



Newsletter

Autumn 1998

Steve Thomas, N6ST, Editor

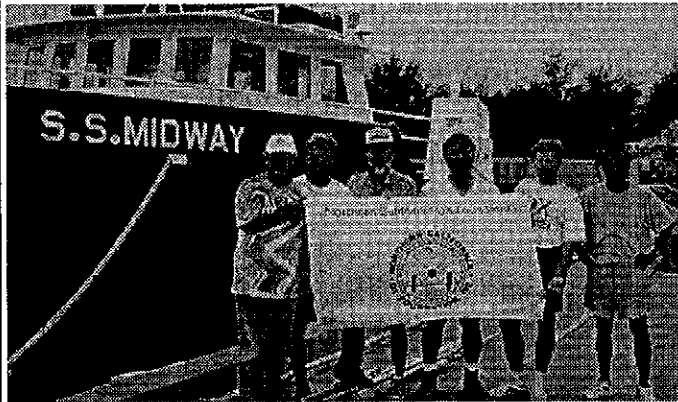
Northern California DX Foundation

THE LONG PATH TO KURE

by Gary McClellan K7ZD
Midway-Kure DX Foundation

Just as the 1996 AH4/AHØW Midway DXpedition team was back in town sorting through QSL cards, the idea came up to activate Kure, KH7K, as a follow-up. The idea came from an unusual source — fish and wildlife personnel. Citing numerous inquiries from other DXpeditioners, F&W began to better comprehend how much demand there must be for Midway's neighbor, Kure.

Midway's officials apparently had given the AH4/AHØW operation favorable marks during their visit as the first ever DXpedition by civilians to Midway. As one team member put it, "we didn't have any bird accidents". The reality of it was simple, the team fully cooperated in terms of limiting



the types of antennas that would be allowed (for the sake of protecting rare bird species). The Midway-Kure DX Foundation also agreed to assist Midway in establishing a museum on the island as well as leave behind donated amateur gear for future DXers and to enhance the island's emergency communications capability.

Hence, the Midway team was approached by the wildlife officials with the suggestion of a cooperative venture to Kure that would involve

MKDXF's own team and a crew of wildlife specialists who would jointly travel to Kure.

Coordinating this effort was Pat Guerin NH6UY, Frank Smith AHØW/OH2LVG and Kimo Chun KH7U. Sadly, Pat had to bow out when the National Guard sent him on an assignment to Hungary. The rest of the team was busy making preparations. Team members included Andy Chesnokov UA3AB, Dr. Burt Myers WØMY (ex WØRLX), and Randy Martin KØEU, both veteran DXpeditioners recently of AH1A fame, Michael Goode N9NS, Erik Sjølund SMØAGD, and Yuji Yoshitani JA3IG/K1NT. Yuji has the distinction of being the first Japanese DXer to operate from

NEW ADDRESS

Effective immediately, The NCDXF has a new address.

Northern California DX Foundation

P.O. Box 1328

Los Altos, CA 94023-1328

Please use this address for all correspondence with the Foundation. If you have sent mail to the old address, have no fear, it will be properly handled.

Midway. With this trip, he also became the first JA to operate from Kure.

The assembled team brought to the project DXpedition experience from such places as OJØ, CEØ, 4J1-, S2, XF4, 9Q, PJ7/8, HKØ, VP8, 3C1, KH4, 3CØ, KH7K, J5, ZA, JW, OHØ, 5H, XW, AH1, T3Ø, T31, T32, V51 and more.



DXpeditioning from Kure is much different than from Midway, even though only 52 miles separate the two islands. Midway is like a college campus with all its comforts and facilities. Kure, on the other hand, is an abandoned island with no facilities whatsoever and bears the distinction of being the most remote island on the earth - its distance to its nearest continental land mass being greater than with any other island in the world. Navigational maps give Kure the appearance of also being

Kure Atoll consists of the larger Green Island and a small spit called Sand Island. It is host to a number of ground-nesting birds including the Laysan albatross or "Gooney", the white fairy tern, the petrels, boobies, shearwaters, noddies, tropicbirds, curlews, plovers and the Great frigatebirds. Two endangered wildlife species also reside there, the Hawaiian monk seal and the green sea turtle.

Transportation to Kure involves first a long trip to Midway via Kauai, Hawaii, then by ship to within about 4 miles of Kure. Ever since the Coast Guard abandoned Kure in 1992, the channel ways that once kept the island accessible have been allowed to fill in, and the few visitors allowed to Kure must make an over-the-reef landing to gain access to the islands there. In the case of the K7K team, it involved 14 such trips to take all passengers and the several tons of gear - 13 antennas and all other radio gear, 4 SK generators, 35 55-gallon drums of fuel and water, food, survival gear, furniture, scientific equipment, computers, etc. The team was

warned of the possibility of a delayed departure due to unpredictable weather conditions similar to what occurred with the AH1A DXpedition a few years ago. Extra provisions were added accordingly.

Once on the island the team commenced to build some of the hobby's finest antennas ever: Force-12 C-3's, Force-12 EF160 and EF80, Force-12's new WARC-7 yagi and the "mighty" German Titanex, 85.5' vertical for 40, 80 and 160 meters. These and other antennas fed into four operating positions located at two separate sites. Upon calling CQ, N6DF answered and was the first in the logbooks. A week later on, the team came home with 27,000 QSO's in the logs including 1100 on 160 meters.

Prior to this project, Europeans positioned Kure as high as #5 on the needed lists, so the team made every effort to satisfy that particular demand. As was with case with Midway in 1996, Europeans accounted for close to 40% of the QSO's, including many on 80 meters.

Upon the return, the crew stopped off at Midway for one day in time to make 3,000 more contacts as K4M. Officials at both Kure and Midway have invited the MKDXF team to return for follow-up DXpeditions in the near future. In fact, the Midway-Kure DX Founda-



tion is installing two permanent fully equipped HF stations for visiting contesters and DXers to use. Information on this is via: <http://\mkdxfraztec.asu.edu>

Upon leaving Kure, the K7K team was reminded of an old US Coast Guard slogan that reads, "You can always leave Kure Island, but Kure Island will never leave you!" Those words are engraved on a memorial plaque on Kure and serve as a reminder to the MKDXF that there are many reasons to return to Kure. DXers understand.

The 1997 K7K/K4M team wishes to particularly thank the Northern California DX Foundation and Bruce Butler W6OSP for their substantial support of this DXpedition.

QSL K7K and K4M via Bob Johnson KE7LZ, 5627 West Hearn Road, Glendale, AZ 85306

KA1SLD, ELIZABETH PELCZAR ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF THE 1ST NCDXF SCHOLARSHIP

Elizabeth Pelczar, KA1SLD is looking forward to starting her senior year at the University of Hartford, where she is working on a joint major in Chemistry and Biology with her concentration in Chemistry. Elizabeth spent her spring and summer working on a research project in inorganic chemistry, and in August she has been asked to give a poster presentation of her work at the American Chemical Society meeting in Boston.

This past year Elizabeth was inducted into Alpha Chi Honor Society, and in the fall she will be competing for the Rhodes and Martin Scholarships, both of which send a graduated student to England for two years to earn their Master's Degree.

Outside of the classroom Elizabeth has been a section editor for the yearbook for the past three years, and next year she will be the Business Manager. She has been the Vice President of Housing and Student Affairs for the Commuter Transfer Association as well as an active participant in the Red Key Society—the tour group at her university. Elizabeth uses her knowledge of chemistry to help others as a Supplemental Instructional Leader, Peer Tutor, and Teaching Assistant.

Elizabeth credits her father, who is also licensed, for sparking her interest in Amateur Radio, although her mom and sister are both licensed amateurs as well. Nine years ago Elizabeth received her Novice license on her birthday. Since then she has moved up to hold an Amateur Extra license and is also a Volunteer Examiner for both the American Radio Relay League and the W5YI group. She enjoys helping her dad with his school club and frequently visits or helps out at the exam sessions.

Elizabeth enjoys rag chewing, especially on ten meters, and is currently working on her DXCC award. Her two favorite contacts have been to the Canary Islands and Ascension Island.

Funding for the NCDXF Scholarship fund was provided by a generous donation from Don Doughty, W6EEN. See the story in the Autumn, 1997 issue of the NCDXF Newsletter, or on the web at <http://www.ncdxf.org/news/newsletterAutumn97.htm>

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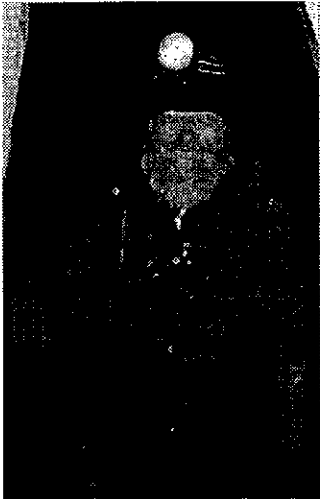
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BOB FABRY, N6EK NCDXF DIRECTOR

Bob became an advisor to the NCDXF in 1989, working as an assistant to Jack Troster, W6ISQ, on the NCDXF/IARU beacon project. He designed both the software and the hardware for the current beacon network which improved on the earlier design by transmitting on multiple bands, by using a GPS receiver for synchronization and by speeding up the beacon cycle. With Jack's retirement from the beacon project, Bob has taken on more responsibility for the beacons, including Jack's beacon-related responsibilities at the IARU.

Bob is retired from the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught and did research on operating systems. Among other accomplishments at the University, he founded and led the project that created Berkeley BSD UNIX, which is the basis for most of the commercial versions of UNIX as well as for the Linux and FreeBSD freeware versions.



Licensed in 1957 at the age of 17, Bob is an active DXer and a phone and CW contest operator. Bob was one of the organizers and operators for the 1997 VK0IR expedition to Heard Island and for the 1996 AL7EL/KH9 expedition to Wake Island. He has also carried out expeditions as VP5Y, N6EK/C6A, XE2GBD, N6EK/VE7, N6EK/1 (NA-148), HD8D, N6EK/HC8,

XE2GBD/XF3 (NA-90), J76EK, XE2/N6EK/XF1 (NA-189) and 3D2EK (OC-121 and OC-156). He has won California in the single-operator all-band category of the SSB World-Wide DX Contest from his home station. Bob is a member of the Northern California Contest Club and the Northern California DX Club.

Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, on Heard Island, snapped the accompanying picture as Bob was entering the galley tent one night after hiking back from the SSB operating position in the dark. Can you see the HT in the jacket pocket that was for summoning help if there was a problem on the quarter-mile journey over the lava? (Bob recently shaved off his beard of thirty-five years; you might not recognize him from this photo!)

CHUCK TERNES, N6OJ NCDXF DIRECTOR

Chuck was first licensed in 1961 as WN6AGP. He then became WB6AGP as he upgraded through the ranks. As an extra class licensee he changed his callsign to N6OJ in the mid-70s. He has taught amateur radio classes for 12 years in the adult education program of the Petaluma City School District. He is a charter member and one of the founders of the Redwood Empire DX Association and has served as its president several times. He was involved in the QSLing effort for the first Desecheo Island DXpedition, KP4AM/D. He is a member of The Northern California DX Club, and a member of the ARRL.

His ham radio interests are mainly DX oriented. He has all countries confirmed except for P5, and has 280 countries worked QRP. His QRP goal is 5 band DXCC

(he needs 75 more on 80 meters.) He enjoys contests, bot CW and SSB, and is also just getting started in RTTY. He has received a number of awards for contest activity and still continue to look forward to the contest season each year.

He won first place for the US and Canada in the ARRL DX SSB contest in 1988 running QRP. He also enjoy working on antenna projects, and has also been doing a lot with marrying the radio and the computer for contest and general operating. He enjoys working out different interface projects, rig to computer, rig to antenna switch, etc.

His other hobbies include hunting and fishing. He just retired in June 1998 after running his own Stationery and office equipment business. He had been involved in the business for the last 47 years.



GIFTS TO THE NCDXF

by Bruce Butler, W6OSP – Treasurer

From time to time we will receive a phone call or letter from the widow or family of a deceased ham who has left his radio equipment to the Foundation. Perhaps you have thought about this and wondered how to correctly provide instructions to your family and loved ones. First, we recommend that you put somewhere, in writing, your desire to have all of your radio-related gear go to the Foundation. This does not have to be part of your will as it is just listing your desire for your personal property. If possible put a name and call in this letter or some amateur contact to help facilitate notifying the Foundation of your request. Some amateurs have also notified the Foundation of their proposed gift.

Once the Foundation is contacted, we will decide how feasible it is to take possession of the equipment. At the same time, a list of the equipment will be made by a Foundation member, by a representative of the Foundation, or even by a family member who is familiar with the larger pieces of gear involved. This list is then evaluated to determine its current value and this value is documented to the family or relatives. While we do not give tax advice, the donation of this equipment is typically tax deductible to the estate of the deceased.

The Foundation will sometimes be able to pick up the equipment and then sell it through various swap meets and swap shops. If this is not feasible, the family may be asked to carefully pack the equipment (perhaps with some help) and send it to one of us to be sold. Antennas and towers are a unique problem. In some cases we have taken down and sold both the antennas and towers of deceased hams. Obviously, the proximity to a Board Member who can do this and the type of installation will dictate whether or not it is possible for us to get involved in that aspect of the estate.

Some other donations we have received over the years have been stocks and the proceeds from insurance policies and annuities. One benefit of using an annuity for this purpose is that they are easily purchased up to most any age and the owner

has the used of the income until his or her death. The balance of the proceeds then goes to the beneficiary—in this case the Foundation. All growth in an annuity is tax deferred and, in the case of the Foundation as a beneficiary, we would have no tax liability for the proceeds.

The Foundation currently has three separate funds for various purposes. The operating fund is where donations go unless specified differently by the giver. There is also a fund for Beacon donations and our newest fund is our educational grant fund. This last fund was seeded with \$20,000 by W6EEN, Don Doughty. Our first \$1,000 grant from that fund was made a few weeks ago and we are very proud that a young amateur radio operator is going to have help with her higher education.

The NCDXF is well into its third decade. Help continue the perpetuity of the Foundation with your generous gifts and planned giving.

MAILING LABELS

by Steve Thomas, N6ST

On the mailing label you may notice a date. That is the date of your last contribution to the Northern California DX Foundation. Typically we mail newsletters to folks who have contributed to the Foundation in the last two years.

If your last contribution date is over a year ago, you may wish to consider using the contribution form at the back of the newsletter and sending in a contribution so we may continue to provide support to DXpeditions that deserve our assistance. As we come out of the bottom of the sunspot cycle and conditions improve, we expect there will be more requests for our support. Please make sure we will have the financial resources to provide support when those requests come.



5A2A DXPEDITION

by Felix J. Riess, DL8OBC,

e-mail: dl8obc@qsl.net

Libya is not a very popular place for holiday makers to go, this is one thing we learned during the preparation of our 5A2A DXpedition. All our families and friends kept on asking: "How on earth did you get that idea?" Well, it all started in 1995 when Andy (DJ7IK), Hein (DL2OBF), and Felix (DL8OBC) operated the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW) together from 3V8BB in Bir-el-Bey, Tunisia. From then on, Andy (DJ7IK) was hooked on the Arabian countries. It was his idea to get on the air from Tunisia's neighbor country, Libya, and he worked hard for almost two years to make this dream come true, and with the help of many friends both in Germany and Africa, and many sponsors, the most important of them being the Northern California DX Foundation, Inc., it finally happened. From November 23, 1997 to December 4, 1997, a team of five German operators, all members of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA), Europe's leading contest club, made about 25,000 QSO's using the special event call sign 5A2A from the coveted DXCC country of Libya.

Andy (DJ7IK), a middle-aged commercial clerk in the chemical industry chose a bunch of young operators and CW fans to accompany him on this trip: Felix (DL8OBC) is an engineering student and fellow 3V8BB team member with expertise in PACTOR. Dieter (DL3KDV) works as a telecommunications engineer and is a successful DXer with special emphasis on top band, for which he is a real expert. Tom (DL1GGT), an engineer from southern Germany, has been a successful contester for over a decade, and Michael (DL2EBX), a geologist now working as a journalist for the German amateur radio magazine "cq-DL", contributed greatly to the public relations and documentation of the 5A2A project.

To get from Germany to Libya, we needed to fly to Malta where we caught the ferry to Tripoli, the capital of Libya, where we were greeted by the

members of ASSAKER club. The club's goal is to establish friendship between the youth of Libya and other countries, and recently amateur radio has become one of the means used to accomplish this goal.

Club station 5A1A, where we spent almost all of our time in Libya, is situated in the outskirts of Tripoli, very close to the Mediterranean. Shortly after our arrival, we started installing an antenna farm at that location: a three element triband beam, a vertical for 40 meters, dipoles for 80 meters and 160 meters, a Windom "Fritzel FD-4", a Fritzel groundplane for the WARC bands, and a Cushcraft R7. The following transceivers enabled us to keep two stations running for most of the time: Icom IC-736, Kenwood TS-690, and Icom IC-706MKII. We were able to use two amplifiers: Heathkit SB-1000 (about 800 Watts out), and a transistor amplifier (about 400 Watts out). For logging, we used three laptop PC's in an optical network. Our logs were uploaded on a daily basis to the 20 meter PACTOR station of Patrick, DL4VBP, who then copied them to our web server, so that our news could be distributed, and an almost instant log check on the World Wide Web was possible at

<http://www.afthd.tu-darmstadt.de/5a1a/>.

Patrick also sent us a summary of all your input to the Libya Reflector on the Internet. K7ON was kind enough to set it up for us, and it enabled all DXers to send their inputs to the team. We thoroughly enjoyed reading all your comments, and we made them work for us. When Eddie, W6/GØAZT, was going "on bended knees" to ask us for some "RTTY for the left coast USA", we immediately realized that we had been missing something and tried to serve the West coast DXers better on RTTY. Just a few hours after we had read his e-mail, Eddie was in our log on 15 meters RTTY!

One of our objectives during our stay was a competitive effort in the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW) in the Multi/Single category. Despite all the equipment we brought, we found it hard to keep up with the North American and European superstations: our "running station"

only ran 400 Watts and a Vertical, while the "spotting station" was equipped with a kilowatt and a Yagi. Throughout the contest, we had a hard time defending our operating frequencies and sometimes the rate was less than we had expected, but the rare call sign made up for the missing power and antenna gain, so that we finished the contest with the following claimed score:

Band	QSO's	QSO Pts.	Pts./QSO	Zones	DXCC
160	310	909	2.93	13	56
80	806	2401	2.98	18	82
40	1575	4702	2.99	32	100
20	780	2315	2.97	33	104
15	1783	5306	2.98	37	112
10	395	1146	2.90	27	68
Totals	5649	16779	2.97	160	522

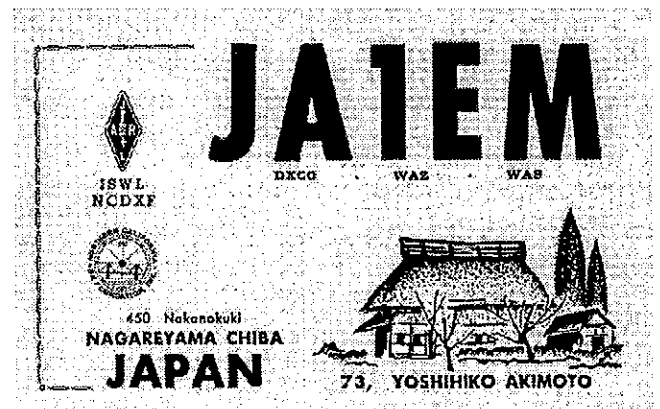
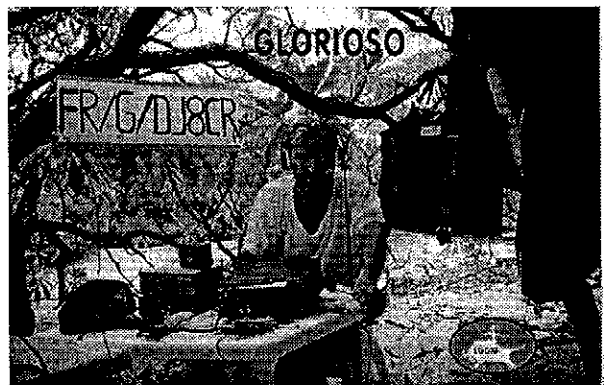
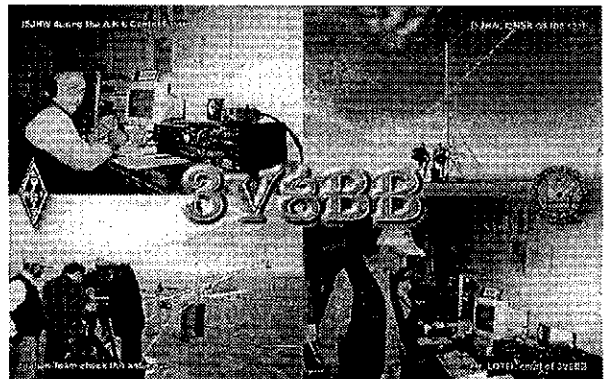
11,443,278 Pts.

Outside of the contest, we concentrated on CW, RTTY, and the low bands, as the local 5A1A operators are quite active on SSB, so that the country was less wanted on phone. We tried very hard not to miss any 160-meter and 80 meter opening to the areas with difficult propagation. There were stations in Australia and North America that managed to work us on as many as eight or nine bands! When we put IZ2AEQ as the last call sign in the 5A2A logbooks on December 4, 1998, our total DXpedition result looked like this:

	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	Total
CW	1316	2789	5565	1175	2782	1008	3599	943	814	19991
SSB	47	435	1011	0	1408	396	1265	386	359	5307
RTTY	0	0	0	0	355	0	222	0	0	577
Total	1363	3224	6576	1175	4545	1404	5086	1329	1173	25875

Our QSL managers Dieter (DL3KDV) and his wife Maike (DL4XS) had a very busy time after our return to Germany, for many months letters arrived by the dozen. In the meantime, all direct QSL requests have been answered, and they are now working on the bureau requests. There were many encouraging and friendly comments on the received QSLs for which we are most grateful.

We would like to thank the Northern California DX Foundation, Inc., for their generous support that greatly helped making the trip possible. We hope to meet all of you again, possibly from some other DX location...



BEACON NEWS

by Bob Fabry, N6EK

The beacon web site at www.ncdxf.org continues to be expanded and is a valuable resource for beacon listeners. The two most popular features are the list of programs to help beacon listeners and the current beacon status information.

Programs to Help Listeners

The programs to help beacon listeners are run on your computer while you are listening to the beacons. They show you which beacon is transmitting on the band you are listening to.

I mistakenly assumed these programs would be used primarily by people who couldn't copy CW at 22 WPM, but I have discovered that these programs are very useful even for those of us who copy high-speed CW comfortably; if you haven't tried one of these programs, you really should. I never listen for the beacons anymore without firing up one of these programs!

You can find these programs through the NCDXF web site. Programs have been written not only for DOS and Windows, but for OS/2, the PalmPilot and the Mac. Many of the programs give you beam headings, distances and a lot of other useful information.

Beacon Status Online

If you need to make a decision based on not hearing a particular beacon, you need to know if the beacon is actually on the air. The current status of the beacons is available on the NCDXF web site. With sixteen beacons on the air, there seem always to be some anomalies such as when YV5B was hit by lightning this summer or when a rodent chewed through a cable at 4S7B last winter. The beacon status information on the web site is kept as current as possible; sometimes it changes more than once a day.

Your Opinion is Solicited

It is possible that the number of beacons will be expanded over the next few years. Do you have an opinion about a particularly valuable location for a new beacon? If more beacons are added, should each beacon transmission be shorter or should the cycle be lengthened, perhaps to four minutes? Adding a thirty meter frequency to the beacons is also being considered. Is this a good idea or a bad idea and what frequencies would work the best? Please send your thinking via e-mail to beacons@ncdxf.org.

Jack Troster Steps Down

Jack Troster, W6ISQ, has stepped down as the project manager for the NCDXF/IARU beacons. Jack has been the prime mover for the beacons since the earliest days of the project; his energy and insight are responsible for its success. Fortunately, he will continue to be available for advice.

VR2B, RR9OWM, VE8AT

Arrangements for the Chinese and Russian beacons are complete. The Chinese beacon will be VR2B (possible temporary call VR2HK) in Hong Kong. The Russian beacon will be RR9OWM in Novosibirsk. VE8AT has been off the air as it is being moved to Alert on Ellesmere Island at 82 degrees north latitude.

BEACON SCHEDULE

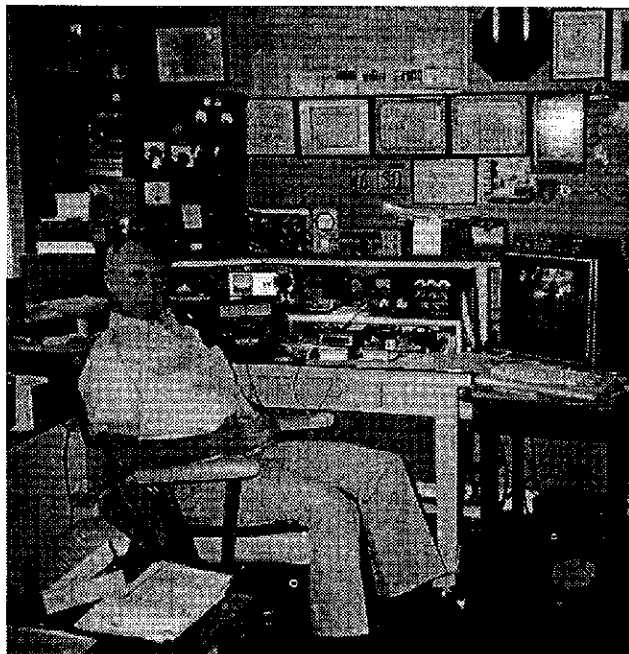
MHz	14.10	18.11	21.15	24.93	28.20
4U1UN	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40
VE8AT	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50
W6WX	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00
KH6WO	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10
ZL6B	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20
VK6RBP	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30
JA2IGY	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40
RR9OWM	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50
VR2B	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00
4S7B	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10
ZS6DN	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20
5Z4B	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30
4X6TU	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40
OH2B	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50
CS3B	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00
LU4AA	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10
OA4B	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20
YV5B	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30

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

AN INTERVIEW WITH JACK TROSTER, W6ISQ

by Rusty Epps, W6OAT

At NCDXF's July '98 meeting, Jack Troster, W6ISQ announced his decision to retire from NCDXF's Board of Directors and to pass his duties as Beacon Project Coordinator on to Bob Fabry, N6EK. Jack's announcement brought to a close his 26 year formal association with the Foundation. With Jack's departure from the Board goes the last of NCDXF's original founders. Although Jack assures us he's still only a telephone call away, those of us remaining on the Board will sorely miss his steady guidance, keen insight, wealth of



Jack, W6ISQ, relaxing in his shack.

knowledge, and quick wit. I recently caught up with this amazing, wonderful man over lunch and had a chance to talk with him about his life and NCDXF.

OAT: So, Jack, how did it all start?

ISQ: It was back in the early 30's when I was living in Yonkers, New York. One day the kid next door showed me a crystal set he had built. I thought it

was pretty neat, so I decided to see if I could build one too. With my set, I was able to hear two broadcast stations in New York City. Unfortunately, I had to listen to both of them at the same time because my set had no selectivity! Still though, that was enough to get me hooked. Soon thereafter, I got interested in short wave radio and in September, 1935 at age 14, received my license and the callsign W2ISQ.

OAT: Were you on the air a lot back then?

ISQ: Yes. While I was in high school I often got up at three or four o'clock in the morning to work 80 meters. That's when I made my first DX QSO — with a VE2 in Montreal. It was only about 200 miles away, but I was so excited to have worked a "foreign" station. I also did a lot of traffic handling on 40 meters. I left for Dartmouth College a couple of years later and that limited my radio time significantly. Not too long after that, the war came along and everybody got put off the air. I joined the marines and was sent to the island of Emirau in the western Pacific, and after the war ended, I got reassigned to Hollywood, California to work with the Armed Forces Radio Service. During all those years I never lost my interest in amateur radio, though, and looked forward to the time when I could return to the airwaves. I even went so far as to see if the call W6ISQ might be available. Unfortunately, it had already been issued to some guy in Arizona. When I learned that Arizona was going to become part of W7 rather than W6, I sat down and wrote a letter to the FCC asking if I could have W6ISQ. Sure enough, they issued me that callsign less than a month later. I've had it ever since. In the early 80's the FCC let us apply for 2-letter calls and I got N6IQ, but when the FCC later said we could keep only one callsign, I decided to stick with the "Italian String Quartets."

OAT: How did you get up here to Northern California?

ISQ: Well, that goes back to 1946. The war was over and I decided it was time to do two things. The first was to marry the most wonderful lady in the world (Marguerite, KC6NFE, Jack's wife of 52 years), and the second was to go back to graduate

school. I enrolled at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California and decided to study geology because that seemed to be the only one of my interests at which I thought I actually might be able to make a living and support my family.

OAT: What about amateur radio in those days?

ISQ: Yes, I also decided it was time to get back on the air. I had all my radio equipment packed away, so I shipped it up to Palo Alto when I went to Stanford. I first set up the station in our one room student apartment but that proved too crowded. Later I moved everything to a lab building on campus used by the Stanford Radio Club and did most of my operating from there. For the first few years after I graduated I still didn't have room for a station at home, so I just left the equipment at



Jack, W6ISQ with his wife Marguerite, KC6NFE

Stanford and it got used by a number of other fellows who followed behind me. It was probably another five years before I finally was able to move the station to my house and begin some serious DXing.

OAT: You have some pretty impressive operating achievements, don't you?

ISQ: Well, I've certainly had a lot of fun over the years. [In Jack's characteristically modest fashion he tried to evade my question. I persisted. Only after much prodding did he finally acknowledge that he holds DXCC #1 Honor Roll on the Mixed,

CW and SSB modes; 5B-DXCC; 5B-WAS (certificate #4); USA Counties Award (for working all 3,076 USA counties, which he did completely on cw!). Jack is a member of FOC and the A1 Operators Club; he has served as president of both the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California Contest Club; he is a Contributing Editor of QST magazine; he has been a director of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and for years wrote the monthly QCWA column published in World Radio News. He currently serves as the Pacific Division's representative on the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. He has been named NCDXC's DXer of the Year, and in 1988 Jack was inducted as the 27th member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.]

OAT: Wow!!

OAT: What about NCDXF?

ISQ: Well, that goes back to October, 1972. In those days, Vince Chinn, K6KQN (now W6EE) had worked for the Internal Revenue Service. Vince knew IRS regulations permitted US taxpayers to make tax-deductible donations to certain types of educational and scientific organizations. Vince realized that if hams had such an organization we could raise funds to support DX related activities a lot easier. Vince invited Lee Shaklee W6BH, Don Schliesser K6RV, and me to his home in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown and spent the evening explaining tax law to the three of us. Vince's explanation made a lot of sense, so before the night was over we agreed to form the NCDXF. Out came the checkbooks and wallets and that night the Foundation collected a total of \$1,111 for its first donations.

OAT: If I recall correctly, W6BH became NCDXF's first president?

ISQ: Yes. That night at Vince's house after we decided to form NCDXF we realized we also had to have some officers, so we turned to Lee and asked "Why don't you be president?" and he agreed. Unfortunately, Lee was able to serve only a few months before he decided to step down for

business reasons. After that, Don K6RV became NCDXF's second president.

OAT: And after Don, you became NCDXF's third president?

ISQ: That's right. I served as president from 1975 until 1986. I was followed by K6AHV (now W6RJ), W6OAT, W6DU and NCDXF's current president, K6ANP.

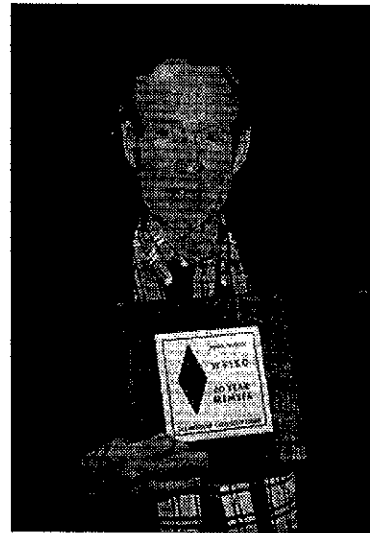
OAT: For years you have led NCDXF's worldwide beacon project. Tell us about this network. Didn't you play a major role in its creation?

ISQ: Well, I and a lot of other folks. Remember how Vince, K6KQN had explained to us on that first night that NCDXF would need educational or scientific purposes to justify its tax status? Well, I began looking for projects which would meet the IRS's requirements and also be useful to amateur radio operators worldwide. One day I was talking with NCDXF Advisor Mike Villard, W6QYT who was an Electrical Engineering professor at Stanford. Mike told me about an experimental radio beacon being developed for commercial purposes. The prototype version of this beacon was on the air from a laboratory somewhere near Washington, D.C., and one of the unique things about it was that it cycled between transmitting first at 25 watts then at only 1 watt. I thought this was interesting so I called a bunch of my ham buddies on the telephone and asked them to listen for that beacon. Not only were we able to hear the 25 watt signal, but we also were able to copy the 1 watt signal. That's what got us thinking about using a power stepping beacon as a means of testing propagation to various parts of the world. The next stage in the beacon evolution came in July, 1974 during the Foundation-supported KP6KR DXpedition to Kingman Reef. Since the DXpeditioners were going to spend almost a week sailing between Hawaii and the reef, we made them a small transmitter which they could manually switch between power levels of five, two and one-half, and one watt. We asked hams to listen for their signal. To our amazement, we were flooded with SWL reports from people who copied them at all three power levels. In light of the huge success of the KP6KR/mm experiment, we decided to

build the first of our fixed-site, power stepping beacons. That transmitter was located at Stanford University and licensed as WB6ZNL. It came on the air full time in 1979. WB6ZNL transmitted for one full minute, first at 100 watts, then 10 watts, then 1 watt, then 100 milliwatts, and finally back up to 100 watts for station ID and sign off. WB6ZNL was the forerunner of W6WX, the present Stanford beacon, and between the two of them they have been on the air almost continuously for nearly 20 years. During this time, NCDXF has received thousands of SWL reports from all around the world. For years Al Lotze, W6RQ meticulously maintained a log of these reception reports and Al's data has been used as source material for several academic studies on HF radio propagation.

OAT: How did the NCDXF come to collaborate with the IARU on the beacon project?

ISQ: Well, that was the obvious next step in the evolution of the beacon network. By the mid-1980's NCDXF had beacons operating as 4U1UN in New York City, as



Jack showing off his 60-year ARRL membership plaque.

W6WX at Stanford, and as KH6O in Hawaii. We also had enlisted the assistance of friends like Martti OH2BH, Kan JA1BK and Bruno AA6AD to help us get beacons into Finland, the Madeira Islands, Japan and Israel. But if we really were going to get beacons located at strategic sites all around the globe, we needed the assistance and contacts of an international organization. The IARU was right there to help when we needed them. Thanks to the wonderful support from the IARU (and particularly from IARU president Dick Baldwin, W1RU), we now expect to expand the network to 23 fixed-site, multi-band, power-

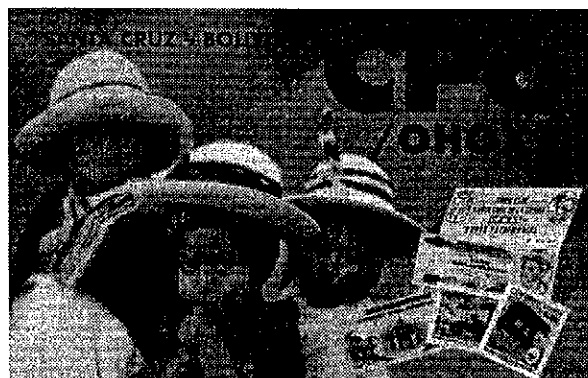
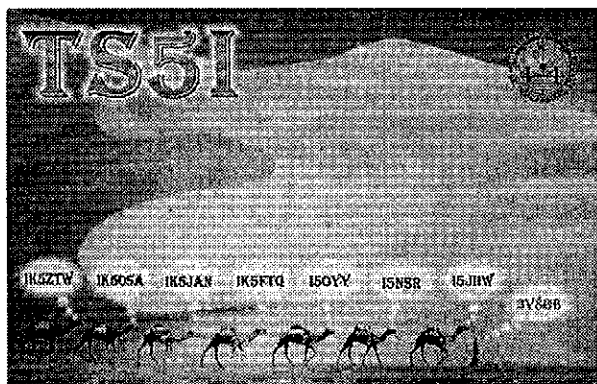
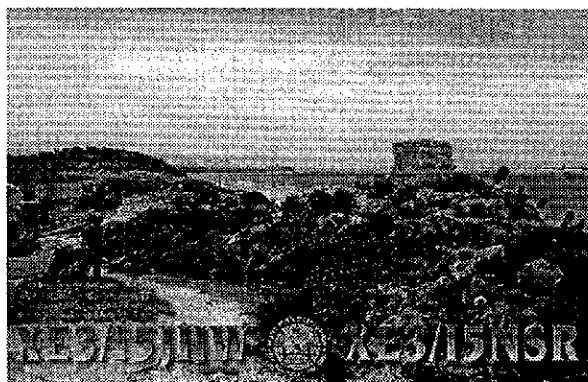
stepping beacons. The 24th and final beacon in the network will be a "roving" beacon. It will be carried on NCDXF supported DXpeditions and hopefully will give the world's DXers a tool by which they can figure out how best to work the rare DX location.

OAT: Now that you've retired from NCDXF's board of directors and entrusted leadership of the beacon project to N6EK, what will you do with all your free time?

ISQ: That's easy! I'm going to get back on the air and work DX. I finally got my station together — a Kenwood TS-850 transceiver, Alpha 76A amplifier, and Force 12 monoband antennas. I can hardly wait to wade into the pileups.

OAT: Just remember to tell all those rare DX stations to listen for your NCDXF buddies.

ISQ: QSL, OM!!



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QFG QRG WITH	DATE	TIME	BAND	MODE	REPORT
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 6-8-24, KAMIFUKUOKA
 KAMIFUKUOKA-CITY,
 SAITAMA 356 JAPAN

A WAMPY QSL



PSE QSL THX QSL

K0CVD

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TO RADIO	DATE	GMT	2-WAY	MHz	RST
KCØCP	09.1991		SSB CW		59-590
	09.1991		SSB CW		59-590

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73I
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KH6CF

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SLIDE SHOWS AND VIDEOS

Clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The amount can be learned from the postage on the package when it comes to you, and is usually about \$3.00. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet, and more than one choice of programs in case there is great demand for the item you want. Please return all material promptly, so it will be available for others. Request should be mailed to: Ron Steiner, K6KEO, 3154 Dominic Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546

We have the following slide shows

- Kingman Reef and Palmyra Is. Expedition of 1974. (148 slides).
- KSYF Africa of 1978. (62 slides).
- The Colvins on Easter, Galapagos, San Andreas, etc., 1984. (140 slides).
- W6REC & ZLIAMO on Kermadec, 1984. (58 slides).
- AH0C (Saipan), CQWW Contest Op, 1983, by W6VEF & N6BT. (82 slides).
- 1985, Clipperton Expedition. (191 slides).
- Ponape Is., by N6HR, travelogue. (81 slides).
- Pribilof Is. operation of 1982. (48 slides).
- Midway, by N6GT & KD7P, 1985. (120 slides).
- Anarctica, Arctowski, Palmer, Peter I, Macquarie stns.. (101 slides).
- VR6, Pitcairn, Mar./Apr., 1979, by ZL1AMO & ZLIAD1. (51 slides).
- SM0AGD 1982 Pacific DXped, 1982. (150 slides).
- 9U5JB, Burundi, by ON5NT, 1983. (57 slides).
- TYA11, Benin, by ON5NT, 1981. (61 slides).
- VK3DCU/2, Lord Howe Is., by K2UO, 1980. (52 slides).
- 3A, Monaco, by F6EYS & F6HIX of 1984. (43 slides).
- 5X5, Uganda, by DJ6SI of 1985. (115 slides).
- Market Reef, July 1983, PA0GAM/OH0J/OJ0. (100 slides).
- KX6DS, Marshall Is., 1986. (34 slides).
- Andorra, by DL1HBT, DL3HAH, DL5BAD, DL4BBO, DL4BAH, 1986. (50 slides).
- 1986, Clipperton, by W6SZN, W6OAT, A16V, N7NG, W6RGG. (176 slides).
- Peter I Is., 3Y by LA1EE & LA2GV, 1987. (127 slides).
- KP2N, 1986, CQWW DX CW Contest. (55 slides).
- OF0MA, Market Reef, 1987, SM5AQD, GM3YOR, OH2NA, G4EDG, G4JVG. (28 slides).
- Abu Ali, AI5AA, by DJ6SI, 1988. (65 slides).
- XX9CW, by DK7PE, 1986. (16 slides).
- 1988, Palmyra, by K9AJ, KP2A, WAZMOE, W0RLX, F6EXV, JA5DQH. (30 mins.).
- 1988, Kingman Reef, by the above operators. (96 slides, 28 mins.).
- 1988, 4U, KC4, VK9Y, VK9X, and 9VI, by W7SW. (73 slides).
- Banaba Is., T33JS, T30 & T27, by KN6JVK/9NS. (80 slides, 80 mins.).
- XF4L, by XE1L, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, OH2BU, JH4RHF, W6RGG & N7NG. (40 mins.).
- Publishing The DX Bulletin, by Chod Harris (24 mins.).
- Rotuma, 1988 slides, by W6SZN. (73 mins.).
- 4J1FS, MV Is., 1989, with Finn, Soviet & American DXers, by K7JA. (16 mins.).
- ZS8MI, Marion Is., by Peter Sykora, ZS6PT. (60 mins.).
- V63-KC6-P29, Micronesia/Melanesia, 1989, by KQ1F & K1XM. (20 mins.).
- YL DXped to Wallis Is., June 1989, by NM7N, N7HAT, N4DDK, KA0MX. (20 mins.).
- A51JS, Bhutan, by VK9NS, Jim Smith. (60 mins.).
- HC8X, Galapagos, by KQ1F. (34 mins.).
- Faroe Is., May 1991, by N6HR. (28 mins.).
- Palmyra Is., KP6AZ, 1963, by W6FAY. (c 1 hour).
- VK9WW-VK9NLW, Willis Is., Oct 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (36 mins.).
- S2-Bangladesh, 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (28 mins.).
- Christmas Is., 1992, VK9XN-VK9XM, by W5KNE. (50 mins.).
- Jarvis, KH5, 1992, by W6AUE. (45 mins.).
- Kingman Reef, 1993, by N9NS, VE5RA, N6AFW, OZ1LFG, PA3DZN, PA0ERA. (90 mins.).
- Palmyra, 1993, by G0LMX, HB9AHL, NH6UY, HDB9AEE, W7KNT, G3KHZ. (32 mins.).
- Mellish Reef, 1993, by VK4CRR, G3WGV, K5VT, V73C, WA4DAN, VK2BJL, VK2BEX & P29DX. (25 mins.).
- Dominica, 1993 by N6EK & KB6VXX. (40 mins.).
- 3D2CU - 3D2CT Convey Reef 1995, by N16T (56 mins.).
- H40AA narrated by Bruce Butler, W6OSP
- Dr. Owen Garriot's first talk to hams about the Space Shuttle.
- Russian Ham Radio Tour by W6BWXD, Oct. 1986. (45 mins.).
- 3YDXpedition, 1987, copy of slides by Jim Hurt, West GA College & W4VWA. (40 mins.).
- Peter I, 1987, video from JA7ARW.
- 1979 Spratly Is. DXpedition, by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BJL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A.
- 1988 Malyj Vysoiskij Is., OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX. (23 mins.).
- 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988, Produced by W4BRE.
- Aruba, P40V, CQ WW Test 1988. (12 Mins.).
- A Message From Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. (12 mins.).
- Navassa of 1988, by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q & W3GH. (38 mins.).
- Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SV0AA, April 1989. (40 mins.).
- N0IZKH1, Howland Is., 1988, by N01Z, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL. (20 mins.).
- Boeing ARC at the Electronic Convention and Great Wall Of China. (audio tape for VHS, 30 mins.).
- K C Club DXpedition to Tonganoxie Is., a spoof. (30 mins.).
- Tuvalu, 1989, by K6EDV & AL1AMO. (27 mins.).
- Visalia Convention of 1990, recorded by W6NLG. (2 hours).
- Rotuma, 1988, copy of the slide show by Jim Hurt, W6C & Henry Owen W4VWA. (73 mins.).
- XW8CW & XW8DX, 1989, by HA5PP & HA5WA. Produced by W4BRE. (27 mins.).
- XU8CW & XU8DX, 1990, by HA5PP & HA5WE, Produced by W4BRE. (25 mins.).
- All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition, plus BY1PK. (32 mins.).
- ZS8MI, by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show. (40 mins.).
- Jim Smith, A51JS, visits the Bay Area, videotaped by W6BXY. (80 mins.).
- R9ZF/NNTA, NN7D & W7YS, August 1989, Lake Teletskoye, Siberia. (30 mins.).
- VU7, Laccadive Is., 1984. (65 mins.).
- VU4, Andaman Is., 1987, by Combatore Radio Club. (30 mins.).
- 3Y5X Expedition, 1989, Video by JF11ST. (In Japanese, good photography, 35 mins.).
- VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC, 1/8/91, VHS by KBIMN. (125 mins.).
- 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle. (25 mins.).
- ICOM's More Than Radios, The Legacy We Leave To The Young. (25 mins.)
- T33R-T33T, Banaba, Nov. 1990, SM7PKK, TF3CW & OH1RY. (22 mins.).
- This Is ATV, by Western Washington AT Society & Seeing Is Believing, by AEA. (47 mins.).
- New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure, by AA6LF. (55 mins.).
- YB3ASQ: Indonesian Stations and Sightseeing, by W7TSQ. (25 mins.).
- XF4L of 1989, by JH4RHF, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, W6RGG, XE1L, OH2BU & N7NG. (25 mins.).
- ET2A, by W4IBB, Jack Reeves, May 1991. (12 mins.).
- IS0XV, by UW3R, et al, July 1990. (35 mins. or a 2 hour version, your choice).
- Jarvis 1990, from K3NA & KN3T. (35 mins.).
- 3C0CW, Annobon, 1991, by the Garrotxa Club of Spain. (20 mins.).
- Araucaria DX Group, Brazil, Contest Station and Operators. (30 mins.).
- 9L1US, by Dave Heil, KBMN, ed. by Jim Hurt, West GA College & W4VWA. (45 mins.).
- Dave Heil, KBMN visits Finland, edited by Jim Hurt & Henry Owen, W4VWA. (35 mins.).
- Penguin Is., 1990, from a slide show by N7NG, Wayne Mills, produced by MoBra. (15 mins.).
- PJ9W, 1990, Spirit Of Victory, Radio Team Finland, produced by WA7LNU. (48 mins.).
- Empire Of The Air: The Men Who Made Radio, recorded by K16YB. (110 mins.).
- Contest Night Live, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.).
- DXing Kansas City Style, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.).
- VP8ANT/G3CVI, Adelaide Is., Antarctica. (45 mins.).
- H44, May 1991, by G3WVG, G3JXT & G3SXW. (12 mins.).
- VP2EOH, Anguilla Is., by Northern Ohio DXA, 1992. 29 mins.).
- T32T, Christmas Is., WPX SSB Test, Mar. 1990, narrated by VP2ML & video by JH1LBR.
- VP8SSI, South Sandwich, 1992. (26 mins.).
- More About Radios, Zman Productions, (How To Get Started In Amateur Radio). (28 mins.).
- Navassa Is., Jan. 1992, by WA4DAN, AA4VK, N0TO, KW2P & AA4NC. (25 mins.).
- Getting Started In DXing, by CQ Communications, Inc.. (52 mins.).
- The Radio Ham, starring Tony Hancock, English comedy. (26 mins.).
- Project Irma: The DX Truth-O-Meter, Northern Cal. DX Convention, 1993. (25 mins.).
- ZL9DX, Auckland Is., by ZL1OK, ZL1AVC, ZL2TPY, JH4RHF & JR4DUUW. (28 mins.).
- CY0DXX, Aug. 1989, Sable Island by the Breton DX Group. (18 mins.).
- V63-KC6-P29, by KQ1F & K1XM, slide copy by Jim Hurt & Harry Owen, W4VWA. (25 mins.).
- Desecheo, KP5, 1992/3, with KW2P, N0TG, WA4DAN, W0RJU & AA4VK. (28 mins.).
- E35X, Eritrea, May 31 - June 10, 1993, by LA6VM, LA1EE, JF11ST, LA9DL & LA7XK. (17 mins.).
- AH1A, Howland Is., 1993, by ON6TT, W0RLX, K9AJ, W0CP, K0EU, W9IXX, K4UEE, F6EXV & G4LJF. (45mins.)
- 9G1AA, Ghana, by PA3AWW, PA3FUE, PA3PUE, PA3ERA, PA3DEW & PA0TUK. (55 mins.).
- 9M0S, Spratly Islands, 1993, N7NG, W6AUE, OH6DO, JA5DQH, OH1NYP, 9VIWV, 9M2FK, OH2MAK & OH2BH. (30 mins.).
- Journey to Peter I, 1994. (30 mins.).
- ZD9SXW, Tristan da Cunha, 1994, by G3SXW. (18 mins.).
- Last Voice From Kuwait, 9K2DZ. (25 mins.).
- Malyj Vysoiskij Island, 4J1FM / 4J1FW, October 1992, by AH0Wex 4J1FM. (43 mins.)
- 3C0GD, Annobon, 1989 by LA8PV. (20 mins.)
- IA0KM & HV4NAC. (30 mins.)
- H44IO, South Pacific DX-pedition, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM. (46 mins.)
- The Congo, TN4U & TN2M, 1995, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM (40 mins.)
- 3V8BB, 1994 (17 mins.)
- Mission to Jordan, The joint Israeli / Jordanian DX-pedition, JY74Z, in July of 1995. (43 mins.)
- The Kermadecs DX Adventure, DL8RI - DX AT ITS BEST (30 mins.)
- World Radiosport Team Championship, 1996 (23 mins.)
- VK0IR Heard Island 1997, by Peter Casier ON6TT (51 mins.)
- Bell Lab's video. "Similarities in Wave Behavior" (27 mins.)
- "Eric Edberg, W6DU Memorial Pacific DXpedition" by WA4FFW

We have the following VHS programs

- XU1SS (plus BV0YL & BV0JA). (35 mins.).
- 7J1RL, Expedition of 1976 & 1978, (includes ZK9ZR, Mellish Reef).
- VK9ZR, Expedition of 1978, (plus Ogasawara, 1978).
- Frankford Radio Club ARRL phone parody, (plus JH7YFL WW CW).
- JF11ST/7J1, Expedition to Okino Torishima of 1979. (25 mins.).
- Australian travelogue, Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island. (55 mins.).
- Ham Radio In The South Cook Is., by ZK1CA & ZK1CT. (70 mins.).
- VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1AD1, copy of above slides by Jim Hurt, W Geo College & W4VWA.
- Looking Up In Rio Linda, 1986, by W6GO/K6GHD. (45 mins.).
- Revilla Gigedo, XF4DX, of 1987. Produced by W6MAZ. (15 mins.).
- North Texas Contest Club, towers and contesters, by K5TCK. (45 mins.).
- It Started With A Broken Fence - JH3DPB's Tall Tower Tale. (15 mins.).
- Pile-Up Busters, by W8TN, AB01 & N0FVG. (10 mins. & usually sent with #12).
- FGW2QMFS, French St. Martin, DXing Senior Style - Another wrinkle to DXing.
- 1984 Laccadive Is. DXped, VU7WCV, plus 1983 VK0HI from TV. (about 60 mins.).
- The K5UA contest station story. (25 mins.).
- HK0TU DXped of 1983, Malpelo. (25 mins. with audio tape translation by KB6MZO).
- The Ship That Shouldn't Have - VK0JS Heard Is. DXpedition. (90 mins.).
- The New World Of Amateur Radio. (28 mins.).
- S0RASD, The Western Sahara Story, 1987, by the Lynx Group. (37 mins.).
- Auckland Is., 1988, by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, N7NG. (60 mins.).

1998 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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Northern California DX Foundation
P.O. Box 2368

Stanford, CA 94309-2368 USA Please charge my: VISA MASTERCARD My Check is enclosed

Expiration Date: _____ Card Number: _____

Please also send me the following Foundation supplies:

	quantity
NCDXF Pin	\$6.00 ea. _____
Roll of NCDXF Labels	\$6.00 ea. _____
NCDXF Rubber Stamp	\$6.00 ea. _____

Signature: _____
(for charges only)

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

Northern California DX Foundation
P.O. Box 1328
Los Altos, CA 94023-1328 USA

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