehicles in every intersection than it can ever swallow.

IN: In selecting the operators, it is important to note that the contest types score well because they are in for winning and fighting the QRM and may stay in the tent for a full shift. They just need to be taught to make no shortcuts and not to think up any boosted calls because quality comes before quantity in this game. The 300-country types are no guarantee of success but scoring well in the Sweepstakes or in the Dayton copying contest may offer the needed piece of evidence if you plan to make it to the top.

OUT: Do you always need to be the first to sail through if you have worked that country before? Your standing is measured more by the number of countries worked than by the number of contacts made with a particular country or DXpedition. If each and everyone having already worked that DXpedition before will just stop there and wait, the rest of the callers will experience the kind of excitement we all remember from our own past. One extra QSO toward the end of the operation will certainly satisfy your ego and confirm that your beams are still alive and kicking. If they call for Asia, be sure you know your latitude and when they call number fives, and you are one of the Suffering Sixes, it's still not your turn. Have we forgot the KN?

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

("Technische perfektion" in German)

The range of gear used on a DXpedition often resembles the biggest fleamarket on the island or a commercial showing of some kind because someone is loaning the equipment without worrying about seawater or corrosion.

IN: Running many bands simultaneously at full kW power requires technical

excellence, with very little synthesizer noise tolerated. If the openings are narrow, you may even require an antenna layout and gear set-up that will enable both CW and SSB to be run simultaneously for maximum results. 100 db up attenuation on the beams standing side by side and clean gear will make it all. We should stick to the type of gear we are familiar with and do the technical exercises back on the mainland since there are other things to worry about at the DXpedition site.

OUT: A DX pile-up is the ultimate test of your gear and yourself. It is only your problem to worry about a missing outboard VFO. Just get one or wait for better days to come. It may be the Family Hour that can be of help to your DXing. Just work your way to better antennas for your favorite band but don't expect the DXpedition to build up the balance. Two verticals rarely meet one another except at the factory. On low bands, you may have a better shot with your wires but there may be many longer wires around before you. Be never satisfied with your gear because your competition is not.

CRITICAL PROPAGATION PATH

("Ei pihaustakaan" in Finnish)

Whenever you set foot on some part of the world, it will create difficulties for someone -- it will be DX (Distance X) and almost out of reach. It may require use of the long path or the exercise of extreme skill because the farther you go in terms of distance and cultural diversity, the more problems there are to be encountered. Code may make things tick but slow-scan is of no help.

IN: Since the success of any DXpedition will always be measured by your handling of the most difficult path, it is obvious that the very best resources are to be invested there with no swap deals allowed. Just who is the best one to handle that long shot seems a complicated issue but it still

needs to be solved. Your results and your past record surely help and sleeping before your most difficult stint is of great value. The real QSO factories may choose to work in well-planned shifts.

OUT: Your most difficult path is narrow and well recognized by your friends in your area. We surely do not promote the idea of going on sick leave but an extended lunch hour may do the trick during the week. The weekends are always hard to cope with because there are many Deserving ones around. Don't expect full service to your area every day of the week since there are many paths overlapping on different bands. Managing the long-haul QSOs requires extreme competence and no ego trips.

SUPPORT AND FINANCING

We have never seen an effective multi-operator type of DXpedition which might have produced a bottom-line credit situation but the sums spent are large and are spent by the DXpedition operators because of their unlimited love of and dedication to DX, because of their desire to serve you. Let's not forget the QSL managers, either; their work is costly and time-consuming but part of the overall success.

IN: Since there are past cases of confusion and abuse of the generosity displayed by the DX community, it is necessary to behave as a group and announce the name of the group's financial officer publicly, to encourage donations and to guarantee that donations are refunded if the DXpedition fails to materialize. The clear organization of support for major DXpeditions is a basic premise for making more of them happen but obviously this requires a commitment and a sense of responsibility from the operating group toward their supporting audience.

OUT: If every contact could mean a new country and produced one dollar, it would

be easy to keep the circus wagon rolling and serve you the new ones with a lot of fun. I guess people back in the Old World have a tendency to think that "West" means "green" and they just remain freeloaders. Yet, not everything is the way we see in the Dallas series on television and even single bucks are appreciated. This will also make sure that your requests are listened to and the station is more likely to be around during the narrow opening hours to your area. That is simply a fact of life.

This write-up marks the final chapter of my term as the European Advisor to our beloved Foundation. Instead of talking, it is time to get back into action -- to make DX and not just stories. Thanks for sharing a grand time with me, thanks for your support and encouragement during these years of no sunspots. The future looks bright for DX since we are all associated with the world's premier DX Foundation -- The NCDXF.

Thank you all and good DXing.

* * *

THE "IN" BOX

SLIDE SHOW COMMENTS

The NCDXF sponsors a lending library of slides and VHS cassettes of DXpeditions. Through the tireless efforts of Foundation Advisor Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC, these shows are made available to ham radio clubs around the world at no charge. Foundation literature accompanies each show, with a request that it be distributed to the audience. The following are some comments received from clubs.

Steubenville-Weirton ARC: The slide show was great (\$5 contribution) re Clipperton

Casper, WY ARC: Am returning the Clipperton show -- it was well received by all in attendance. I wish to thank you personally for your help and the Foundation help with slide shows for our ARC. I will continue to boost the NCDXF -- KB8KW

Conn DXA: Our meeting at ARRL Hq was a great success, tnx to the great slide show -- Clipperton was the best yet. Enclosed is a \$5 contribution to help repay your shipping costs.

Fox River Radio League: We had well over 50 members for the NCDXF Clipperton program. Everyone told me "it was a very good program." \$20 enclosed

Frankford Radio Club: Everyone really enjoyed these. Best EXPed slide show yet. Rusty did very nice job narrating . . .

Fraser Valley DXC: Many tnx for the great show of Lloyd & Iris in HC8, CE0. It was enjoyed by all. I handed out all of the literature you sent . . .

Greater Milwaukee DXA: We ran the slides last night and the group really enjoyed the program (Kingman)

Kansas City DXC: Showed the AHOC slides last night. Members very impressed. All copies of Foundation fliers were picked up.

Murphy's Marauders C C: Thanks a lot -- showed it at both Murphy's Marauders and Ct DXA meetings. Disappointed though that the JA half wasn't in English (Frankford Radio Club VHS)

New England DXCC: Everyone enjoyed the show and there is tremendous curiosity around the alleged murderers. Also, it was interesting to note the change in Rusty, W6OAT, because we saw him later in the day as part of this year's FO0XX presentation by W8TN.

Northern Arizona DXA: Enclosed is the Colvin program. We all enjoyed it very much.

North Jersey DXA: Thanks for the Kermadec slide show. It was very well received by the guys.

Pendelton ARC: Everything went fine with the show (Clipperton). It was much enjoyed by about 35 people -- mostly all hams and a few wives. We had a snow storm hit about mid-afternoon so several hams couldn't make it.

NEWS FROM YI1BGD

Plateau Amateur Radio Assoc.: Iris/Lloyd never do anything that is not first class as you know. Could we also use it for our 8th Annual Hamfest?

-- Sigi Reinhold, DL6QW

Section Manager for Puerto (also teaches radio): My sincere appreciation for the videos which were lots of help during my presentations in PR and St. Croix.

I again had the opportunity to visit YI1BGD for a couple of hours (Chief operator Majid, as well as Faris and Ali, were present).

Radio Amateur Technical Society: We really enjoyed this show. I think it is the best one you have sent our way. The show had a very good balance of ham radio and natural historic interest. Please give W6OAT a pat on the back for a job well done.

Most of the time was spent discussing ham radio topics, helping in QSL activities, and doing repair work at the station. Only one hour was left for a little bit of CW on 40m (Jan. 23, 1987, 1900 UTC). The station is in relatively proper condition, in view of the age of the equipment: the ATLAS 210 and the Drake R4/T4 with matchbox. The L4B-amplifier is out of operation at the moment, as there are difficulties with the high voltage supply. The antennas are doing a fine job: a 80/40 double dipole and the 20/15/10 TH-3 beam.

Radio Central Am R Group: Great show, best one yet (Clipperton w/\$10 donation). The only thing is that it was a bit long. I do not think hams can sit that long except in a pile up.

Sioux Falls ARC: Received the Clipperton slides and showed them December 30. Please pass on thanks to all involved in putting the show together. It is the best we have ever seen and the documentation is just great. We had about 25 at the meeting and they really enjoyed it. We may be enlisting some new members for the Foundation . . .

QSL business is a time consuming job (for about 5-10 thousand QSOs a year) and in addition the letter/parcel two way mailing is still not 100% reliable. I brought some 200 cards with me and the DARC QSL bureau will distribute them all over the world. By the end of January they had run out of cards, but the DX Family Foundation has promised to send some more of the pretty coloured YI1BGD ones. In addition our Bavarian DX Group (BDXG) will manage a reprint of the black and white YI1BGD cards already delivered in 1984.

South Texas AM Repeater Club: The club really enjoyed the movie (Colvin show). It was also shown at our Bayfest Family Festival where we had our emergency trailer on display.

Steubenville-Weirton ARC: The slide show was great! (Clipperton)

During the past months, there was confusion about the P.O. Box numbers in Baghdad: The official number of the radio club in the Scientific Center is still Box 5864. A letter to Callbook Inc., USA for correction of the error in the '87 callbook was mailed a few days ago. All other P. O. Box numbers are private ones of the various operators (e.g., 6100 for Saad, 7147 for Faris).

YI1BGD, YI1BIF, and YI4AY are the callsigns of the sole licensed club station in Iraq, located at the Scientific Center, Baghdad.

The official P. O. Box 5864 for QSLing should be used. On your QSL to the YI-station please identify the operator you have worked, because each member of the radio club in Baghdad is responsible for his part of QSLing. All other callsigns, sometimes to be heard on the air, are unauthorized operations.

LETTERS TO NCDXF

Robert Ferrero, W6RJ

Dear Bob:

The first Peter I Island DXpedition is now history. Their success in working all parts of the world was quite reasonable, as far as we can judge from this far corner of the world. Considering the fact that this was the first major DXpedition for the LA boys, they must be heartily congratulated.

Along with the many others to be commended, we would like to thank all of you at the NCDXF for providing what is the largest single contribution ever made to an amateur radio DXpedition. The role played by the NCDXF in the overall success of the operation is fully recognized in our country and we hereby enclose our check of US \$800 to offset a small part of NCDXF funding for the Peter I Island operation. The amount is part of the total sum collected from more than 100 OH DXers and is the balance of US \$1000 committed directly to the LA-DX-Group.

We sincerely hope that the Foundation will find other interesting projects to be supported. We just need more because . . . DX Is!

Best regards,

Ossi Lehvas, OH3YI
Jari Jussila, OH2BU
Martti Laine, OH2BH
Jarmo J. Jaakola, OH2BN

* * *

Eric Edberg, W6DU

Dear Eric,

Let me first thank you and the Foundation very much indeed for the huge financial support to LA-DX-GROUP. My opinion, which I share with others, is that no operation would have taken place without the support from the Foundation. NCDXF's support gave many DX organizations and DX minded hams an opportunity to assist the expedition. All help was needed in order to carry out the expedition, but we could not have asked the small organizations for funds and equipment before NCDXF had approved our application for funds.

I must admit that I was nervous from the day it was decided to go for Peter I Island. As you know, there were so many things which could happen in a negative way, like voyage delay, bad weather, too much packice at the island, no suitable place to camp -- result: no operation at all. Fortunately, all which was necessary for a safe landing and an operation happened. I can assure you that I slept much better as soon as we had received this message: "We are going to stay 10 days!"

. . .

Best regards,
Arnfinn Kristoffersen, LA8CJ

HELP WANTED

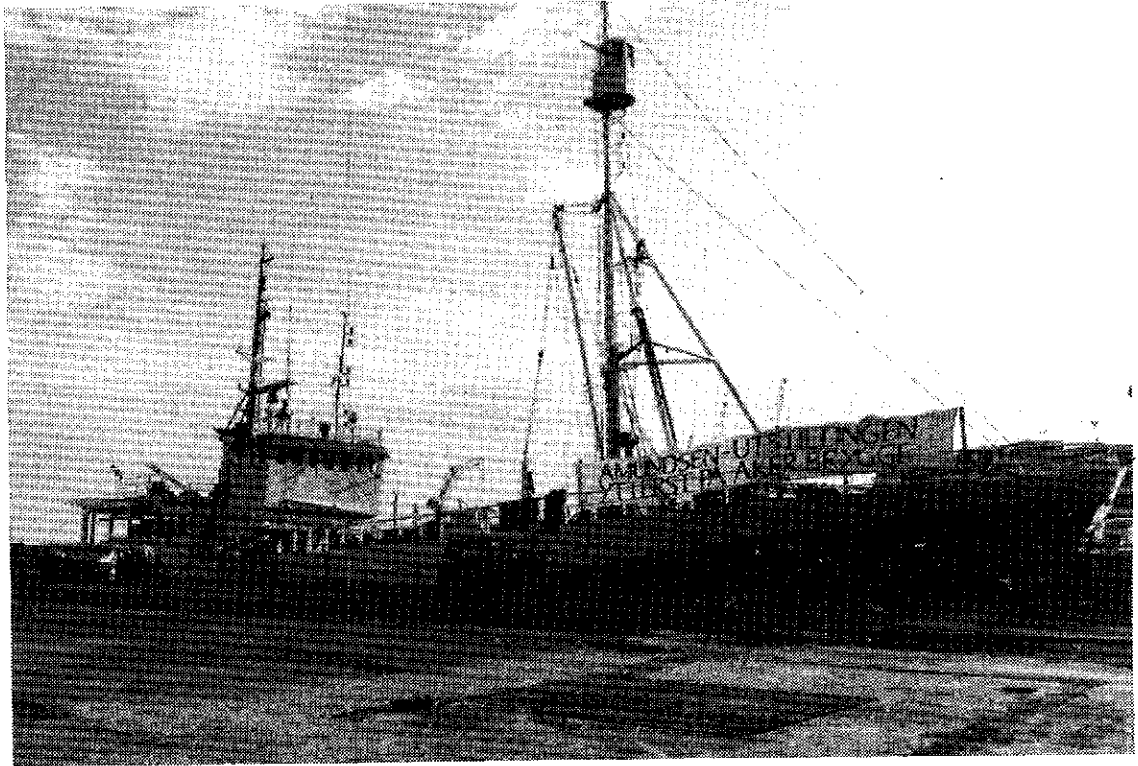
A note from Ted, K1BV, a well-known DXer and award hunter, requests help in preparing an up-to-date Awards Directory. Ted now has some 300 awards on his computer listing and would like details of national, state and club awards.

Tom emphatically notes that this is not a commercial venture as he feels awards are an important part of the hobby and wants to see more promulgated with their rules.

Information should be forwarded to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 525 Foster Street, Windsor, CT 06074, USA.

PETER I ISLAND

LA8CJ kindly sent along the following photographs of Einar, LA1EE and Kaare, LA2GV, as they set off on the historic expedition to Peter I Island in January 1987.



Aurora at the Oslo harbor --
July 1986



LA5UF, LA1EE, LA2GV, LA8XM, LA6VM



Einar, LA1EE and Kaare, LA2GV



ODE TO PETER 1 ISLAND EXPEDITION
(JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1987)

BY FRANCES GALE, XYL OF G3UJE

ADAPTED BY LA4LN TO THE MELODY "OLEANNA".

I WISH THAT I WERE GIFTED WITH THE PATIENCE OF A SAINT
TO SHOW ENCOURAGEMENT, COMPASSION, HUMOUR AND RESTRAINT,
TO D(E)LIVER ENDLESS SANDWICHES AND CAKES AND CUPS OF TEA,
IN ORDER SO THAT HE CAN STAY TUNED TO 3Y1EE.

REFRAIN: "3Y1EE AND 3Y2GV
LA-DX-GROUP AT PETER 1 ISLE QRZEE..."

HE CREEPS IN BED AT HALF PAST TWO AND OUT AGAIN AT FOUR.
WHAT USED TO BE MY HUSBAND'S NOW A SHADOW THROUGH THE DOOR.
IMPATIENT AND FRUSTRATED, VERY TIR(E)D AND GETTING HOARSE,
HE WOULD BE PLEASED WITH ANY CONTACT, SSB OR EVEN MORSE!

REFRAIN.

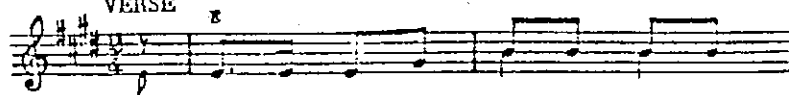
THEN JOY AND JUBILATION, 'CAUSE OM'S AIR WAVES HAVE GOT THROUGH,
HE'S HAD HIS QSO CONFIRMED - EVEN ON 80 METRES TOO!
SO THEN IF ANY OTHER XYLs WANT OMs WITH A SMILE,
MAKE SURE YOU HELP YOUR OM TO GET THROUGH TO THAT WRETCHED PETER ISLE!

REFRAIN.

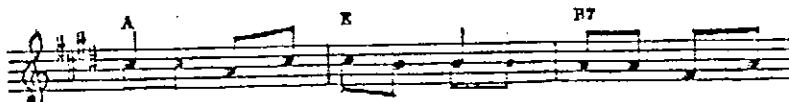
OLEANNA

English Lyrics by PETE SEEGER
Based on a Traditional Norwegian Song

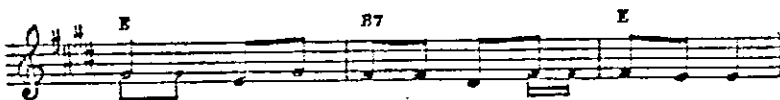
Lustily VERSE



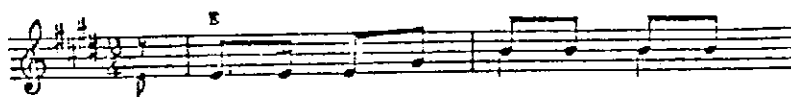
1. I wish that I were gif- ted with the



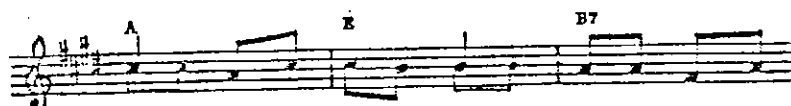
pa- tience of a sa- int To show en- cou- rage-



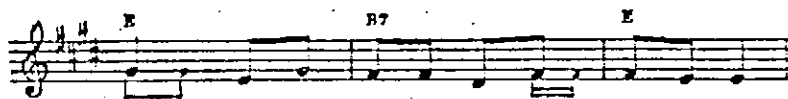
ment, com- pas- sion, hu- mour and re- stra- int.



To d(e)li- ver end- less sand- wich- es and



cakes and cups of te- a, In or- der so that

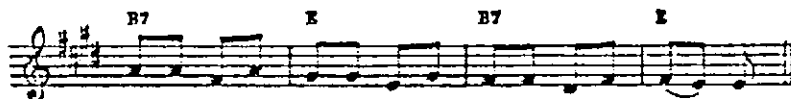


HE can stay tuned to 3 Y 1 E E.

CHORUS



" 3 Y 1 E E and 3 Y 2 G V



L A D X GROUP at Pe-ter 1 Isle Q R Z- e- e... "

EXPEDITION TO ST. PETER & ST. PAUL ROCKS

--Ron, PV1BVY/ZY0SB

Just back from St. Peter/St. Paul Rocks and happy for results, although never imagined hard job we met there . . . hi!

We went to the rocks on board a fisherman's boat, no comfort at all, ("not even closets" . . .) in a 5 day trip from Recife (PY7), an extremely disagreeable and tiresome "puff-puff" way, oil smoke still in my nose . . .

It was a 13.50 by 4 meter boat, not fit for that kind of seas, so we cannot talk about that or severe consequences may come to the "Skipper," his license fit for smaller trips by the coast, not for such kind of real adventure . . .

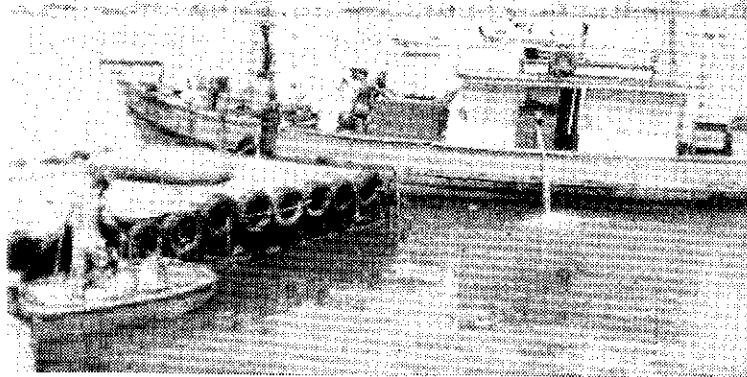
Erosion is certain finishing with St. Peter/St. Paul Rocks, and we think it's just a matter of time . . . and the Rocks will disappear, especially because its volcano origin mean a permanent question mark, who knows what to come?

We were there when the Rocks "trembled" for a second, sure frightening us.

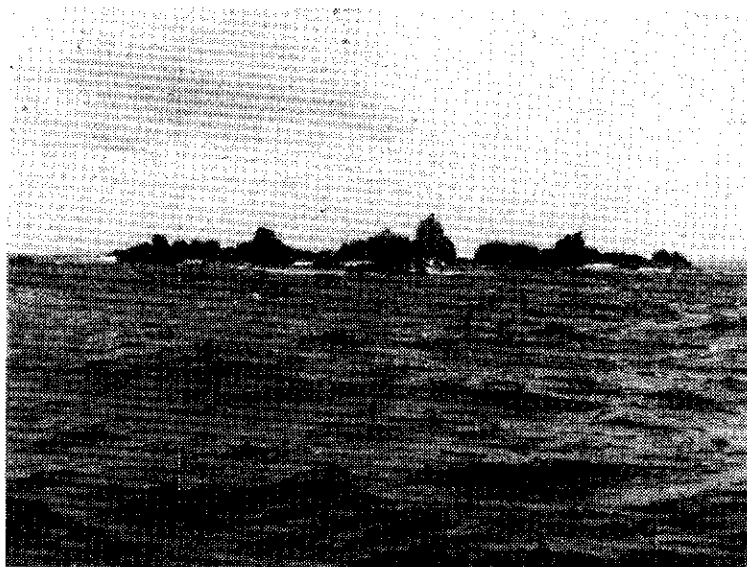
Landing is extremely dangerous, with the help of a small rowing boat, and jumping the moment waves 4.5 to 5 meters raise the boat to landing possible site. GO! NOW! and if you lose your step . . . hesitation grows higher and higher!

The Rocks are a bunch of 6 to 7 volcano stones, some appearing and disappearing according to waves, with a large one some 70 meters long and about 15 meters wide, its highest peak at about 18 to 20 meters, where we stood for ten days.

A thousand shaped volcano soil, sharp edges at all stones, the most uncomfortable



The boat



The rocks



The operators: PY1BVY and PY1ZT

site I've ever been! Not even the slightest comfort of a flat place to a perfect footstep!

A hard canvass as shelter (first one was torn to pieces the first strong puff . . .), equipment placed on a telescoping legged table (Hellas, this worked fine . . .), generator some three meters down, and ten days operations costing expeditioners three kilos less weight each . . .

Sea birds, crabs and bird lice, withering winds, equatorial rains, interrupting operations, this to give you an idea of the whole thing!

An incredibly strong sun and insolation as a permanent menace forced us to constant "bathing," this being done during retiring waves on the rocks, water taken from some small pools, and a leather hat used to drop water on our heads and bodies.

As a voracious kind of fish, "the guines" was all around the rocks, no swimming or diving tempted us, any living bait coming close to the rocks was torn to pieces in seconds . . .

All goods and equipment, including a 66 kilos Montgomery Generator, were landed through a rope tied to the rocks, to the mast of the boat, and pulled by crew's seven members . . . Food was powder milk, dry soup, coffee, biscuits, dehydrated banana marmalade, and drinking water.

Rigs/etc.: Yaesu FT 101E, FT7b, FT 901DM, FC 901, 101B VFO (damaged), MFJ Keyer and smaller items were used for CW and SSB operations, 6025 total QSO, 4014 CW and 2011 SSB, 10/15/20/40/80 and 160 meters being operated, better prop. for 15 and 20 meters, 87 countries SSB and 86 CW mode, 6 Continents for both, or best:



The shack



The CWRJ CW Group plaque

THE ZS3Z OPERATION -- DECEMBER 1986

--Chris R. Burger, ZS6BCR

Bands (meters)	10	15	20	40	80	160
No QSO	SSB 21	871	948	102	46	23
	CW 92	908	1301	831	354	528
Total Parc.	113	1779	2249	933	400	551

Total Score: 6,025 QSO
 Dates: Feb 23 through
 Mar 4, 1987
 Operators: PY1ZT, Paul
 PY1BVY, Ron

MODES	SSB	CW
No. QSO	2011	4014
Countries	87	86
Continents	6	6

Worked/Days
SSB = 9
CW = 8

Operating kept on until generator ran empty, 172 liters of gas spent and one of plastic drums almost taken by waves.

Pulling all back to the boat, using again ropes tied to the rocks and to the mast, took close to three hours, weather changing dangerously forcing the boat to get off, and leaving Paulo PY1ZT and one member of the crew who were at the rocks, no other choice than diving into a high wave and swimming back to the boat.

These were, no doubt, the most terrible moments (seeming centuries) for us at the boat, our thoughts tied to the voracious "guineses!" Thanks God both came safe to the boat . . .

I was just finishing these lines when I got a telephone call from the "Skipper," in Recife, telling me he had been there again and couldn't even recover the 225 ft stretched long wire from the Rocks, tremendous waves and terrible weather now there . . . just after we left!

Cards are being printed, with NCDXF "logos" printed too. All QSL cards via Ron, Box 1502 Niteroi, BRASIL 24000.

After the previous operation of ZS3Z, it started looking as if the next operation would have to wait for a while. However, just about a year later some of the local VHF men suggested that it would be nice to work ZS3 on 6m, as no one has worked it on that band since the new VHF award was introduced in this country, starting at the beginning of 1986.

It then unexpectedly turned out that both Chris Burger, ZS6BCR, and Willem Hoek, ZS6G, would be available for a few days toward the end of December, and planning started in a hurry for an operation from ZS3 at that time. DX newsletters were alerted, and we started looking for transport.

Arrangements seemed to be according to plan, and we managed to pick up an old Piper Aztec at a good rate. Everything seemed perfect. We had legal limit transmitters for HF, including backup, and about 80W on 50 MHz. We had a tribander, a vertical for 7 MHz, six elements for 50 MHz and enough wire for the other bands. We were hoping to have something better on the low bands, and Butternut generously offered us a vertical for 40, 80 and 160 which would fit the bill nicely. However, shipping arrangements went astray, and the antenna has had to be kept in reserve for the next trip.

When we arrived in Windhoek, we were astounded. It turned out that the whole city closes down for the holidays; we could not even hire a car from #1 or #2! Apparently, the heat of the semi-desert drives everyone to the cooler Atlantic coast for a few days, and no one was in town. We were stranded, as even the people we had made arrangements with had left home.

A few telephone calls to get information on a place to stay turned up nothing. In desperation, we called Kosie, ZS3E, in Outjo. He did not only have information, as we had hoped, but also offered us the use of an unused property west of the town, complete with 2 5kVA diesel generators! We immediately flew up to Outjo, and started setting up shop.

I tell my friends that we were offered a fly-catcher which automatically rings a bell if it has caught a kilogram of flies, but we turned it down because we feared that it would interrupt the pile-ups too often! We had a station going for 4 bands by midnight, even though it was almost impossible to see our eyelids through the flies. We got a few hours of sleep, and then worked ZS6WB on 50 MHz for a new South African meteor scatter record. We then started working on 40, and got the other antennas sorted out during the day. By nightfall, we were ready on all bands.

Conditions were terrible, but we managed to work trickles of stations most of the time. CW turned out to be the most efficient mode in this respect, because of the low signal levels.

Many stations asked about low band activity, and we had to disappoint them on 1.8 MHz. However, we managed to work quite a few stations on 3.5 MHz. This deserves special mention. During the last day, the generator, which had been working perfectly for the whole time, started losing speed. We then revved it manually to regain speed, and switched the equipment back on. This happened several times during the night, requiring a barefoot trip in darkness to the generator. On returning from one of these trips, Chris found the exciter inoperative. The voltage fluctuations had apparently been too much for the poor rig! The worst part is that a run of 2 stations per minute on 80 had been interrupted by this breakdown.

A standby exciter was quickly commissioned, requiring battery power and a rather unorthodox switching system (designed and built in about 3 minutes), rather inhibitive of smooth transceive operation. But, alas, the battery had been driving the 6m beacon, and gave up after only a few contacts. So, we were listening to about a dozen loud signals calling, and no transmitter to go back to them! Our apologies to N4KB, whom we were about to call when the station finally quit.

Our battery charger was unfortunately not up to the task, so the station had to be abandoned about 4 hours earlier than anticipated. This is a pity, as conditions were noticeably better than on the previous three days.

The backbone band was 40m, where we managed to work stations just about throughout the hours of darkness, and well after sunrise. Ten was empty, but quite often the beacons could be heard from Europe. However, CQs raised nothing.

We had runs on 7 MHz CW for about 3 hours from 0100Z to 0400Z every morning, and every morning they were terminated in the same way. Act I: ZS3Z sits on 7000.5, with the whole world and his uncle calling about 500 Hz up. Then, another DXpedition in the Indian Ocean sets up shop on 7001 without asking, and listens up. Act II: ZS3Z drifts around the band, looking for a place to sit. So that's how it is done!

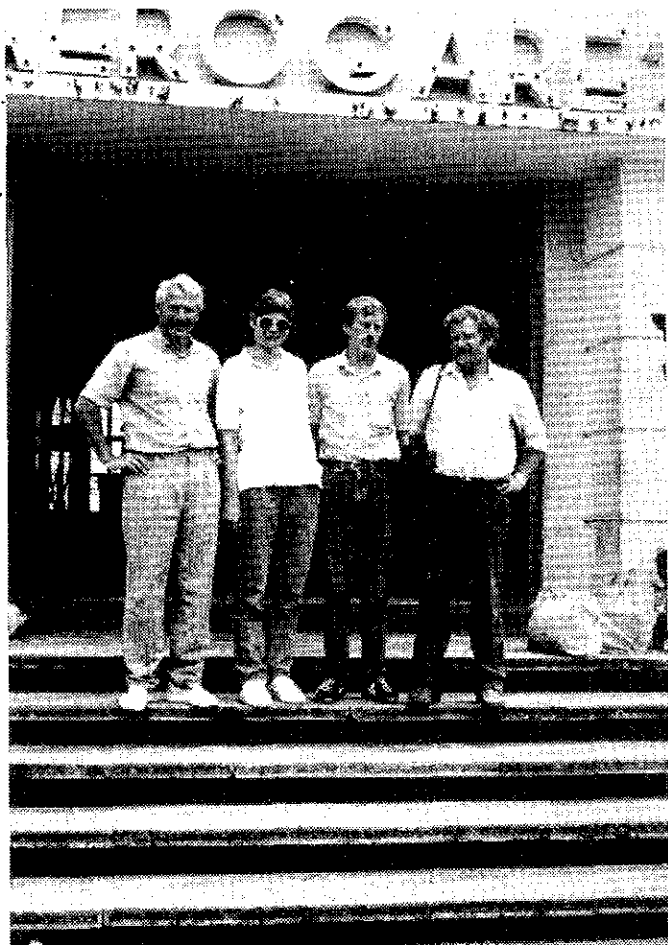
On the way back from Outjo, we stopped over for a night in Windhoek. During the stop, we again set up a 50 MHz station, and contacted four ZS6s via meteor scatter, giving them each a new square.

Along with the exciter that caused our untimely silence, something else must be written on Murphy's account: we took two rolls of film, especially for reports like this, and both rolls were swallowed by a hungry developing machine in a department store. So, again we have no pictures. We

even had a picture with ZS-EAL (the Aztec), ZS3E, ZS6G and ZS6BCR/ZS3Z, in order of age!

We would very much like to thank the NCDXF for the invaluable support. Without it, the operation would most definitely not have been possible. The many QSL requests from stations needing the card for a new country indicate that it is very much worthwhile. Also, our thanks go to ZS3E, who also rendered invaluable assistance.

Incidentally, while we have proven that one can easily stack a whole portable station into a twin-engined aircraft, have you hear that they are planning to build an airstrip on Marion Island?



DJ9ON, DF3KX, DK9KX
and DF9KH

SAO TOME -- OCTOBER 1985

--Hans Hannapel, DK9KX

In March 1983, DF3KX Anne, DF9KH Rolf, DJ9ON Dieter, and DK9KX Hans, together with DL8CM Harry, and PY7DY Theo, were on St. Peter and Paul Rocks (CYO, ZSD, ZSE, ZSF, ZSG, ZSH) and in four days made 11,514 QSO's. We concluded that a wait of over two years for another DXpedition was more than enough; various plans, including Baker/Howland and others, were made and cast aside.

In March 1985 the government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe turned to the [German] Worker's Samaritan League, an organization for providing social and technical assistance, with a plea for support. In the meantime a garbage truck had been sent to Africa and a fire engine was on the way. Hans (DK9KX), a co-worker in the League, came smartly to attention when he realized that S9 was 13th place among the most sought-after countries. But how could one get a visa when at that time the two countries had no diplomatic relations? The news from Brussels was that no tourist visas were being granted. After many an air letter here and there and several personal visits by Hans to Brussels, we finally had the word that we were officially invited as guests of the state.

On the day our visas were issued Luiz, S92LB, appeared on the air. Flights to the amount of \$8000 (US) had been booked; was it all in vain? The plans were so far advanced that after long discussions we decided to go -- no matter what.

By the 5th of October we were this far along: departure from Dusseldorf; 8th of October we were in the sultry tropics of Sao Tome. Yes, we were there, but where was the reception?! No word about guests of the state; no one knew who we were. As good fortune had it, we had with us the

entire correspondence, and after a number of hours, the authorities began to concern themselves a bit over a license? "We don't believe that that is possible!" After two days in various ministries, everything was in order. License 1/1985 and 2/1985 for Hans (DK9KX) and Dieter (DJ0ON). We started setting up immediately, but no QSOs resulted as there was no "juice" there. It took another couple of hours to take everything down in order to move. But once again, what a disappointment in the new lodging! No electricity, no water, impossible for DXpedition. Once again, Hans and Dieter sat in the ministry. After three hours negotiations we had a new residence with running water and -- sometimes -- electricity. The antennas were set up once again and we were able to make the first contacts on October 10. We used one ICOM IC 720A, two Fritzel GAP30 antennas, an FD4 and an 80/40 meter dipole.

Here was the regimen for two weeks: sleep on the floor, fighting off the vermin, with the rats rustling outside. electricity only between 0530-0800 and 1730-0100 (and not always then!), in between times occasionally for short periods.

The periods without juice were taken up with official visits, conferences at the ministries, sightseeing or simply boring laziness. There was no question of vacation; it was the rainy season -- tropical downpours, and always 90-95% humidity.

Our totals in the few hours that we were able to operate: 12,500 QSOs; 7000 CW, 5500 SSB, all bands 10/80 M, including 4000 US stations, 4000 Japanese, the rest Europe, South America and Africa.

What struck us most? In the middle of the pile ups where we were trying to give everyone a new country, standing questions: when CW? when SSB? when 10M? when 80/160M? when RTTY? . . . Should we

have constantly QSY'd? Isn't it enough to work such a rare country on 20 and 40 -- must it also be 160M? In spite of the fact that there was a substantial expenditure and that it was a very productive DXpedition, we can't really say we had a "nice vacation." Three weeks vacation time that could have been devoted to the family, strenuous operation and somewhat less than ideal living circumstances have brought us to the following conclusion: those who were able to contact us while sitting comfortably at home, for perhaps a new DXCC country, could at least have had the courtesy and taken the trouble to send us his QSL in an envelope. The goodwill to do this would have been taken as thanks by us. All our cards are sent thus.

Actually, we had much pleasure in the operation and will, when the finances permit, soon be QRV in another rare country. Incidentally, Dieter still needs \$9 on CW; how do we handle that?!

I would especially like to thank the NCDXF for its generous support, as well as the many OM's who added a little donation to their QSLs.



ZONE 2 -- VE2LJ

--Kent Chown, VE2LJ

You know you are in the North when the person who takes your boarding pass, is the person who loads the luggage, is the person who flies the plane.

You know that you are in CQ Zone 2 when the Northern California DX Foundation donates an amplifier and the last fifteen kilometres of its journey is by skidoo.

I arrived in Harrington Harbour, Quebec, Canada in July of 1985 to take up my first post as a newly-ordained minister. Harrington Harbour is a fishing village of about 400 people on Quebec's upper north shore, opposite the west coast of Newfoundland. The village is on a small island in the Harrington group (check your IOTA list). I run the United Church in Harrington, and take turns on the other islands with the Anglican and Catholic priests.

Harrington's real claim to fame among radio amateurs is that it sits 29'30" north of the 50th parallel, and so just barely makes it into CQ Zone 2, one of the rarer zones for WAZ chasers. Zone 2 includes northern or "Nouveau" Quebec (VE2), Labrador (VO2) and the eastern islands of the North-West Territories (VE8). There aren't many people in this huge area, and very few hams.

I became a ham at age 17 in 1977 with the call VE3JKC. At that time, I ran 2 watts out from an HW-8 and a five-wavelength per leg rhombic at my family's farm in Arnprior, Ontario. I worked a lot of ZLs on 15 metres with that rhombic and QRP.

I was active from VE3UDO at the University of Ottawa and VE2UN at McGill University, Montreal for a number of years. There I met VE2ZP and VE1BHA who got me interested in contesting. John, VE1BHA, convinced me to try sending with my

left hand leaving my favoured right hand for logging. I've been following his advice for a few years now, and if you can't copy my sending, blame John.

I spent a year in Hong Kong as VS6KD and four months in Jamaica as VE3JKC/6Y5. On completing my studies, I returned to Canada and received my first posting, Harrington Harbour. I spent a few months signing VE3JKC/2, then VE2FGG for a few more months. Since this spring, I have been operating as VE2LJ. This will be my call for the rest of my time here.

I arrived at Harrington with a TA-33 borrowed from VE3IQ, a small rotor, some pipe, 1000 feet of wire, some coax, an Icom 745, an MFJ Grandmaster Memory Keyer, and at least three years in Zone 2 ahead of me. The boat pulled in at 4:00 a.m. one morning and by 6:00 p.m., I had the tribander up on a very short mast and I was on the air.

Thanks to NCDXF, I now have a Hammond HL-1000 amplifier. As it stands at the moment, my station is as follows: Icom 745, Hammond HL-1000 amplifier, MFJ Grandmaster memory keyer, TA33 at 40 feet, and dipoles on the lower bands.

NCDXF also helped out with the costs of QSL cards. My QSL manager for my operations as VE2LJ, VE2FGG and VE3JKC/2 is:

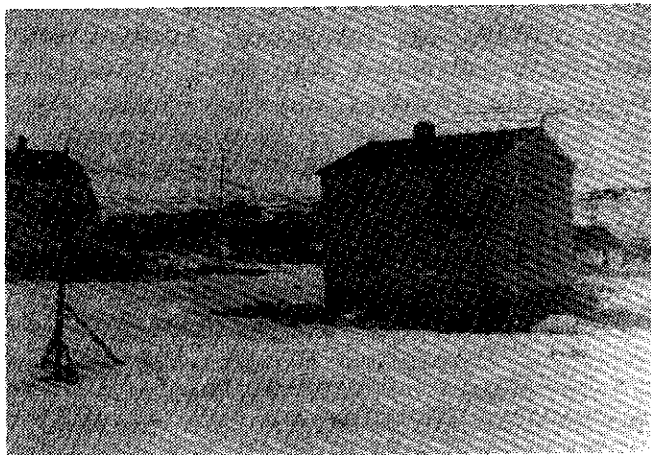
John Brummell, VE3JDO
P.O. Box 880
Stittsville, Ont.
K0A 3G0, Canada

I would like to thank NCDXF for the support they have given me. I hope my activities will help bring WAZ and 5BWAZ chasers that much closer to their goals. If I can help you with skeds, I am only too happy to. You can contact me through John, on the air, or by phone at (418) 795-3335.

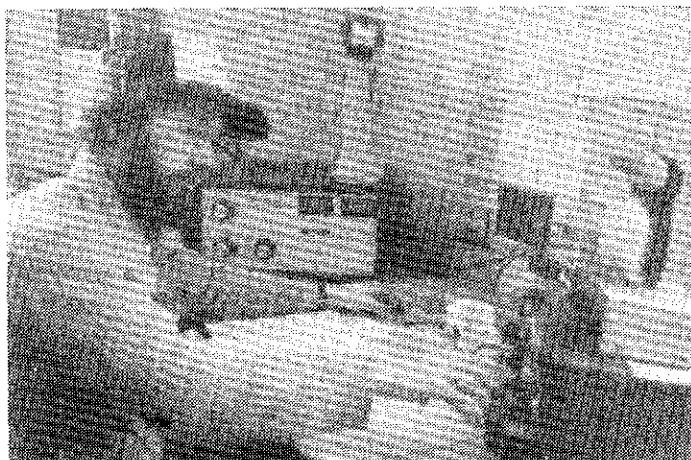
In the past year, I have made about 4000 QSOs between work, some equipment

problems, and trying to get my station in proper running order. Now I'm quite regularly active, spending most of my time in the lower 10 kHz of 160 through 10 metres, in CW contests and once in a while on phone.

You know you are in trouble when the freezing rain starts pouring down and you are in another village . . . and even more so when you are still stuck the next day and the winds are coming up to 80 kph blowing on the wires thickened by 4 cm of freezing rain. You know it's true when you get home and the yagi has only 1-1/2 elements.



VE2LJ QTH



VE2LJ and station

5T5XX -- NOVEMBER 1986

--Bernd Langer, DL1VJ

Last summer (1986) I was invited by Lothar (then 5T5SL, ex-9X5SL) to visit him during CQWW CW in Mauritania/West Africa in November. Lothar, who is living not far from my home in West Germany, spent a couple of months in downtown Nouakchott, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, working there in developing aid for the government. I'm studying Mining Engineering in my third year, so arranging to take 2 weeks off was no problem.

Along with a fishing rod for a 7 MHz 1/4 wave-vertical and some 100 meters of wire in my backpack, I flew out from Paris with a DC-10 on November 20 after a couple of hours delay. I was told afterwards that there was a big sandstorm going on in Nouakchott, which made landing impossible.

Licensing is no problem in Mauritania: you just need two photos, a copy of your home license, \$50 fee and three days.

While waiting for the license I had plenty of time left to check out the beach. Due to numerous invitations by local people, the Mauritanian kitchen turned out to be quite exotic for the European taste.

Operation started on November 24, 40m CW, first QSO with DF1VQ. Unfortunately, I had to reduce the power down to 30 watts, because Lothar, who left Mauritania just two weeks after me, already sold the equipment (TS-430) and I had to take care of it seriously now -- by the way, it survived, even after 9000 QSOs and a 48-hour contest.

During the contest I was able to use a 1KW amplifier on all bands, which helped a lot to improve my signal on 160 and 80 where I had dipoles at a height of only 30

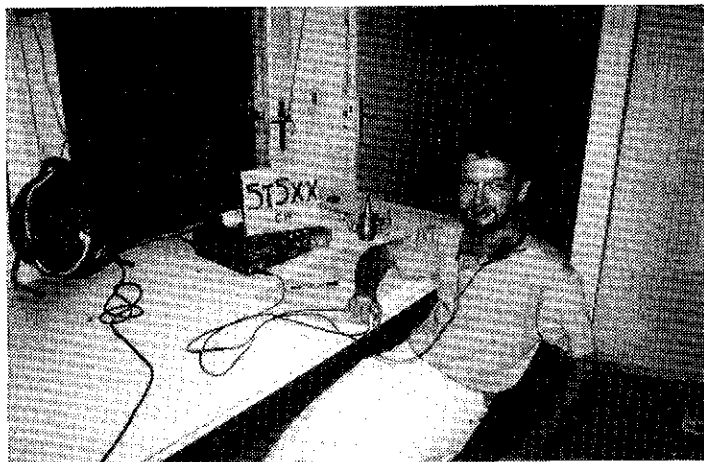
feet. I noticed quite a big request on those bands -- what a pity that I had no possibility to fix the dipoles higher. Nevertheless, 80m brought several excellent openings to W6. Most of the QSOs were made on 40m with a well-performing 1/4 wave-vertical on the flat roof. A 3 element tribander gave me a good signal on the HF bands.

After 10 days as 5T5XX, 9000 CW QSOs in the log, lots of invitations and many new experiences, I went QRT on December 4, three hours before my flight left back to good old Europe.

I want to thank everybody who made this trip a success, especially the Foundation who gave me financial support.

QSLs for this and all future activities by DL1VJ go to my home address:

Bernd Langer, DL1VJ
Schlossbergstr. 3
D-6603 Sulzbach/Saar
West Germany



DL1VJ/5T5XX

DX'ERS OF THE FUTURE?

The ARRL 1986 National Convention, held in San Diego, placed an item on the agenda that was so successful it will become an annual event.

The event was a Youth Forum, attended by 150 enthusiasts, consisting of five panelists of notable names including Dr. Anthony "Tony" England, WOORE, Gordon West, WB6NOA, a well-known teacher and technical writer, Jerry Boyd, KG6LF, Chief of Police for the City of Coronado in California, teenager Scott Spingate, N7DDM, a Contributing Editor for QST, and Harold Price, NK6K, a computer communications consultant who has an avid interest in amateur satellites.

It was interesting to read the report of how some of these amateurs began their hobby and their general remarks. Interesting was Gordon's question to the gathering: "What was the hardest part of getting your amateur license?" Some answered "the code," others "the technical part." Gordon accepted neither answer. His answer: "Getting to your first class lesson."

Scott was licensed at the age of 11, through the help of a local amateur. He wrote to QST complaining there was nothing in the magazine to attract or interest young people. You guessed it, he got the job!

Jerry, an enforcer of law and order, feels that amateur radio helps a person in three ways -- Friendship, Public Service and Career Guidance. Jerry stated that he got started and progressed in his career because of the hobby. He said that no matter what field you choose today, communications and electronics are an integral part of it -- insurance, teaching, banking or being a doctor -- it doesn't matter what field. If you have the kind of

background the hobby gives you, you will do well.

Tony became interested around the age of 13, when he frequented an amateur radio store in Fargo, South Dakota. Other amateurs frequented the store too and he learned a lot from them. He got his license and bought an old receiver, and his pals helped him build a simple transmitter. Tony said: "I was always building junk and most of it didn't work, but I learned a lot doing it."

If anyone has got this far they are probably asking themselves what this has to do with DXing. As a columnist and dedicated to the hobby, I feel it has a lot to do with it as, where are our DXers and amateurs of the future going to come from? Are we going out and seeking to introduce the younger generation to a different form of electronics than what they are accustomed to in a pinball machine? Are we being selfish by not going into the schools at primary level and introducing the "magic" of a worthwhile and rewarding hobby? I feel we are and if we don't do something positive in the immediate future, by the turn of the century, there will be few VKs who are DXers, or for that matter, amateurs!

[Thanks to Ken McLachlan, VK3AH, and his "How's DX" column in Amateur Radio, March 1987, for the above article and the one that follows.]

SAINT HELENA

The much sought after DXCC country of small Saint Helena Island is 122 square kilometres in area, has a population just in excess of 5000 and is located 1850 kilometres from the west coast of Africa.

The island was discovered on May 21, 1502, the Feast Day of St. Helena (mother of the Roman Emperor, Constantine), by Joao da Nova Castella, a Portuguese navigator. The island was known to other seafarers of the era, particularly the captain and crew of a Dutch East India vessel, the Witte Leeuw who lay at anchor in St. Helena's James Bay, when she was ambushed by Portuguese vessels in 1613. According to reports of the time, the vessel was blown to pieces.

The Witte Leeuw was returning from the Far East and, according to her manifest apparently carried by a sister vessel, was carrying a full cargo of spices, 1311 diamonds and other valuables such as jewels and Chinese porcelain. This was not too much of a challenge for Robert Stenuit, a man renowned for his study of researching wrecks and an experienced diver. Armed with ample research that gave him the history of the vessel and backed by a crew of experts just over a quarter of a century ago, he decided to seek the remains of the Witte Leeus and the treasures she contained.

Robert, and later his crew, dived in James Bay, eventually finding and verifying the wreck. They found an abundance of porcelain, jade and other valuables scattered for several metres around the wreckage, but no diamonds. Upon further research and assistance, they realised the truth in the statement "blown to pieces." The diamonds had been scattered and covered by the sands of time -- an impossible task to find the majority, sheer luck to find one! (Incidentally, the majority of the recovered pottery now graces Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and has proved valuable in

establishing the authenticity of antiques fired before and after that era.) It is thought that most of the salvaged collection came from Chingtechen, where a century later a travelling Jesuit priest reported that 18,000 potter families kept 3000 kilns burning.

The English East India Company claimed ownership of St. Helena in 1659, after a brief Dutch occupation. In 1673, the Company again confirmed their ownership and it was estimated that half the population were imported slaves. It was not until 1836 that the slaves were freed.

It is not generally known that, due to the remoteness, Saint Helena was the ideal location to place exiled Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, in 1815. The English took control of the island until his death in 1821 and it was handed back to the East India Company until 1834, when the English again took possession.

The island was reasonably prosperous until the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, which dramatically changed the trend of shipping routes.

During WWII, this tiny island, even though it could not support an airfield, was of significant importance to the allies.

In 1960, it was decided to place a telecommunication centre on Ascension Island which provided employment for some of the island's inhabitants.

In 1966, royal instructions, through an Order in Council, gave St. Helena a considerable measure of self-rule, becoming effective on New Year's Day, 1967.

The island is of volcanic origin, though any activity is now extinct. An annual rainfall of 750 millimetres in the centre of the island, tailoring down to a mere 200 millimetres on the coast, falls on the undulating area of cliffs varying in an average height from 135 to 600 metres. The

highest points are Mount Actaeon and Diana Peak, which are approximately 820 metres above sea level.

The climate is temperate because of the Atlantic Ocean's trade winds and varies in temperatures of 21 to 29 degrees Celsius in summer to between 18 and 24 degrees Celsius around the coastal region. Higher areas of the island are approximately five degrees lower in all seasons.

The middle of the island is suitable for agriculture and forestry and support a native bush gorse (spiny evergreens shrub), cabbage palms, eucalypti of various species, willows, poplars, maize, potatoes and green vegetables. Rabbits, mice and an abundance of rats inhabit the island which has only one native bird, the wirebird, which can be likened to a small plover. Introduced species, plentiful though not abundant, include ground doves, ring-necked pheasants, partridges and Java sparrows. There are no fresh-water fish, but strangely, of the 65 varieties of salt-water species caught, 17 are peculiar to the island.

As less than one third of the mineral-free island is suitable for cultivation, the economy is strained and relies on the sale of carvings, fancy wood-work, and furniture made from timber grown in accessible areas and a fishing industry of mainly tuna, caught by trawlers out of the only port, Jamestown, which can accommodate vessels of any size.

In excess of two-thirds of the island's budget is subsidized by the United Kingdom, the balance being made up by the sale of lace, threadwork, beautiful stamps for which the island is renowned, frozen processed fish, woodwork and furniture.

The population consists of European (mainly British), intermingled with those of Asian and African descent, all speaking English, the only recognized language. The area, including the Dependencies of

Ascension and Tristan de Cunha, are now administered by a governor who is also the President of the Legislative Council, constituted by 12 elected members.

NCDXF
P. O. Box 2368
Stanford, CA 94305
U.S.A.

The area is catered for by a small hospital which supports a small medical and dental staff. Schooling is free, yet compulsory for children aged between five and 15. The Judiciary consists of a Chief Justice, Magistrate and elected Justices of the Peace.

For our European members, these items are also available from SMOAGD and G3ZAY.

NCDXF EXPEDITION SUPPORT

So, to those who are dedicated to going on DXpeditions, go to St. Helena Island, the island that's only bay probably holds a fortune, and combine a little diving with the radio! One diamond could finance a DXer's trip, including free QSL cards, for a lifetime. Any takers?

When the Foundation provides financial support for DXpedition activities to individuals or groups, we ask that the recipients provide three services in return:

NCDXF SALE ITEMS

The NCDXF offers for sale several items of interest to DXers. These items are provided at prices which just cover our cost of purchase, handling, and mailing. We can provide:

1. The NCDXF logo be prominently displayed on the QSL cards which the DXpedition has printed (we will provide camera-ready logo copy on request). Where we provide the major financial support for a DXpedition, we expect that fact to be specifically noted.

- NCDXF LOGO STICKERS -- these stick-on silver-colored logos, 1" in diameter are provided in rolls of 500. They can be purchased for \$6.00 per roll.

2. Six copies of the QSL cards issued be provided for the Foundation's archives.

- NCDXF LOGO PINS -- these handsome multi-colored enameled logo emblems are 5/8" in diameter, have a pin on the back and a slide-on clasp so they can be worn on a suit coat lapel or on a shirt pocket. They cost \$5.00 each.

3. Wherever feasible, color slides be taken of the local area natives, the flora and fauna, the antennas, the operating position, the operators and any other pictures that would be of interest in a slide show of the DXpedition. The slides should be compatible with a Kodak Carousel projector or equivalent. We also request that an audio tape be provided describing the slides (with a tone recorded for each slide change, if possible) so that we can have a synchronized audio-visual slide show. We would also like the slide sequence to include a slide with the NCDXF logo and one showing the QSL card used. The total slide show should not exceed 45 minutes in length.

Please specify which item you are ordering, the quantity desired and include your remittance for the total amount. Mailing and handling are included in the price. Orders should be sent to:

The Foundation will provide reimbursement for any costs incurred. The slide show will be added to the NCDXF library of programs for loan to DX clubs so that other DXers can enjoy your DXpedition experiences.

PETER I MOMENTO

A limited number of personalized, signed copies of an enlargement of the handsome color photograph of the PETER I QSL card is now available from the Foundation. Einar, LALEE, generously contributed the slide from which enlargements have been made. A signed print of this handsome photo was auctioned at the 1987 Visalia International DX Convention and was won by Howard Brainen, WZ6Z, with a bid of \$650.

Using the slide provided by LALEE, Howard, WZ6Z, made an exceptional contribution to NCDXF by offering to make two hundred color enlargements of this striking photograph. As a consequence, NCDXF is offering a maximum of two hundred, 13" x 19" enlargements mounted on an 18" x 24-3/4" background, each numbered and individually signed by LALEE.

One of these matted prints will be provided, postage paid, to the first two hundred persons who make a \$150 tax deductible contribution to the Foundation. This is a strictly limited edition. First come, first served.

Proceeds from this one-time offering will aid in replenishing funds expended by NCDXF on behalf of the Peter I expedition and make possible subsequent ventures of a like nature.

Orders should be placed with Foundation Secretary, Eric Edberg, W6DU, 461 Heather Court, Los Altos, CA 94022, USA.

MINIPROP AVAILABLE TO FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Shel Shallon, W6EL, is the author of MINIPROP, a propagation prediction program that has been written up in several magazines. Further information about MINIPROP is set forth below. Shel normally discourages people from asking him for copies, but has generously made an exception for Foundation members. A copy of the MINIPROP program can be obtained by sending Shel a blank formatted 5-1/4" diskette and a self-addressed, stamped diskette mailer. Be sure to state (1) whether you want MSD-DOS or CP/M format, (2) the computer you are using, and (3) that you are an NCDXF member.

Many thanks, Shel, for your kindness in making MINIPROP available to NCDXF members!

MINIPROP (TM) INFORMATION SHEET

MINIPROP version 2.0 is now available for 16-bit PC/MS-DOS systems and 8-bit CP/M systems. The PC/MS-DOS version will run on the IBM PC, clones, and compatibles having 128K of RAM memory. The CP/M version will run on machines using the CP/M 2.2, CP/M 3.0, and CP/M Plus operating systems that provide a TPA (user area) of at least 51K. An 80-column monochrome monitor is required. MINIPROP makes no use of color or graphics. MINIPROP will run on the CP/M-equipped Commodore 128, but not on the Commodore 64.

MINIPROP is not a BASIC program. No BASIC or other interpreter is needed. MINIPROP is written in Pascal and compiled into fast-running machine code. The Pascal source code is not available for distribution.

The MINIPROP package includes the MINIPROP program, 34 pages of on-disk documentation, and an atlas of latitudes and longitudes for over 350 locations.

When you run a MINIPROP prediction you are asked for the latitudes and longitudes of the path terminii, the date, and sunspot number or solar flux. MINIPROP atlas entries may be used in lieu of entering latitudes and longitudes. Your own QTH may be stored in a disk file so you do not have to enter it each time. Predicted short- and long-path signal levels on 5 frequencies of your choice, F-layer MUF, and E-layer cutoff frequency at 2-hour increments through the day are displayed on the screen. Predicted band openings are flagged. Beam headings, path length, and sunrise/sunset times for the path terminii are also displayed on the screen. You are given the option of sending the same information to your printer, but with predictions for each half hour instead of 2 hours. A DX Compass feature helps you determine which bands are open in 12 directions from your QTH at any time of day. There are built in provisions for editing the atlas, for viewing the documentation and sending it to your printer, for printing a customized table of great-circle bearings from your QTH to all of the atlas entries, and more.

MINIPROP is copyrighted to preclude commercial sale and distribution by other than the author. There is no restriction on non-commercial use and distribution, and users of MINIPROP are encouraged to give copies to their friends.

MINIPROP is a user-supported program. This means that if you find MINIPROP useful you should consider sending a contribution in the suggested amount of \$25.00 to the author.

73, Shel Shallon, W6EL
11058 Queensland Street
Los Angeles, CA
90034-3029

SPOTLIGHT ON FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Mike Weiler, GHSWL-69

Mike, GHSWL-69, sent along his new QSL card, the front of which is shown below. How did he come up with the idea of using his Foundation membership certificate as the front of his card? Mike's letter explains:

"Half a year ago I decided to get a QSL card printed for me. I always gave my reception reports printed as information sheets written with my computer. This "way" took me around three hours every week and sitting in front of the computer isn't what I call the right hobby. Hi . . . Listening is much better The problem began. What should my card show to amateurs from all over the world??

I have not got any large antenna systems and the equipment used over here is already well known all over the world. On the other side it would be difficult to show all the equipment on a small card. Myself? No, because I'm not pretty enough to be printed 3000 times. Hi Hi! What should the card show?

Big problem and I did often sit in my shack, thinking about it. No results during a long time. Terrible

One day I looked at all the cards (around 600) on the wall, trying to find any interesting motif. Some cards show nice ideas but it was not exactly what I've been looking for.

What was I looking for?

Not sure what it was until I saw the NCDXF Membership Certificate on the "award wall." That's it, I thought. Pretty, coloured and should be interesting for amateurs from all countries. I took it, gave it to the printing office and told the

holder what it should show on the front and backside. He said it would be no problem and I went back home with a happy feeling. (SWL spirit??) Today the cards arrived at my home. Sorry, they are not as good as they should be. I already had a talk with the printer and he promised that the next 2000 (1000 now) will be in better quality.

I hope you like my way of introducing NCDXF to amateurs from all over the world."

GHSWL-69

MEMBER



MEMBERSHIP IS HEREBY GRANTED TO:

MIKE WEILER

VOTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION.

MAR. 23, 1985 *Dr. Maxwell, W6CF*
Date No. 3040 Secretary

The Northern California DX Foundation, Incorporated, is dedicated to the encouragement of, and assistance to, those radio amateurs whose pioneering efforts involving new, unique or uncommon radio communications methods and procedures are in the public interest and/or of significant benefit to amateur radio.

MEMBER SUPPORTED

A NOTE FROM GARY, DF2RG

In 1984 and 1985, the Bavarian Contest Club was the most successful DX club worldwide (outside the USA) in the CQ WW DX Contest Club competition. To encourage contest activity, members of the East Bavarian DX Association and the Bavarian DX Group ran their own contest for the BAVARIAN CONTEST TROPHY. In 1984, EBDXA won the trophy, while in 1985 the BDXG had the larger score in the CQ WW.

In July 1986, the "ham radio", the largest European ham radio meeting, held at Friedrichshafen at Lake Constance in southwestern Germany, was the place to present this trophy to the BDXG. We were very lucky to find an appropriate person to handle this ceremony: one of the most famous DXers around the world, Erik Sjolund, SMOAGD.

Before and after the ceremony, we were in "heavy" conversation with Erik. DX was, DX is, DX will be . . .

Erik told us some real interesting stories about his numerous DXpeditions. He and his charming wife Eva are a really nice couple.

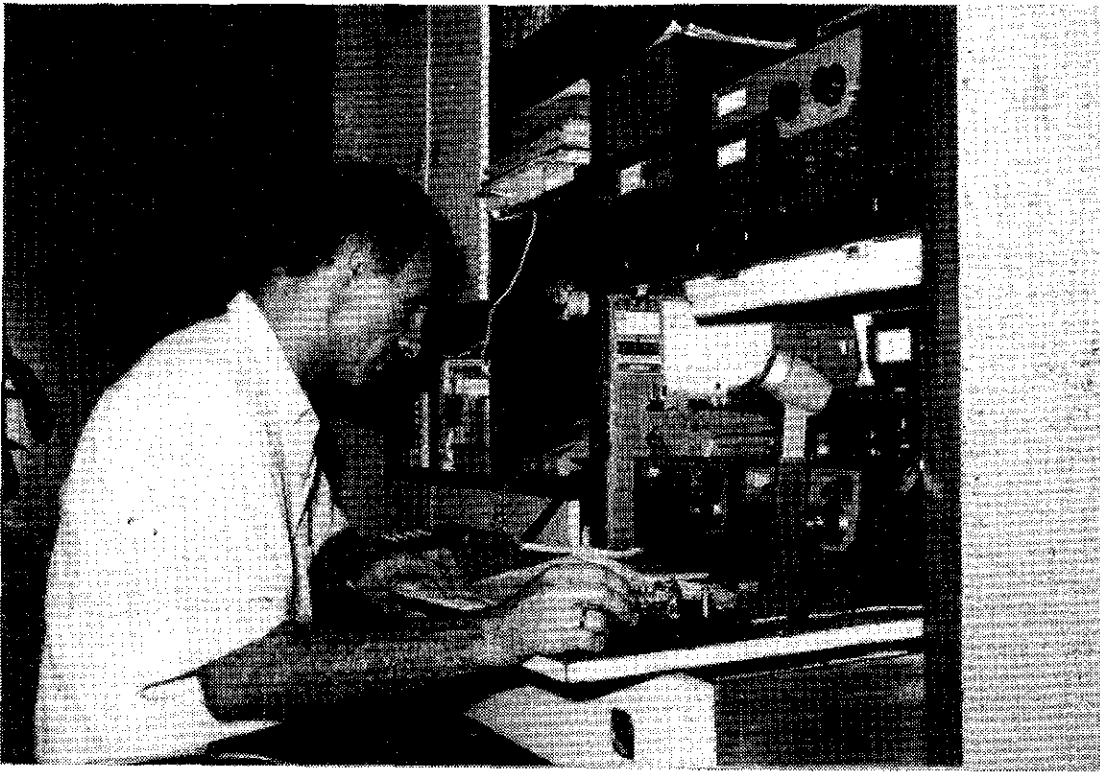
Afterwards, at the big DX'ers meeting, Erik showed a slide show about his Pacific DXpedition. In my opinion, this was a slide show no one will ever forget!

Erik and Eva



DK5RBW, DF5RA, DL4NAC, KL8OH
DF2RG, DL6RAI, SMOAGD, DF3CB,
DK6NP, DL7MAE, KL1MAJ, KB6PPE,
LX111





Inaki Alcorta, EA2IA

Ask any active contester which station always provides the EA multiplier and I'll bet all will answer in unison: EA2IA! Inaki Alcorta, EA2IA, is a world class contester whose contest accomplishments would take many pages to list. Among them are "first in the world" finishes in the ARRL DX Competition, CQWW, and ITU Competition, plus a host of "first in Europe finishes in these contests and the CQWPX.



Sandy Chelement, YO6VZ

Sandy, YO6VZ, holds the title of International Master of Sport in Romania. As the photograph reveals, Sandy is an active contester [note the CQ WW and JARL contest awards] and holds 5BDXCC No. 1902. Sandy is a member of many clubs and organizations and serves as Secretary of the Brasov County Radio Club.

AMATEUR RADIO IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

--Ross Forbes, WB6GFJ

My initial interest in tiny tropical islands of the South Pacific began back in the days when "Adventures in Paradise" was first on television. Later, I attended the University of Hawaii, and when not working on studies assigned by my physics professor (KH6IJ!), books on the history of Polynesia continued to call. In my spare time at UH, I also used to go down to the Ali Wai Yacht Harbor and listen to KH6AX recount stories about his sailing experiences around Tahiti, Huehine, Raiatea and Bora Bora. Finally, 1978 was my first opportunity to visit one of these islands, and I have been going there annually ever since.

My first stop is always on the island of Tahiti. French Polynesia is the "official" name of this spacious region. However, most of us refer to the country by the name of the main island, Tahiti. Located at 17.3 degrees south latitude, and 149.3 degrees west longitude, Papeete is the capital city, and is ten hours behind Universal Time. Customs and immigration formalities are minimal, but Amateur Radio operators should be prepared to declare their HF equipment. Simply have the serial number, make, model and cost available to complete a form, and you will be on your way.

Faaa airport, two miles from downtown Papeete, provides international facilities to the major Pacific air carriers. While it isn't the busiest airport, one can get into or out of Tahiti on most days of the week. International flight arrival times in Tahiti are usually very late at night, or very early in the morning. Therefore, it is normal to hear two or three jumbo jets arriving between two and five in the morning. Regular service between islands of French Polynesia happens during the day with F-27 type aircraft.

The official languages are French and Tahitian. However, visitors will find English spoken around the hotels and most areas you will visit. The climate is very tropical, with the Tahitian summer (December to February) being the wettest and most humid. Personally, I enjoy the Tahitian winter (July to September) with the cool evenings, warm days and very little rain.

Amateur Radio licenses are administered by the Office of Post and Telecommunications which is located in downtown Papeete, right on the waterfront. For visitors, obtaining an Amateur Radio license in Tahiti is not a problem. However, it is very important to apply four to six months prior to arriving. In North America, you can write to Nao Akiyama, N1CIX, at the American Radio Relay League for a packet of information and proper license application forms. There is no charge for the license, and you are granted an FOO call.

The main Amateur Radio club is called C.O.R.A., and they handle the FO QSL Bureau as well as being the representative organization for the I.A.R.U. The meeting is generally held on the last Wednesday of the month between five and seven in the evening and at a central location. C.O.R.A. operates the repeater on 146.94; however if the repeater is down, you can also check on 146.52 or 146.55 simplex.

The population of French Polynesia is around 170,000 with almost 50,000 living on the island of Tahiti. Moorea is the sister island to Tahiti and is located just 10 miles away. For those wishing to operate their Amateur Radio equipment, most of the popular hotels used by tour groups have allowed Amateur Radio operations in the past. Hotels where operations have taken place include the Maeva Beach, the Beachcomber, the Royal Tahitian, the Kia Ora, Club Med, the Captain Cook, the Bali Hai, and the Hotel Bora Bora. Most hotels will also provide someone to climb the many

tall coconut trees to install your wire antennas!

Power is 220 volts at 60 cycles, and is very reliable on the major islands. While some hotels have an outlet for 110 volts, these are not adequate to operate a rig. If you decide to venture out to the more remote islands, be prepared for restricted line voltage. While staying on the island of Tahaa, the power is on just from about 8:00 PM until 11:00 PM, while on Rangiroa it was on from sunrise to about 11:00 PM. Some of the more remote atolls that tourists can visit have similar line voltage problems. Regulation on the major island is fine, but again on the outer islands I've experienced 220 volts, plus or minus 30 volts!

Each July, the annual Tiurai Celebration takes place in French Polynesia, and this brings dancing groups from all of the outer islands to Papeete. Of course, those that remain on their "home" islands also celebrate the Tiurai in grand style! Additionally, the annual July celebration includes Polynesian sporting competitions going on for a four-week period. This includes nightly dance competitions where each island has their best dance group demonstrate the very famous, erotic and enchanting Tahitian dance.

During my visits to Tahiti, there was excellent propagation (except for the occasional solar flare) on all bands. Yes, even 10 meters was open to all parts of North America around 2100z even though no beacons on this band could be heard! 20 meters produced very good signals over the North Pole from Europe around 0400z and provides contacts for two hours. The NCDXF beacons on 14.1 MHz provide excellent assistance with propagation. It is typical for every signal in a pile-up to be well over S-9 on a TS-820S! Except when a band was just opening or closing, the W1's and W2's can be just as loud as the W6's and W7's. 75 meters provided many contacts all

over North and South America, Japan and of course the Pacific Basin. Best of all, there is NO static on 75 meters in Tahiti.

The 40 and 75 meter bands present a slight problem to FO stations. The local TV station (RFO) transmits very low power (less than 50 watts) so most neighborhoods are subject to TVI when someone is on the air. Therefore, most just avoid operating on 40 or 75 meters between the hours of 0200 and 0700 UTC. In addition to TVI, the neighborhood TV sets also create a S-9 signal all over the 75 meter band making listening very difficult.

Once the TV station goes off the air around 0700 UTC, the 75 and 160 meter bands as well as the regular broadcast band become quiet and static free. Imagine yourself sitting on the edge of a quiet lagoon, with a full moon shining, listening to broadcast stations from all over the U.S., Australia and New Zealand! RFO is the call of the broadcast center in Papeete, and the same station broadcasts on FM, AM, and the international shortwave frequencies. Here in the States, look for Radio Tahiti on 15.170 and 11.825 MHz.

The antenna site for RFO is located in the Mahina District just about five miles from downtown Papeete. This location is very near to Point Venus and the famous Matavai Bay where the "Bounty" first landed. Also very nearby is the satellite dish used to receive television via satellite from Paris, as well as the occasional program from the states.

Since French and Tahitian are the major languages, if you speak only English, don't be surprised if you don't get a response when you announce yourself on two meters. The only difficulty might be the language. The pleasant surprise to most visitors who attend a club meeting is that prior to starting the business portion of the meeting, members always go around to everyone in attendance and say "Bonjour!"

There are also many active FO operators who do speak English. Contest operators will recognize the call signs of FO5HL and FO5GW, who were also a part of the 1985 Clipperton Island DXpedition. While FO5GW is now retired, FO5HL works part of the day in his family butcher shop and the rest of the day with a local travel agency. FO5KB works at the local territorial hospital, and is an accomplished scuba diver. FO5HT works with the local government, and FO5HI is part of the local police force. All of these fine people speak excellent English.

I have many friends on Tahiti who always make my visit most memorable. The Amateur Radio operators who are constant companions include FO5HL, FO5GW, FO5HT, FO5KB, FO5CX, FO5HI and FO5AG. To all my friends in Tahiti, I say "Maururu Roa!"

If you decide to visit French Polynesia and have any further questions about Amateur Radio operations, I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. My address is OK in any U.S. callbook.

Northern California DX Foundation
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