

## Newsletter

#### Summer 1991

Steve Thomas, N6ST, Editor

## The ET2A DXpedition: The Untold Story

by Jack Reeves, W4IBB

Indulge me, please, dear reader, fellow DXer. Holding an Ethiopian amateur radio license, and the only one — so the authorities tell me — that will be issued in the foreseeable future, gives me — let me say it — pride. But it is a humble sort of pride, if you can imagine such. To have succeeded in creating this one exception to a longtime, avowedly unalterable policy of a government — any government, on anything, anytime — gives me a new appreciation for the power of persistence and in our ability, if you don't give up, to affect the world.

It reminds me of some truth I saw recently on a sign in front of a church. It read: "Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, you're probably right." It's pretty hard to improve on this homely homily. However, this article is not about pride, policies or self-fulfilling prophecies. It's about amateur radio operation from a major "most wanted country" when that country was on the verge of social disintegration, culminating 30 years of

internationally-backed civil war, the longest and bloodiest in Africa's history.

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I returned to Ethiopia because most signs and soothsayers said that the government's fall was imminent and the rebels were surrounding Addis Ababa. I hoped to put ET2A back on the air during a "window of opportunity" before the curtain went up on the final act. As it happened, history fast forwarded within days of my arrival; the finale with a cast of thousands, featuring tribal tumult, tanks and urban terror got underway. But I'm ahead of the story.

I came to Ethiopia in June, 1989. I immediately made inquiries about obtaining an amateur radio license. The odyssey took

20 months (see The DX Magazine, May 1991). The license was finally issued on February 19, 1991, 40 days before I was scheduled to leave the country.

Anticipating that I might obtain a license, I had brought a transceiver into the country so I was able to go on the air within two hours of receiving authorization to operate. During those 40 days, 7874 QSOs were made using a TS-140S, a Kenwood three-element triband yagi and a Cushcraft R5 vertical. On returning to the States the first of April, I began exploring funding sources to allow me to go back to Ethiopia. The Northern California DX Foundation board of directors reviewed my proposal and agreed to back my effort. A point in the proposal speculated that the DXpedition might be the last ET operation for some time.

I arrived in Addis Ababa on May 7. The next day I gathered the equipment from storage at the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA) and set it up at the home of a Dutch friend-who lived near Bole Airport. His wife was in the Netherlands. Like so many other expatriate



Operating ET2A from ILCA. Left to right, Jack Reeves, W4IBB; Nancy Reeves, KC4GUJ, also authorized to operate ET2A; and Captain Tesfaye Mekoya, Chief Safety Officier for ILCA and instrumental in helping obtain the license.

dependents and nonessential personnel, she followed the advice of her government and left the country.

There was speculation that another Mogadishu or Liberia could be in the making. I wish I could have erected the yagi. However, the more I thought about it and evaluating the location — open, near the airport — the more I convinced myself that I did not want to run the risk of attracting the attention of anyone.

In the first place, transmitters are very sensitive devices in Ethiopia — at least during the Ethiopian People's Democratic Republic's 17-year rule. This is one of the reasons amateur radio was "suspended indefinitely," to use the language of a letter I received in February 1990 from the Ethiopian Telecommunications Authority rejecting my application for a license. Even binoculars were considered weapons during this time and subject to confiscation.



Jack Reeves and Captain Tesfaye Mekoya outside the QTH of ET2A during operation from ILCA.

More on my fear of conspicuousness. My license, issued by the Ethiopian Telecommunications Authority, authorizes operation from anywhere in Addis Ababa. However, perhaps the most critical factor in the getting-the-license process was obtaining the clearance of Security, the local KGB. Security, in a letter to me, specified their understanding that operation was to take place only from the ILCA compound. I believe it could be so interpreted, and they never lost an argument.

Even though this contradicts the license, I did not want to become involved in the differences between a communications authority and The Authority, especially in light of the edginess of a military government fighting for its life. This was merely one of the realities that took the rosy glow off what would otherwise be a DXer's dream. I toyed with the temptation of taking an amplifier. Ultimately I decided against it. Even while I was there, arrangements existed to get one into the country, contributed by Kenwood, through an embassy (not the US). However I was afraid of using more power near the airport control tower that directed military airlifts and talked with MIG pilots.

It took me about two hours to erect the vertical antenna atop two eucalyptus poles which I nailed together. Before noon local time on May 8, ET2A was back on the air.

For the next two weeks I immersed myself in the operation, spending most of each day in a single room. My sleeping pattern changed to about three hours a day; I was tired all the time, but the commitment to making as many contacts as possible drove me on. The only major operating limitation was propagation. When it was good, I stayed with it. One day more than 500 QSOs were made. I had dreaded operating CW since I had not worked the mode for 30 years. Surprisingly, once I waded into that dit-dah domain, I found that I enjoyed it, even preferring it to SSB because I didn't wear out my voice. I could also make more QSO's, up to three a minute. The majority of the nearly 8000 QSOs I made were on CW.

During these two weeks, two major events occurred in Addis: the Falasha Jews were airlifted from Ethiopia and Lenin was dethroned from his prominent perch in the capitol.

On the weekend that nearly 15,000 Falashas were flown to Israel, the roar of engines was so great that I often had difficulty hearing, even using earphones. Occasionally the aircraft overhead activated the VOX system.

Upon hearing that the statue was being torn down, I rushed to the city to see thousands of people gathering in front of the Economic Commission for Africa where the foreboding statue stood. Workers were using a jackhammer, chisels and an acetylene torch to cut the metal base away from its concrete pedestal.

Many who stood there, as I, were aware of watching the unfolding of a momentous event; a major Marxist government was collapsing and a symbol of that system was being demolished by those who had lived in its ideological shadow. The statue bashing followed the departure of Colonel Mengitsu for exile in Zimbabwe. An Ethiopian asked me if I knew what the Amharic letters scribbled on Lenin's right leg said. I replied no. He answered smiling, "They say, 'the big thief."

Two weeks into the operation I had to evacuate the location. Word came that deserting, leaderless, homeless, hungry soldiers were wandering into Addis and law and order was breaking down. I was urged to get to the confines of the ILCA compound as soon as possible. My host and I packed clothes, food, equipment, lowered and disassembled the antenna and loaded it all in less than 20 minutes.

I set up operation from the servant's quarters of a friend. The location presented antenna radiation problems more severe than I had at the first QTH. Metal roofs on both sides of the antenna plagued me with standing waves and radically reduced power output at some frequencies. I lowered and adjusted the antenna three times, but I never could get it right. I had to compromise, adjusting for maximum power radiation on 20 meter CW, with only 30 watts output available for phone. Even then I could not operate SSB above 14.135 MHz because the power dropped precipitously. On 15 meters I opted for maximum output on phone frequencies; on 10 meters the maximum output obtainable anywhere as about 30 watts. On 17 and 12 meters, which I worked extensively, I was able to obtain near maximum power.

During the next two weeks the rebels took over Addis Ababa, with the urging and blessing of the United States government. The Palace's Elite Guard was defeated after a fierce battle. Then the airport was closed, thus sealing off the country. We were effectively in a large prison with no way out and no time limit on imprisonment.

Shortly after I arrived at the new QTH, I was contacted by Voice of America correspondent, Scott Bob. He had managed to get into the country from his base in Nairobi to cover events. He said he had heard from an amateur radio friend in Nairobi that I was the only amateur radio operator in Ethiopia. He wondered if he could call on me for reports from our sector of the city and to turn to amateur radio if he was unable to get his reports out of the country, should commercial communication systems shut down. We stayed in touch daily and I visited him after the battle for the Palace at his room in the Hilton Hotel. The British and Americans in the compound were able to keep in touch with their embassies and embassy personnel located throughout

continued on page 4

#### Northern California DX Foundation

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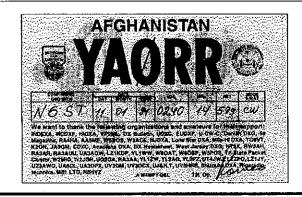
Newsletter Editor & Publisher:

Steve Thomas, N6ST

## Glenn Koropp, W6YFW, Left Off Big Hitter List

by Steve Thomas, N6ST

Glenn Koropp, W6YFW, a large contributor to the Northern California DX Foundation was inadvertently left off the last two lists of Big Hitters. We are extremely sorry this has happened; in no way did we intend to slight Glenn's significant contributions to the Foundation. His contributions were properly noted in the database, but somehow his call was missed when the contributor lists were compiled. Glenn, we hope you can accept this apology. Thank you for your generous support.



Addis Ababa by walkie-talkies which had been issued by the embassies. I listened daily to the chatter and evesdropped on the business of following the war. Unfortunately, the American warden could not be heard from the compound because the U.S. embassy is located on the opposite side of the Entoto Mountains to the northwest.

I arranged a link on 28 MHz, in the amateur band, with the embassy. The identification 900 was me; 901 was the embassy. Communication was established on both SSB and CW.

The first week of operation was quite satisfactory, propagation being good. Then sunspot region 6659 came on the scene. I lost several precious days and

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The license, typed in Amharic. Note date of license: 1983. Ethiopia follows the Julian calendar, the year being eight years behind ours.

hundreds of QSOs to this solar shenanigan. During this disturbance I chased stations, contacting anyone who could hear me as I moved repetitiously from band to band, phone to CW.

Around 6 AM one morning I was awakened by the concussion and sound of a tremendous explosion. Grabbing my camera, I ran outside to see a rising,

boiling, cloud of destruction looming to the west. At first I thought the petrol storage tanks at the airport had been blown up. I learned it was a huge ammunition facility in the city attacked by saboteurs. Besides the hundreds of people killed and thousands left homeless, this act was disturbing; it confirmed fears that the citizens and soldiers in Addis Ababa might fight to the bitter end. The BBC spoke of the potential of a "blood bath." I visited and photographed the explosion site twice the next day.

One way we handled the stress of the state-of-war was by being together in the evenings. I was much a phantom guest at these social events, moving back and forth between the occasions and the shack. Whenever there was propagation, I wanted to be there. And when there was, I stayed on the air nonstop for up to eight hours. It usually depended on what dropped out first — me or the band.

What was life like during this time? Allow me to resurrect the memories, feelings and fears. For most expatriates in Ethiopia the day started with the news from the BBC transmitted from the relay station in the Seychelles. The World News and the Africa Report were listened to religiously, being our major source of information on what was happening. I never transmitted during this time because I knew everyone emotionally depended on this link with what was happening around us. Yes, RFI is a reality even in Ethiopia. The BBC is to be complimented for its competence and credibility. Their TV cameraman was killed at the ammunition explosion and his sound recordist severely injured.

After this I would haunt the bands hunting openings; this was the routine day and night. I estimate I worked more than 95% free-lance. I turned to two nets on occasion — one to get me through to South America on 20 meters and the other to the Pacific. The link to South America was particularly important because I was working with only about 30 watts and the vertical.

During the last two weeks the jeopardy of our state ever lurked in the shadows of our minds. We were in a war zone. Being caught in the cross fire was a real possibility; becoming the victim of tribal retribution loomed real; law and order was fragile; and we were in a prison and all the international community could do was offer encouragement from beyond the barless bounds.

I don't think you get used to the start created by firing of rifles and machine guns day and night. You freeze in movement, in thought. You know that resistance was only a few hundred yards away and with each burst of gunfire someone may have died. You don't forget the crack of a rifle shot and the thump of the bullet as it lands nearby. You learn to calculate the distance away by timing the interval between the two events. When the ammunition store blew, artillery shells whistled wildly overhead.

Throughout I was aware this would only end when the last act of the unwritten scenario played out. No one could intervene, call "cut," to say "take five." The events had to run inexorably to the end.

I appreciate the concern of amateur radio operators around world. Sometimes all they said was "Take care of yourself," "We really appreciate what you are doing," "Is there anything I can do for you?," "God bless you." It meant a lot that a lot of others were aware — and cared. These were moving, unforgettable times. They leave indelible memories — the people, what we did, what we experienced. You don't come away the same.

On June 8 the airport opened. I kept the station on the air until two hours before I went to the airport. I took an Ethiopian Airlines flight to London. During the turmoil in Addis the airline relocated planes and personnel to Nairobi. I got all the equipment out of the country, thanks to greenstamps. I was required to purchase 'war risk insurance' at a cost of \$50. The beneficiary was the airline.

As I write, a phone call comes from Sen. Sam Nunn's office inquiring as to what has been heard from friends in Addis Ababa. They report that his office has been keeping a close eye on events and that "the situation is still fluid." More than two weeks since I left, the airport is open only on a limited basis. I'm glad I was there, though. I'm grateful everything turned out all right. I'd do it again.

I'd like to go back later this year, if the situation stabilizes and ET2A remains the only amateur radio station authorized to operate in the country. This could change. Since there is a new government, no one could be allowed to operate amateur radio. Only time will tell.

Maybe pride was the wrong word. Perhaps "passion" is more fitting. There's something addictive, a "high," about repeating in the silence of a highland night, to a disbelieving fellow amateur somewhere in the world: "My call is E-T-2-A, Echo Tango two Alpha. The QTH is Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, E-thi-o-pi-a. I'm legal."

# Romeo, 3W3RR, Visits NCDXF

During his tour of the United States, Romeo and his wife Alonya were treated to a Sunday evening Barbeque at which his possible operation in Burma was obviously a topic of conversation. A good time was had by all.



Left to right Stan, K6UD, Romeo, 3W3RR, Jim, W6CF - member of the DX Advisory Committee, Kip, W6SZN. Romeo pointing out one possible operating location.



Alonya, UT5JDA (Romeo's XYL), NCDXF President Eric, W6DU and Romeo, 3W3RR showing off their new NCDXF T-shirts.



Alonya, Romeo, Josephine WB6ZUC and Stan K6UD at the barbeque.

#### **NCDXF T-Shirts**

by Jack Troster, W6ISQ

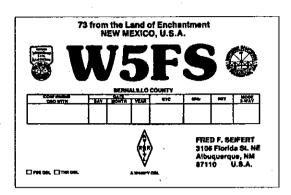
For the past 10 years or so, the Foundation has given NCDXF logo T-shirts to individuals who go on Foundation-sponsored DXpeditions. Not all individuals were so rewarded we admit, but we did try. Much of the problem of not getting T-shirts to all travellers developed because there was not enough time to get T-shirts done before those DXpeditioners left, and it was difficult to ship things to where they were overseas.

Usually we print the individual's home call above the NCDXF logo, as you've seen in various DXpedition photographs. When we have known for sure what call the DXpedition will use, we have given the individual the option of having either his or her personal call, or the DXpedition call, above the logo. At one time we put the DXpedition call above the logo and the personal call below the logo, or vice versa. However, unless the wearer was six feet five inches tall, the lower call was often tucked inside a short fella's pants!

Unless otherwise directed, or if we do not have the DXpedition's call before the trip departs, we will print the DXpeditioner's personal call above the logo, front and back. Also note that we use one-size-fits-all, Extra Large. T-shirts somehow shrink or stretch to fit the wearer sooner or later. This may be later for some of our naturally small operators, which is A-OK. It is better than trying to squeeze an extra large fella into a small size.

We receive letters asking to purchase T-shirts with the NCDXF logo. While we sincerely appreciate this request, we just can't get into the T-shirt business. First, we have to place a special order for T-shirts with our logo silk-screened on each one. Then, each shirt has to be taken to another T-shirt shop to have each individual call sign, hand applied by iron. After that, we have to box the shirt, address the box, and take it to the Post Office, where it may have to have further shipping tags before mailing. All this takes a lot of time, on the phone, on the road, and on the record-keeping. Frankly, we don't have the personnel to go commercial. However, we do have lapel pins for sale. They are far easier to handle, and we can supply them to all. But T-shirts, sorry, not now.

Maybe some day we can arrange for general distribution of NCDXF T-shirts. Perhaps someone would take over the project, or some simpler form of iron-on decals will come along at a one-stop source. In addition, there would have to be some distinct way to differentiate between those T-shirts given to NCDXF-sponsored, intrepid, DXpeditioners and those worn by the stay-at-homes who work them. Until then, there are other things more pressing (no pun), and of higher priority, DXer interest for us to work on.



### **Big Hitters**

The following individuals or members have made substantial contributions to the Northern California DX Foundation since the previous Newsletter. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for your generous support.

#### \$100.00 or more

W0CD, YB0EBS, JA1EM, W1ENE, W1KSZ, W1PCD, K2AZ, K2ITG XYL, OH2BM, JA3AFR, JA3BKP, TF3-033, VE3CDX, W3LPL, I4UFH, K4CTD, K4KUZ, OH5NQ, SM5KUX, VK5WO, W5ZPA, WA5FAC, WM5G, AA6JZ, K6DC, K6DT, K6FO, K6ILM, K6LM, K6MA, K6OZL, K6RK, KA6W, KI6WF, KK6QM, N6HL, NW6P, W6AXH, W6DU, W6EEN, W6EUF, W6ISQ, W6KH, W6OTC, W6PVE, W6YFW, W6ZH, WB6ZUC, KL7AF, N7EF, NK7U, OH7VR, W7NCO, JA8IYI, K8CFU, N8CEO, HB9BGN, KA9QIK, San Diego DX Club, South Florida DX Association, Northern California Contest Club in memory of AK6T.

#### \$150.00 or more

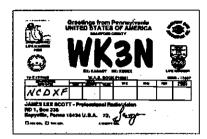
DK6AS, NB6L in memory of AK6T, WG6H, I1-50156.

\$200.00 or more

W5FS, W6OSP, LA DX Group

\$500 or more

KOIR, K4TKM, N6HVZ, W6OAT



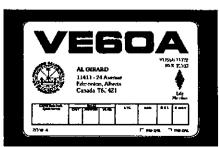
#### **Foundation Officer Election**

The Northern California DX Foundation has elected its Directors and Officers tor the 1991-1992 term. Re-elected as Directors are Lou Beaudet, K6TMB: Howard Brainen, WZ6Z; Bruce Butler, W6OSP; Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC; Eric Edberg, W6DU; Kip Edwards, W6SZN; Rusty Epps, W6OAT; Stan Kaisel, K6UD; Dave Leeson, W6QHS; Rich Stempien, WA9WYB; and Steve Thomas, N6ST. New Foundation officers are W6DU, President; K6TMB, Vice President; W6OSP, Treasurer; W6ISO, Corresponding Secretary; K6UD, Recording Secretary. It is a pleasure to announce the return of Jack Troster, W6ISQ, to a more active role as an officer of the Foundation. Jack was one of the founders and has served in many capacities, including President. For the past few years he has acted as an Advisor, overseeing the beacon programs.

### **NCDXF Beacon News**

by Jack Troster, W6ISQ NCDXF Beacon Coordinator

The Japan Amateur Radio League has announced that their JA2IGY beacon, operating in the NCDXF 14.1 MHz network has been replaced. The TS-130 beacon transceiver, along with a 50 MHz beacon was, was stolen from the small shack which JARL maintains on the top of a mountain near Tokyo. We are happy to have JA2IGY back in the Network.



## The European DX Foundation A Correction

In the last issue of this NCDXF Newsletter we published a letter which suggested that the European DX Foundation (EUDXF) as well as some operations supported by the EUDXF do not reply to QSL requests which arrive via the bureau. This was not correct, and we apologize to the EUDXF that such incorrect information slipped by our proofreaders and into the Newsletter. Actually, the EUDXF handles no QSLs on its own, and has a QSLing policy similar to that of the NCDXF: the EUDXF requires that DXpeditions receiving Foundation support guarantee that QSLs received via the bureau be answered. Their position is unequivocal - no replies to bureau cards means no EUDXF support.

The EUDXF has been around now for about five years and has gained an enviable reputation as one of the strongest, most dedicated supporters of DX and DXing. Most recently they provided support to two very successful Penguin Island DXpeditions, which ultimately resulted in a new country being added to the DXCC countries list. The first was the July 1990 effort by the Cologne DX-Group with DK9KX, DF9KH, ZS9A, and DL8CM, followed in late 1990 by a second group with N7NG, OH2BH, OH2RF and ZS6BCR. The NCDXF and the EUDXF frequently combine forces, in effect, by cooperatively supporting the same operation, as was the case with the second Penguin Island DXpedition. Officers of the EUDXF are Dieter Loeffler, DK9KD, President, with Walter Geyrhalter, DL3RK, Ragnar Otterstad, OZ8RO, and Alex N. Ulyanich, RB5IJ, members of the Board of Directors. The post of Treasurer is presently vacant due to the untimely death of Erich Wagner, DL1LD, last May. Erich was one of the founding members of the EUDXF and was an unswerving, dedicated friend of DX and DXers throughout the world. For more information, write to the European DX Foundation E.V., P.O. Box 620260, 5000 Koeln 60, Federal Republic of Germany.



I received the following information along with a QSL card from these nice folks. There are so many gems of truth contained herein, that I thought others may like to see it as well. - N6ST

### **Some QSLing lessons**

learned by FY/N4QDX, Jay and FY/KD3FK, Beth (and we're still learning)

(If one or more are checked it's because it particularly applied to your QSL exchange with us.)

 Direct QSLing is the route of choice. Why direct? Simply because we're enjoying it this way. Our complete address is:

Jay or Beth Weaver No 35 bis Cite Cesaire F-97300 Cayenne FRENCH GUIANA via FRANCE

The "via FRANCE" may avoid postal confusion with other countries, namely Guyana, South America. We prefer that you share the above address with friends. Previously used employer's (or our US callbook) addresses only increases forwarding costs to us and time delays to you.

- 2. Using accurate UTC is very helpful for tracking in logs. The minutes don't matter so much as does careful record of the hour in Zulu time. This is an across-the-time zone contact; let's use Coordinated UNIVERSAL Time.
- 3. Using accurate dates is almost essential for finding your callsign in lengthy DX logs. It's only by grace that QSOs are confirmed when one has to guess if the error might have been UTC day change, a previous (or later) week OR month, etc.
- 4. Enclosing a self-addressed envelope is greatly appreciated. Imagine handling a large volume of QSLs and one will easily understand this. Another excellent idea is to enclose a return address sticker for placing on an envelope we might choose because of larger QSL card, your ruined envelope, etc.
- 5. Tropical humidity can wreak havoc by prematurely sealing the SAE sent for return confirmation. Placing the Green Stamp under the tab seems to be the best route to go as its superior paper allows the envelope tab to be peeled away nicely. (QSL cards placed under the tab are often scarred this way.)
- Noting YOUR callsign on the same side as the QSO also is appreciated. Otherwise we need to keep flipping the card while looking you up in the log.

This little difference adds up in a big stack of QSLs.

7. Return postage is really appreciated and almost necessary. We QSL 100% but... the bureau is the long route we must choose when there are no IRCs or Green Stamps enclosed for return postage. We sometimes have opportunities to send out US mail ... but do not count on it. If you send a SASE it might wait awhile in French Guiana. We are sorry that our budget does not allow us to underwrite your desire for the FY confirmation.

What can WE do to make QSLing more appropriate for you? Let us know, please. Many thanks!

#### **DXCC-Rock**

by Jack Troster, W6ISQ

The NCDXF DXCC - Rock collection is now at DXCC 19. Many thanks to each and all of you who have sent us a small sample from your QTH or from someplace you have visited.

If your rock is listed in the accompanying table, we ask that you please double check the information we have recorded for it. If you sent a rock, and it is not listed, please let us know. We ask that you fill in blanks and send in corrections. Also, send any additional comments you may have. Thank you.

If your country, or your DXpedition country, or a country you will be visiting, is not yet in the DXCC-ROCK list, we invite you to send us a small, thin rock sample, maximum size about two inches by two inches. Please give a short description of where you collected this rock, including any significant geographic or historic information about the location which would add general interest. Don't worry about rock classification. We will take care of that.

This rock collection is just for fun. It began with wishing we had asked some of the NCDXF DXpeditioners to rare countries to bring back something tangible from the country they visited for the NCDXF archives. Then we thought, "Why not a small rock?" Rocks are all over a country, and they don't cost anything. Perfect. Then we

thought, why not open it up and ask DXers all over the world to send in a rock. So, hooray, let's all work together for DXCC-ROCK! How far can we get?

The first rock received from a country will be the one that goes into the official record list. Hurry! Be the first contributor from your country, or from the country where you spend your vacation this vear or next. But do not be disappointed if someone sends a rock from some country before you. Better to have sent a rock than no rock at all. We appreciate your help.

WAS-ROCK. Sure L enough. We want to

give everyone in the U.S.A. who does not go on DXpeditions or travel to far-away places a chance to play the rock game. We have not said much about WAS-ROCK, but we have received samples from W0MLY for Illinois and Iowa, K5OVC sent one from Arkansas, and W6ISQ picked one up from New Mexico. Yours?

About the rock you send. Say you are on vacation on Ascension Island and are taking a guided island tour. Ideally, locate an outcrop, which may be a massive structure of rocks that appears to be part of the bedrock for that area. Pick up a small fragment of the type of rock that is typically part of that bedrock outcrop. Actually a rock from almost anyplace is fine, but a rock picked from an historic site or geographically significant area adds flavor to the acquisition.

But, DO NOT take rocks from a place where you are

Country	Sent by	DXped	Туре	Comments
CT-Portugal, Cabo da Roca	W6ISQ			Western-most point in Europe
EA - Spain	W6ISQ		Volcanic	Near bull ring Costa del Sol
FO - Clipperton	W6OAT	FO0XX	Coal	From old coal dump!
G-England	K6SMH		Coal	From dry stone wall near
	GOCLY			Bolton Priory near Skipton
I - Italy	W7SW/I0		Granite	Taken from inside Colosseum
J2A/A	DJ9ZB		Coral	
KH5K/Kingman	K9AJ	WORLX/KH5	Coral snd	; ;
KH5K/Palmyra	K9AJ	WORLX/KH5	Coral snd	from Home Is.
KL7-Alaska	KL7AF		Slate	Top of Pillar Mt.
Kodiak Island				
KH6 - Hawaii Hawaii Island	К6ТМВ		Lava	Newly erupted lava. Less than one hour old.
HK0-Malpelo	ОН2ВН			
PYOF - F de Nar.	DJ9ZB			
PYOS - St. P&P	WA2MOE	į		
UAO - W. Siberia	W7YS	R9ZF	Metamor	Shore of Lake Teletskoye
Altair Mts Obl 100				
VE-Canada	VE6OA		Pet. wood	Bank N.Sask R. near Edmonto
ZF - Grand Caymn	K0BJ		Shell	"Ironshore" from beach
	(ZF2NJ)		Coral	
1A0 - SMOM	W7SW/IO			
3D2 - Rotuma	VK8XX-MM	3D2XX	Volcanic	
3D2 - Conway	VE7CT	3D2AM	Shell	

not supposed to remove anything, such as U. S. National Parks. And do not collect archaeological artifacts or chip away at national monuments, etc. Most governments take a dim view of removing things from certain areas. There are plenty of places to pick up a rock from a country without taking something you should not. Even a pebble from an airport entrance will suffice for our purposes.

Notice I say "rock", not "stone". The geological definition of a stone is something one throws. Let's keep things under control here. Mail, do not throw, your rock today

#### 73, de "ROCKY", W6ISQ

P. S. Should we allow rocks from deleted countries? No candy rocks please, the kind freshmen show the Professor in Geology 1. And, no coral sand from Minerva Reef, either.

# S21U - From the Land of the Bengal Tiger

by Jim Smith, VK9NS

For over one year, I had been dealing with government departments, in the P.R. of Bangladesh, trying to get permission to operate amateur radio in the country. On the 13th of February this year, with the support of the High Commissioner in Canberra and other officials in Dhaka, I received a 'Telex of Invitation' from the Ministry of Information in Dhaka. As a result of the telex, I made immediate arrangements to travel to Dhaka. On applying for my visa, I was advised to wait until the elections, due to be held on February 27th were over. These elections would hopefully put a democratically elected government in power, for the first time in many years. Travel arrangements were then made with arrival in Dhaka on the 10th March. All DX outlets were informed accordingly and I expected to be able to operate for two weeks.

On the 5th March, completely out of the blue, I received a further telex from Dhaka stating that — at the moment, amateur radio permission could not be given — "any inconvenience caused was regretted". Needless to say I felt extreme disappointment, a year of work apparently wasted. More to the point, I did not even know the official who had sent the telex. I tried to get the matter resolved over the next couple of days, so that I could travel as scheduled but finally had to cancel all my travel arrangements. A week later and after much discussion with Kirsti, I finally decided to go to Dhaka anyway. After all, my 'Telex of Invitation' was official and maybe dealing directly with the many officials I knew would yield results.

So it was that I finally arrived in Dhaka on Friday, the 22nd of March and the fifth day of the month of Ramadan. This is an important month for the Muslims of the world and the faithful fast during the daylight hours. As a result of this, the working day is adjusted accordingly. Since there is no lunch break, work finishes early and in fact government offices close at 3 PM.

I made a start next morning to establish my connections with the various departments. Mr K. S. Hossein, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Information kindly

sent a car to pick me up from the hotel. Soon after I had my first of many meetings with government officials in several departments. After the M.I.O. meeting I went to both the N.B.A. and the T and T Board. Broad agreement was quickly reached that I would be able to operate, with certain restrictions as to the use of frequencies etc. Accordingly, on the basis of that meeting, I submitted an official written request, asking for SSB, CW and RTTY frequencies. I was certain that this letter would be acted on fairly quickly. All DX outlets were informed, via Kirsti, that I would be on the air in a couple of days. It was expected that all activity would be monitored by the engineering staff of the N.B.A. resulting in some restrictions as to my actual operating times. Also it was planned that some propagation studies would be carried out for N.B.A.



The next few days were very frustrating. It was impossible to get the two top officials concerned in the matter to act on the request. The Chairman of the T and T Board and the Director General of the N.B.A. were very busy men. This was especially so, due to the fact that the new government, duly elected by the people and under the leadership of Prime Minister Gulam Khaleda Zia, had taken office. Ministries were being reorganized and changes in staff being made. The days finished very early for me, as the daily 3 PM cut off time came along, with nothing more to be done until next day. I tried to get out and about around Dhaka to see something of the place and the population. I was also able to meet many people outside their normal work schedules. However, again this was difficult as most had commitments, with prayers, family and breaking of fast, etc., due to Ramadan. Nevertheless a great deal was achieved and meetings held with much fruitful discussion. All this in the name of amateur radio.

In Bangladesh, at the official level, amateur radio is viewed with some suspicion, there is a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation. At least that was the case and I hope that some of the misconceptions have been cleared up. Now with the present new democratic climate and with the T and T Board resuming its responsibilities for areas of communications and frequency management, things may be on the move. It seems that there is genuine interest in making a start and there are several Bangladesh nationals who want to become radio amateurs. In fact the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League is already in existence, with many national members. HIDXA is now firmly committed to assist them if at all possible. There are also many Foreign nationals who have worked for many years in Bangladesh, mostly on aid programs. They too have not been able to get permission to operate. The bottom line is that amateur radio is banned in the country. The authorities are also aware that unauthorized activities have taken place in the past and this has not helped. There was a lot of discussion about private radio transmitters and possible problems with national security. Yet after further talk it became apparent to all concerned that amateur radio was not a security risk. Not in the world of today with the FAX machine, modems and instant satellite communications etc. If someone wants to be a spy, amateur radio would be a last resort, too many people listen on the hams bands.

Finally, late on Tuesday, 2nd April I was told that everything was approved. It took a further 22 hours before the written permission was actually in hand, enabling me to set up a modest station using a TS-440S and a multi-band dipole. Finally S21U was active again, albeit restricted to using three frequencies for SSB, my permission had not mentioned the other modes. Earlier requests, to allow me to get the beam elements organized, prior to actual permission had failed as it was seen that this move might presume that permission would be given. As a result I had no time to sort out the beam, from a pile of aluminium tubing which was the hardware of several antennas, left by the JA Group last year. I quickly decided that operating time was the way to go and would at least be more productive.

With some 700 QSOs, all on SSB and all on 15 and 10M I don't think that much impression was made on

the many who need Bangladesh for DXCC. However, locally, many were surprised at the number of areas which I worked from Dhaka with apparent ease. The officials around me were impressed and all appeared to be happy that Bangladesh was the center of international attention. Quite often the incoming signals were quite outstanding and the various countries contacted were quickly found on a map at the operating position. I tried to make all more aware that amateur radio was a hobby, good fun and also involved people from all walks of life. Incidentally, the behavior of the hams was a credit to the amateur radio community.

My letter, mentioned earlier, had requested permission from March 25th until April 5th. Circumstances had made the finalizing of my permission very late so that I operated only on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of April. After all the problems, I was reluctant to attempt to try to arrange an extension of the dates. Also my time was now very limited as I needed to be back on Norfolk Island to finalize arrangements for A51, Bhutan. So around 10 am on Friday the 5th April I closed down and after making copies of my S21U log, headed for the hotel. A couple of hours later I was at the airport, ready to start my trip back home via Bangkok and Sydney. My short operation from Bangladesh was at an end.

I would like to thank the many officials of the M.I.O., the N.B.A. and the T and T Board for their help, courtesy and consideration. it was nice to finally meet them all in person after I had been in touch with many of them for several months. Hopefully I will return to Dhaka in late May, on the return journey from Bhutan. It is to be hoped that I will be able to operate for a longer period of time. We shall see what happens.

I do have a copy of my log and HIDXA will print cards - so if you get stuck please QSL me direct. I also mailed copies of my S21U documentation to ARRL HQ, attention DXCC Desk, before leaving Dhaka. I am sure it will count for DXCC.

Many thanks to all who assisted in making this operation from the P.R. of Bangladesh a reality.



## **DXpedition Support**

Several years ago a set of instructions were formulated to be sent to DXers who request Foundation support. The intent was to acquaint requestors with Foundation policies and help them in filling out the application form. We feel that they are of interest to all members. Your questions and comments are appreciated.

The following paragraphs are designed to help the prospective DXpeditioner provide the information NCDXF needs to evaluate a request for assistance. In addition, there are forms available from the Foundation upon which information can be supplied. We understand that at the early stages of planning a DXpedition not all information can be provided; but all available details should be provided. New information should be forwarded as it is generated. Remember, the more detailed the planning, the more confidence we have that you have considered and planned well. The following information may help provide the information we need. You would be surprised how many requests we get that go something like this: "I'm going on a DXpedition to Albania, please send money."

- 1. Be as specific as possible in your request. Exactly what do you want from NCDXF?
- 2. The position of the country on the "most wanted" lists strongly influences whether assistance will be offered and, if so, the extent of that assistance.
- 3. Previous experience in DXpeditions is desirable but not mandatory. Where not experienced, it is desirable to provide recommendations from others who have such experience and who can verify your operating skills.
- 4. NCDXF does not plan or administer operations. Its role is that of an assistant/advisor. The Foundation normally helps by providing information and financial or equipment assistance. The DXpedition participants are in complete charge. Authority and responsibility should be and is entirely theirs.
- 5. In some cases financial assistance may take the form of underwriting some of the QSL costs. NCDXF normally reimburses such costs at the rate of \$.03 per card to a maximum of \$300. In return, NCDXF asks that its logo to be prominently placed on the card. we can provide camera-ready logos. NCDXF does not arrange for printing of the cards nor does it act as a QSL manager. These responsibilities lie with the operators. QSL assistance is not offered for operations primarily centered around a contest.
- 6. NCDXF feels that the safety of the operators is of paramount importance and that a thorough assessment

- of possible dangers should be made by participants. A discussion of such considerations in your application would be helpful and assures that they have been considered.
- 7. If the Foundation does offer assistance it will require that a Claim Release form be signed by all participants before setting out. Offers of support are conditional until such release is received.
- 8. Unless proper authorization for the operation can be furnished, NCDXF will not consider an application. This includes acceptable license and permission from appropriate authorities to land and to operate.
- 9. Normally NCDXF will not pay participants transportation costs to the common carrier point nearest their final operation. Excess baggage costs, charter costs and portions thereof are, however, acceptable.
- 10. NCDXF makes no rules for your operation. If you operate under our sponsorship we recommend that:
- A. You treat all equally and show no favoritism for any nation, area, club or local affiliation.
- B. You maintain discipline and remain in charge of the pileups. You are in charge. Be fair and by all means, be consistent.
- C. You attempt to maintain a balance between CW and phone contacts.
- D. You avoid lists, nets and the other "supervised" forms of operating.
- E. You conduct your operation to optimize the number of contacts by selecting the appropriate bands to make that possible. In the case of a very rare country, NCDXF feels that primary criteria should be the number of contacts for first timers, rather than multiple band and mode contacts for others.

NCDXF believes that part of the justification for spending Foundation funds to assist DXpeditions is to enable DXers who work the DXpeditions to obtain QSL cards. Consequently, NCDXF believes that the DXpeditions it assists should answer <u>every</u> QSL, whether received direct or via the bureau, provided the sender is in the log and provided the QSO is not a duplicate on the same band and mode. If a DXpeditioner does not follow the recomendations of this paragraph, Foundation funding is <u>extremely unlikely</u>.

Stations who send the DXpedition one or more self addressed envelopes of proper size and with sufficient postage deserve to have their QSLs sent to them directly. "Sufficient" postage means only enough stamps, IRCs or cash to cover the postage cost. All others are entitled to receive their QSLs via the bureau.

A DXpedition may request donations in excess of the postage cost, but it never should require such donations. A DXpedition may choose to answer the QSLs of stations making donations first, but it still should answer all others in a reasonably expeditious manner.

## Letter World Radiosport Team Championship

Dear Rusty,

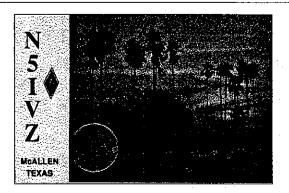
On behalf of Chairman Dan Eskenazi, K7SS, and the entire WRTC steering committee, I am writing to extend our formal and sincere thanks to you for the generous support of the Northern California DX Foundation for this historic event.

We experienced delays in the production of the commemorative video, "Passport to Friendship," but the result was well worth the wait. As a supporter of and participant in this event you will be receiving a complimentary copy of the video by separate mail. Those who have seen it rate it the best video on amateur radio ever made.

I hope you will feel the pride shared by everyone who played a role in making amateur radio history. Again, our sincere thanks to you and the Northern California DX Foundation.

Sincerely,

Don Walter, W7NG Finance Chairman



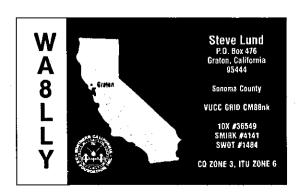
#### New Look

by Steve Thomas, N6ST

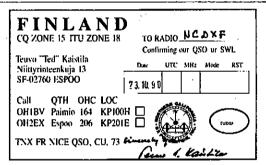
Starting with this issue I am trying a slightly different look for the newsletter. A printer upgrade to an HP LaserJet III allowed me to achieve a somewhat cleaner look due to the resolution enhancement technology and to show off by having type run in different directions on a single page. By using what are called scalable fonts, I can now get any size I want. If 11 point won't fit, maybe 10.6 point will! I also upgraded to Pagemaker 4.0. It has a number of worthwhile enhancements, but there are some bugs that are driving me crazy. Some stories won't print properly if put in one font, but are fine in another font or in a slightly different size. Strange. Trying to work around the problems has delayed getting this issue into the mail.

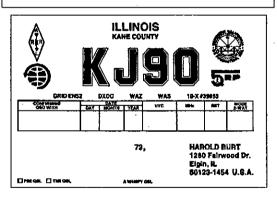
The scanner that I use to put photographs and QSL cards in the newsletter has also been upgraded, with a significant improvement in the reproduction quality of photographs. The new scanner has 256 levels of gray scale, compared to 16 levels on the old scanner - that's 8 bits instead of 4 bits.

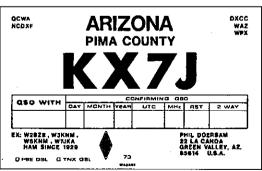
I would like to hear what you think of the new look and any suggestions you may have for improvement. Write me either at the NCDXF address or directly to the Callbook address.











## **Program Notes**

by Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC

Welcome to all the new clubs which have joined to use this service. As new programs are received so also come new clubs to use them. Please remember to get your orders in for this Fall by September first. No shipments will go out after that date until I return from vacation after November first.

Three new slides shows have been donated to the Foundation. The V63-KC6-P29 show is by KQ1F & K1XM and features beautiful photography of Micronesia/Melanesia as well as the story of their trip. The DXpedition to Wallis tells of four YLs who travel West to show how DXpeditioning is done and in the process manage many contacts for the those waiting to hear from these intrepid ladies. The A51JS slides are by Jim Smith and show scenes of Bhutan as well as his station and the operating conditions. All this plus a snowstorm!

The 3Y5X, Bouvet, video is by JF1IST and gives a good idea of the difficulties of that landing to make you appreciate those operators even more. VR6TC's performance in speaking for 2 hours (showing his slides during a part of that time) about all aspects of Pitcairn is awesome. You could show just the slide portion of the program but hearing the whole tape leaves you respecting the education given those islanders. The World Radiosport video was professionally produced and pictures the warmth of international relationships this contest stressed — a fine antidote to some of the selfishness we hear on the air. More than Radios is a reminder of the legacy we leave when we help newcomers to this hobby. SM7PKK, TF3CW and OHIRY put a real effort into the Banaba operation and this video is a fine complement to KN6J's slide show of that island. For those into Amateur Television the Western Washington club shows some of the equipment and activities you can get involved in and the ATV by AEA adds a balloon ride by such a camera. AA6LF took a year off from work and with his family cruised the South Pacific. This professional video has fine shots of operating as well as shots of some of the islanders at their activities. Seeing this one makes one envious of Steve's experience. Lastly, W7ISQ sent us a video of his stay in Indonesia showing many of the local operators and stations in this beautiful country.

And more exciting programs are coming including one by Jack Reeves, W4IBB, about Ethiopia and the ET2A operation!

#### **Slide Shows and Videos**

The Northern California DX Foundation has a number of slide shows and videos available for loan to organizations wishing to show them at meetings. Clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The amount involved can be learned from the postage on the package when it comes to you and is usually about \$2.90. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet and more than one choice of program in case there is a great demand for the item. Correspondence should be addressed to Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC, P.O. Box 788, Kentfield, CA 94904.

#### **Available Slide Shows:**

- 1. Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island expedition of 1974 (148 slides)
- 2. K5YY on Africa of 1978 (62 slides)
- 3. Colvins on Easter, Galapagos, San Andreas, etc 1984 (140 slides)
- 4. W6REC & ZL1AMO, Kermadec 1984 (58 slides)
- 5. AHOC (Saipan) CQWW Contest Operation of 1983 (82 slides)
- 6. 1985 Clipperton expedition (191 slides)
- 7. Ponape Island by N6HR, travelogue (81 slides)
- 8. Pribilof Island operation of 1982 (48 slides)
- 9. Midway by NA6T & KD7P (120 slides)
- Antarctica, Arctowski, Palmer, Peter, Macquarie stations (101 slides)
- 11. VR6, Pitcairn, Mar/Apr 1979 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI (51 slides)
- 12. SM0AGD 1982 Pacific DXpedition (150 slides)
- 13. 9U5, Burundi by ON5NT (57 slides)
- 14. TYA11, Benin by ON5NT (61 slides)
- 15. VK3DXU/2, Lord Howe Island by K2UO (52 slides)
- 16. 3A, Monaco, by F6EYS & F6HIX of 1984 (43 slides)
- 17. 5X5, Uganda by DJ6SI of 1985 (115 slides)
- 18. Market Reef, July 1983 by PA0GAM/OH0/OJ0
- 19. KX6DS, Marshall Island (34 slides)
- Andorra, by DL1HBT, DL3HAH, DL5BAD, DL4BBO, DL4BAH (50 slides)
- 21. 1986 Clipperton Dxpedition (176 slides)
- 22. Peter I Island, 3Y, of 1987 (127 slides)
- 23. KP2N, 1986, CQWW DX CW contest (55 slides)
- 24. OF0MA, Market Reef, 1987 (28 slides)
- 25. Abu Ail, AI5AA, by DJ6SI, 1988 (65 slides)
- 26. XX9CW by DK7PE, 1986 (16 slides)
- 1988 Palmyra by K9AJ, KP2A, WA2MOE, W0RLX, F6EXV, JA5DQH (93 slides)
- 28. 1988 Kingman by the above operators (96 slides)
- 29. 1988 4U, KC4, VK9Y, VK9X and 9V1 by W7SW (73 slides)
- Banaba Isl, T33JS+T30 & T27 by KN6J & VK9NS (80 slides, 80 minutes)
- 31. XF4L by XE1L, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, OH2U, JH4RAF, W6RGG & N7NG
- 32. Publishing the DX Bulletin by Chod Harris 24 min
- 33. Rotuma 1988 by W6SZN, 73 minutes
- 4J1FS, MV Isl, 1989 with Finnish, Soviet & American DXers by K7JA 16 min
- 35. ZS8MI, Marion Island by Peter Sykora, ZS6PT 1 hour
- 36. Y63-KC6-P29, Micronesia/Melanesia by KQ1F & K1XM 20 min
- YL DXpedition to Wallis Isl June 1989 by NM7N, N7HAT, N4DDK, KA0MX 20 min
- 38. A51JS, Bhutan by VK9NS, Jim Smith 1 hour

#### Available VHS videos:

- 1. XUISS (plus BV0YL and BV0JA) (35 minutes)
- 2. 7J1RL of 1976 and 1978 (includes ZK9ZR, Mellish Reef)
- 3. VK9ZR DXpedition of 1978 (plus Ogasawara)
- 4. Frankford Radio Club ARRL phone parody + JH7YFL WWCW

- 5. JF1IST/7J1 DXpedition to Okino Torishima of 1979 (25 minutes)
- Australian travelogue Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island (55 minutes)
- Ham Radio in the South Cook Islands by ZK1CA & ZK1CT (70 minutes)
- 8. VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI (copy and slide show above)
- 9. Looking Up in Rio Linda, 1986 by W6GO/K6HHD (45 minutes)
- 10. Revillagigedo, XF4DX, of 1987 (15 minutes)
- 11. Northern Texas Contest Club towers and contesters (45 minutes)
- 12. It Started With A Broken Fence JH3DPB Tall Tower tale (15 mintes)
- 13. Pile Up Busters, Humorous. (10 minutes)
- FG/W2QM/FS, French St Martin, DXing Senior Style Another Wrinkle to DXing
- 1984 Laccadive Island DXpedition, VU7WCY, plus 1983 VK0HI from TV (60 minutes)
- 16. The K6UA contest station story (25 minutes)
- 17. HKOTU DXpedition of 1983, Malpelo (25 minutes in Spanish)
- 18. The Ship That Shouldn't Have VKOIS Heard Island DXpedition (90 minutes)
- 19. The New World of Amateur Radio (28 minutes)
- SORASD 1987 by the Lynx Group, The Western Sahara Story (37 minutes)
- Auckland Island 1988 by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, N7NG (60 minutes)
- 22. Dr. Owen Garriot's First Talk to hams about the Space Shuttle
- 23. Russian Ham Radio Tour by WA6WXD, Oct 1986 (45 minutes)
- 24. 3Y DXpedition 1987 W4VWA copy of the slide show
- 25. Peter I 1987, from JA7ARW
- 1979 Spratly Isl DXpedition by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BJL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A
- 1988 Malyj Vysotskij Island by OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX 23 min
- 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5MY, HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988 Produced by W4BRE
- 29. Aruba, P40V CQWW Test (12 min)
- 30. A Message from Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (12 min)
- Navassa of 1988 by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q, W3GH (38 min)
- 32. Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SV0AA, April 1989 (40 min)
- NO1Z/KH1, Howland Isl 1988 by NO1Z, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL (20 min)
- Boeing ARC at the Electronic Convention and Great Wall of China (audio tape + VHS 30 min)
- 35. KC Club DXpedition to Tonganoxie Island (30 min)
- 36. Tuvalu 1989 by K6EDV and ZL1AMO (27 min)
- 37. Visalia Convention of 1990 recorded by W6NLG (2 hours) NA at this time
- 38. Rotuma, 1988 copy of the slide show (73 min)
- XW8CW & XW8DX 1989 by HA5PP & HA5WA (27 min), produced by W4BRE
- XU8CW & XU8DX 1990 by HA5PP & HA5WA Produced by W4BRE (27 min)
- All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition + BY1PK (32 min)
- 42. ZS8MI by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show (40 min)
- 43. Jim Smith, A51JS, VK9NS, visits the SF Bay Area by WA6BXV
- R9ZF/NN7A, NN7D & W7YS, Aug. 1989 Lake Teletskoye, Siberia (30 min)
- 45. VU7, Laccadive Isl 1984 (65 min)
- 46. VU7, Andaman Isl 1987 by Combatore Radio Club (30 min)
- 3Y5X Bouvet 1989. Video by JF1IST (in Japanese, good photography) 35 min
- 48. VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC. 1991 by K6IMN (125 min)
- 49. 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle (25 min)
- ICOM's "More Than Radios" The legacy we leave to the young.
   (25 min)
- T33R-T33T Banaba, Nov 1990 by SM7PKK, TF3CW, OH1RY (22 min)
- 52. This is ATV by Western Washington AT Society (12 min)
- 53. ATV: Seeing is Believing by AEA (35 min)
- 54. New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure by AA6LF (55 min)

#### 1991 Contribution

The Northern California DX Foundation relies heavily upon the generosity of its members to fund various projects. We urge each member to consider making an annual contribution of \$25 U.S. or its equivalent in foreign currency or IRCs. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the Foundation for financial reasons. If \$25 is not within





your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of \$25! The NCDXF is an organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U. S. taxpayers.

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