



NCDXF newsletter

www.ncdxf.org

Winter 2023

Monaco DXpedition

Florian "Flo" van der Wagt, PB8DX

Intro to Monaco

IT WOULD BE GOOD TO START WITH A description of Monaco from a DXer's perspective. Although Monaco is extremely small, it's the most densely populated country in the world, with almost 40,000 people living in just two square kilometers.

It is situated on the Mediterranean coastline with a very high and sudden mountain ridge to the north, basically shielding off North America via short path. Take off to Japan, Oceania and South America is basically clear, but QRM is prevalent due to the huge amount of human activity. Licensing is the least of challenges in Monaco as it is part of the CEPT T/R 61 recommendation. However, the authorities like to be informed of any radio activity prior to activation. Monaco licenses and special event call licenses can only be granted to those with a Monégasque nationality or residence.

Exploring possibilities

In December 2020, Paul Granger, F6EXV, had received a request from Japan to be QRV from Monaco on the 6M band. Paul, F6EXV, started the negotiations in May 2021 to see whether this idea was feasible. Most important was to find a good — or should I say, not too bad and affordable — QTH within the principality. Numerous hotels with high rooftops were investigated, but were either too expensive or not much in favor of a stay due to bad
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Paul Granger, F6EXV, Robert Scarlot, 3A2CR, and Florian van der Wagt, PB8DX.



Prince's palace in Monaco

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From the President's desk

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A FEW MONTHS MAKES! We have DXpeditions to most-wanted entities, and we have conventions.

We've seen TN8K, 3YØJ, 3B7M, S21DX, 3A6M and FT8WW. Visalia IDXC Convention will be in person this year!

All of these have put QSOs in some logs. TN8K and 3B7M provided all-encompassing operations. Thierry has done a yeoman's job of making FT8WW happen. While we would all appreciate a 16-person operating team there, providing many band/mode slots to the #3 most wanted, Thierry found a way to single-handedly make DX happen. We saw his pileup handling skills improve as his operation progressed. He made DX happen, in his own way. Our hats are off to him.



3YØJ — we all wanted more. There have been emails, letters, and even calls for deleting Bouvet, and we understand there is a generally unsatisfied demand for this entity. NCDXF has funded and helped a prior DXpedition to 3YØ, and watched others attempt to go there unsuccessfully. One element NCDXF is good at: learning what worked, what didn't, and helping the next DXpedition. Once the 3YØJ team members get a chance to recover, we will gain learning from this team, and use it to help the next DXpedition. All of us are glad they returned safely!

More DXpeditions with NCDXF funding are on the way. For starters, look for CYØS to Sable Island by the end of March.

Articles this time: Flo, PB8DX, and Paul, F6EXV, describe their successful trip to 3A; George, AA7JV, provides a RiB update while out on the ocean; itinerant DXpeditioner, Yuris, YL2GM, tells his story of VU4W as a team of one; I provide an update of the International Beacon Project, we have a NCDXF director profile (I won't give away who). Closing out are articles about our Cycle 25 Fund and QCD donations (read on to learn the significance of that acronym).

I hope to be able to talk with you in person in Visalia at the International DX Convention coming up in April. Please stop by our booth to say "Hi," and take a look at a RiB.

My last words are this: we very much appreciate your support, as it allows us to make DX happen.

Kevin J. Rowett

What WILL You Do?
• Cycle 25 Project •

SOLAR ACTIVITY

Historical And Filled Data: Cycle 21, Cycle 22, Cycle 23, Cycle 24

Predicted Data: Cycle 25, Cycle 26

1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION, INC.

See NCDXF.org



Our QTH at the end of a jetty — it was the best place to operate from Monaco.

experiences with radio amateurs. A place with a high potential was the Monaco Maritime Museum on the coastline. However, the roof terrace served as a cafeteria during the summer period, which was the best time for JA on 6 — and there was no chance we would be allowed to install antennas while the cafeteria was open.

In December 2021, I got involved in the project and one of Paul's contacts arranged for us to use a building at the end of a jetty. Paul and I had looked at the place before and labeled it as the best QTH for radio activity from Monaco. It's surrounded by salt water and was roughly 800 meters to the mountain with a minimum inclination of 15 degrees. Plus, the nearest human activity was about 300 meters away. The building was 13 meters high with a rooftop of about 17 by 17 meters, allowing plenty of space to put antennas! This couldn't get any better!

Getting a plan in place

I couldn't see myself operating on 6M all day, especially with only two operators, so Paul agreed to my idea of adding a second challenge: trying to work stations on the west coast of the USA. Monaco was #7 most wanted on the west coast and #34 in Japan on the Club Log charts. The special call sign 3A6M was issued for 6M exclusively, and we used our

personal call signs on the HF bands: 3A/F6EXV on WARC bands, and 3A/PB8DX on the others.

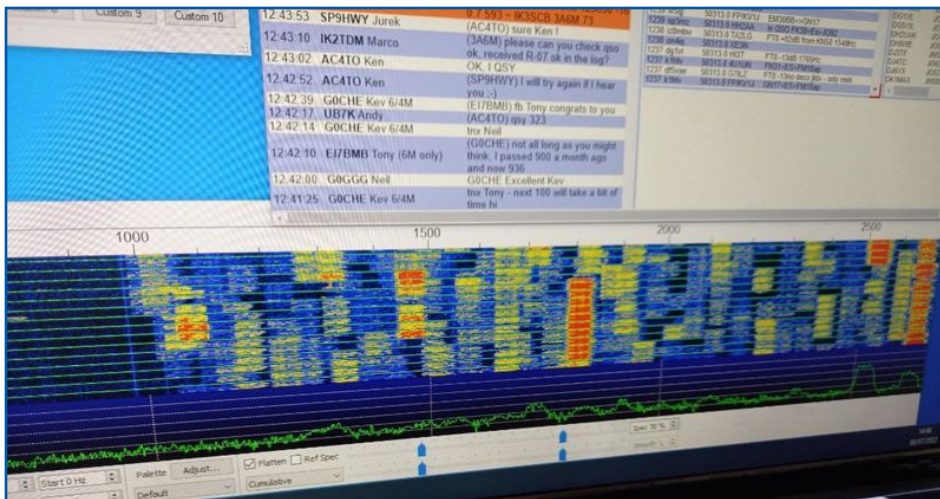
Since Monaco is a clean and orderly place, we couldn't use all the antennas we wanted. Although we tried, HF beams were out of the question. We knew the west coast was going to be very difficult with a mountain in the way, therefore every little bit of gain we could get was welcome. Dipoles were favored over verticals. The choice was made to run with a homebrew 5-band fan dipole for 10-12-15-17-20, and verticals for 30M and 40M. We purchased a RA6LBS 10-12-15-17-20 pentaplexer that would go with the fan dipole. We prepared three additional IC-7300 radios next to the 6M rig, making it four stations total. On 6M we used a 4-element HB9CV Yagi, kindly sponsored by JA1BK.

I sent the rigs,

filters and other technical equipment to Paul, F6EXV, a few weeks prior to our departure, and I followed by high-speed train from Rotterdam to Bordeaux. There, we spent a few days having a last look at the antennas, masts and PC configurations, and picked up the last bits of equipment borrowed from Paul's friends in the Bordeaux area.



*Our 4-element
6M plus HF
fan dipole
on a 7-meter
aluminum mast.*



The typical JA pileup we saw.

In country, on air

On 6 July 2022, we were off to Monaco, driving from Bordeaux to Monaco in 40°C heat. Upon arrival, we did a distant check of the QTH and drove around to get acquainted with the country. Our first impressions were of the prevalent luxury throughout the principality — luxury cars (Ferraris, Maseratis, Lamborghinis, Rolls-Royces), luxury housing, restaurants and yachts, etc. We went to our AirBnB just outside the Monaco border to get ourselves some much-needed rest.

The following morning, we were given access to the building and our first priority was to get our 6M station working. Every opening to Japan could be the last one, and we managed pretty quickly to get started there.

We worked some EU but no JA, so that eased things down a little. We started building the HF station and found the dipole to be resonant on all bands, which was a relief to us. However, unexpectedly, the maritime tower located on a corner of the building was taking out the resonance of our prepared 30M and 40M verticals. Fortunately, we brought an MFJ antenna tuner, which solved our issue. Now we only had one antenna for 30M and 40M and couldn't run two stations simultaneously, but it was better than no antenna at all! On 6M the QRM was noticeable when the antenna was aimed toward the city, but that

was manageable. On HF, the QRM was better than we had feared; it was only on 80M and 6M that the QRM was atrocious.

One of the first things that stood out was the very good HF propagation toward Japan; 15M and 17M were open all day, every day. During the peak hours to Japan, we had pileups with sometimes over 100 stations calling us on FT8 and up to 10 kHz wide pileups on CW. On CW, that was an absolute thrill! We were very happy to hear and work quite a number of West Coast stations, too.

Due to the various small problems we faced, we had trouble finding our own operating rhythm in the beginning. However, after three or four days, we had resolved most of the issues, and became very familiar with the everyday propagation. I was taking care of the night shifts, while Paul was taking

care of the day shifts. We changed shifts in the morning, just after the opening to the West Coast on 40/30/20, and the band opened to Asia on 6M.

During one of those shift changes, we realized we had lost the keys to the apartment we were renting. Paul slept in his car, but left the light on, and was confronted with an empty car battery in the morning. I had no other choice than sleep on the concrete floor inside the building, using a couple of flags and banners as a pillow. It was probably the worst bed in Monaco. Who said “holiday style?” Purchasing a new set of keys from the apartment owner cost us about E200; a new car battery cost just under E300.

During the whole operation, I noticed that every morning the propagation on 40M was very good to the WC. Three days before packing, I decided to do a test on 80M. Despite everyone's prejudice of not being able to work on 80M during the summer season, we did



The 30/40 vertical extended for 80M.

work NA as soon as the grey line was hitting the States. This followed all the way through the night, until the morning when we had a double grey line into the WC with eight West Coast stations worked. Regarding the other bands, since we were far from the mountain, we were capable of working NA without any problem despite the minimum inclination of 15 degrees over the ridge.

The dipole worked very well. Paul quickly named it the “PB8DX Special.” There was true directivity in it, turning the antenna from Japan to NA would cause a huge signal increase. On 6M, we were not as successful as we would have liked with JA. It probably was slightly too late in the season, but we could not travel back in time! To the other side, we did work a handful of NA stations, in what was a “first” between Monaco and the US on 6M. We also made other possible firsts with Colombia and Kuwait, just to name two. Many Europeans were also happy to work us for a new band country.

Conclusion

Over 600 USA West Coast stations were worked on HF. In total, we worked over 22,000 QSOs in just under 10 days; 4,000 QSOs were logged with the North American continent and



The last test of our station at the QTH of Paul, F6EXV.

5,300 with Japanese stations. A total of 1,300 QSOs were logged on 6M, of which one was with JA and six were with NA. KJ9I was the first one to ever work Monaco on 6M from the States — and on CW! Out of 511 stations worked on 80M, 240 were with the North American continent; on 60M we worked 161 stations.

On a personal level, I, PB8DX, tremendously enjoyed this operation. I've done a lot of contesting and visited many countries in Europe myself, but preparing a DXpedition from almost the bottom up was new to me. I was absolutely thrilled by the amount of positive feedback we received during and after the operation, and I'm very proud we put together the most

successful operation from Monaco to date. Surely the location was the key factor for our success, but also the companionship between Paul and myself. Nothing like this could have happened without the help of our new friends from the ARM, Association des radioamateurs de Monaco.

Our commitment to supply Glen, WØGJ, with a Monaco rock for the NCDXF DXCC rock collection was hard to fulfill as Monaco is fully covered with concrete constructions. Eventually, we managed to find a rock at the bottom of the palace, so not only is it a Monaco rock, but it's also a royal rock!

Our next plan is to go to the moon to create a new DXCC entity! 🌕

50 Years Ago A Blast From the Past

**West Coast DX Bulletin
published every week by the Marin County DX Group
March 6, 1973**

The local QRPers being an erudite group and sensitive to the world affairs, last week were discussing the international monetary situation. They noted how VS6DR had to split from the Spratly operation because of changes in the money marts.

For a bit they talked of how they might hedge against any changes that might affect them but could not agree on any single commodity. Finally they put the question to the Old Timer.

“What should we invest in to guarantee us a future return?,” they asked. The Old Timer thought for a bit and then advised, “Invest in Memories and Nostalgia. There will always be a demand for these.”

Son of a Gun!! What could we say? Only that those days that have gone into the past get more golden every year and \$9.00 will bring you a full year of material for gold-plated DX memories... \$10.50 brings it airmail...

Radio In a Box Update

George Wallner, AA7JV

THE RIB (RADIO IN A BOX) CONCEPT is simple. The RIB is a complete station — including transceiver, amplifier, power supplies, cooling systems, and electronic controls — all in a weathertight box. A DXpedition takes the RIB ashore, hooks it up to a generator and an antenna, sets up a 900 MHz link to the boat and it is ready to operate. Operators stay on the boat, eliminating the need for building a camp and any life support infrastructure. The RIB enables an environmentally friendly, minimum footprint DXpedition.



The RIB is a complete station — including transceiver, amplifier, power supplies, cooling systems, and electronic controls — all in a weathertight box.

Real world testing

We have built several RIBs and we have tested them extensively in the Bahamas at C6AGU. Now for the real thing! I am on board the power catamaran *Magnet* with Mike, KN4EEI. We are heading to the South Pacific where we intend to activate a

number of semi-rare DXCC entities.

We made a brief stop at Cocos Island, but were unable to place a RIB on the island to operate because we could not get a license. Regardless, Cocos Island

is spectacular with great diving (if you don't mind a lot of sharks).

Our next stop will be the Marquesas (FO/M) around the third week of March. For French Polynesia, obtaining a license was straightforward and quick. If we find a suitable location, we will set up a number of RIBs and antennas. We will focus on 160 Meters (CW) and 6 Meters FT8. In between, we will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80 to 10 Meters.

After the Marquesas, we will be in the Tuamotu Islands (FO) from the end of March until early April. Again, we will deploy the RIBs and work DX. Later, we will be around Tahiti. By August we plan to be in the Cook Islands.

RIB advantages

Wherever we are at a suitable island, we will deploy the RIBs. And that is where the RIBs should make the difference. For a two-man operation, setting up for a short time on a semi-rare entity, short set-up time is critical. We hope that with the RIBs we can have three stations on the air — including 160 Meters — within two hours of landing. Teardown should take less than an hour.

A traditional DXpedition spends too much time, energy and money on the

The RIB landing craft carries two RIBs, a generator and antenna masts for the 900 MHz IP bridge, and allows the RIBs to be deployed on a sandy beach in minutes.





Magnet itinerary for 2023

March-April	Marquesas (FO/M)
April	Tuamotu Islands (FO)
May-July	Societe Islands (FO)
August	E. Kiribati (T32)
August	N. Cook (E5/N)
Sept.	Swains (KH8/S, tentative)
October	American Samoa (KH8)

Someone has to do the heavy lifting! The proving grounds for the RIB takes place aboard the power catamaran Magnet.

life support infrastructure (tents, etc.) where they set up radios just like at home (tables, chairs, radios, amplifiers, power supplies, cables, switches and computers) for one or more stations that require being wired up and made to work. Each RIB station is already fully wired and takes only about five minutes to start up. Of course, antennas still have to be raised, coax cables laid, generators hooked up and started, but no tents or latrines need to be built.

The RIBs use the Flex 6700 radios. We have two versions: a high-power RIB that has a single radio with a 1 kW amplifier and a dual RIB that has two radios and no amplifier. We intend to use the two-radio RIBs on FT8. On the boat, where we will be operating from, we use a Flex Maestro or SmartSDR, as well as a computer that does logging and runs the remote control and monitoring software. Generally, we will put two RIBs ashore; one high-power RIB and one dual-radio RIB. The high-power RIB will be used for CW and SSB with a single 55-foot carbon fiber mast that carries a top-loaded vertical covering from 160 to 10 Meters using an automatic antenna tuner. The dual RIBs will have two antennas, one push-up mast with an antenna tuner that will work from 80 to 20 Meters and one N6BT V8 antenna with a tuner that will cover 20 to 6 Meters.


The dual RIB will be used in a pioneering experiment: remote operators on a DXpedition. The dual RIB will be connected to a Starlink RV terminal (as well as the boat). We hope that most of the time the two FT8 radios will be remotely operated by operators working from home! Imagine, participating in a rare one from the comfort of your home! Preliminary tests conducted by NCDXF directors Ned Stearns, AA7A, and Don Greenbaum, N1DG, have been promising. They have been remotely operating one of the RIB radios that we hooked up on the *Magnet* with its own Starlink RV satellite terminal. They have made many FT8 contacts on 6 Meters “gridding across the Pacific.”

We have also built a small landing craft that carries two RIBs, a generator and antenna masts for the 900 MHz IP

bridge. This RIB landing craft allows the RIBs to be deployed on a sandy beach in minutes. Wherever possible, we will use the RIB boat. For more information see www.qrz.com/db/AA7JV

NCDXF support

The RIBs were developed with NCDXF financial support. Their goal is to help DXpeditions overcome the reluctance of environmental protection agencies to allow Amateur Radio because of their concern over camping.

RIBs can make DXpeditions more effective by reducing the set up and tear down times and, by eliminating the need to procure and transport camping gear, DXpeditions can reduce costs and leave more room for equipment that makes QSOs. 

RIB Demonstration in Visalia

Come by the NCDXF booth at the 74th International DX Convention on April 21-23 in Visalia, California, and operate from French Polynesia!

The NCDXF booth will have a RIB on display as well as a notebook connected to the RIB on the *Magnet* allowing visitors to our booth to operate remotely from French Polynesia. This will give you a first-hand experience on what the remote operators from the Marquesas DXpedition experienced in mid-March.

The RIB on display will be a real working unit, recently used at C6AGU. We expect that seeing it operating in person will interest DXpeditioners going to rare and hard-to-reach destinations to consider implementing it in their operating plans. Come see it for yourself.

VU4W Andaman Islands DXpedition

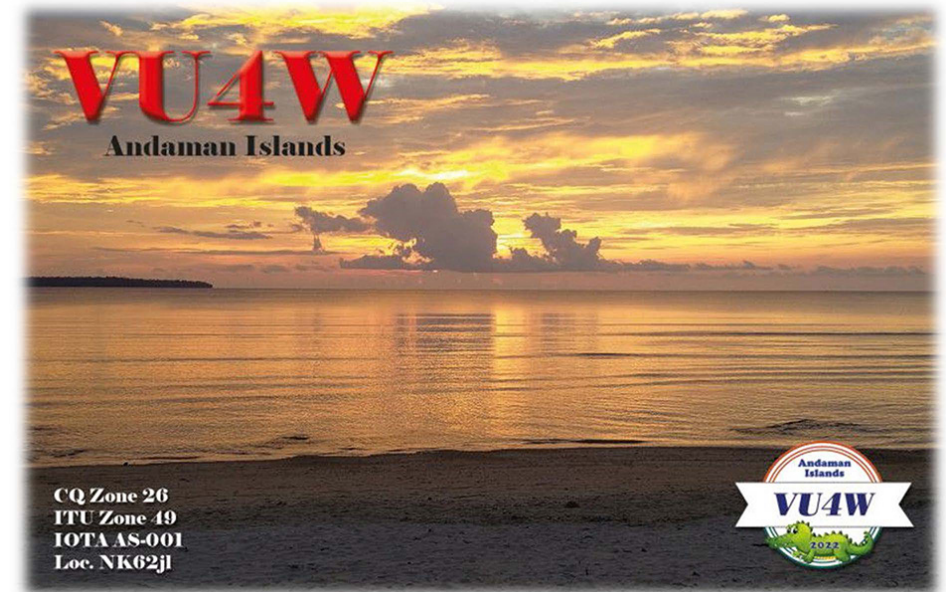
Yuris Petersons, YL2GM

ON APRIL 28, 2022, I STARTED MY journey from Riga, Latvia, to the Andaman Islands, arriving on May 2 in Port Blair, India. The temperature there was around 32°C and humid. I took a taxi to the Sea Princess Beach Resort, chosen because it was the most suitable for my DXpedition based on previous VU4G operators who had worked from there and John Warburton, G4IRN, also suggested it to me.

The hotel staff welcomed me warmly and we agreed on two rooms: a conference room to operate from that was located in a separate building (actually it was a good location because antenna cables could be much shorter than intended), and a separate room used for my sleeping quarters.

Setting up

Right after settling in, I started to set up the RA6LBS vertical and soon realized that I wouldn't be able to complete it until morning. Instead, I worked on the 40-10M vertical intended for FT8 so I could make my first QSOs starting at midnight, when the license for VU4W would first be valid. (From



VU4, Amateurs must operate using VU call signs. The license was for three operators; however, my Indian friends could not join me because of work matters.)

While unpacking my gear, I discovered that my K3 screen was smashed — most likely when it fell off the seat on the plane. The transceiver

was broken; however, I solved this problem by connecting it to a computer that allowed me to change frequencies. For the remaining DXpedition I used this K3 only for FT8. My first QSO was completed right after midnight with YB3BBF.

The next morning, I set up the Spiderbeam antenna and completed it by midday. I chose the location right next to the fence because other places were covered with palm trees. Once set up, it had a SWR > 5 on all bands. I checked the antenna and found the problem: a broken transformer cable. After fixing it, the SWR was good and I started to work CW on the higher bands. That evening I went to take some sunset pictures for QSL cards, and as it turned out, that was the only evening with a clear sky; the rest of the time it was rainy with clouds.

On Wednesday morning, I set up the RA6LBS vertical. The weather was windy and foggy — the monsoon season was about to begin, which meant two months of rain. We received weather warnings for storms and heavy rains in Andaman Islands for the days ahead.

Thursday morning started with setting up Beverage RX antennas behind the hotel's fence, next to the



Yuris, YL2GM, in the DXpedition shack.



The palm-tree filled yard with the Spiderbeam and vertical RA6LBS antennas.

jungle. I heard weird noises while I worked, but I didn't venture deeper into the jungle because of crocodile risks. In the end, the Beverages were 120 meters long. During the night winds picked up and knocked down coconuts from the trees. The sound of them hitting the roof made loud noises like gunfire. Electricity interruptions were frequent

and occurred at least 10 times a day for 10-20 minutes until a local generator was switched on. That explains the unexpected disappearances from frequencies.

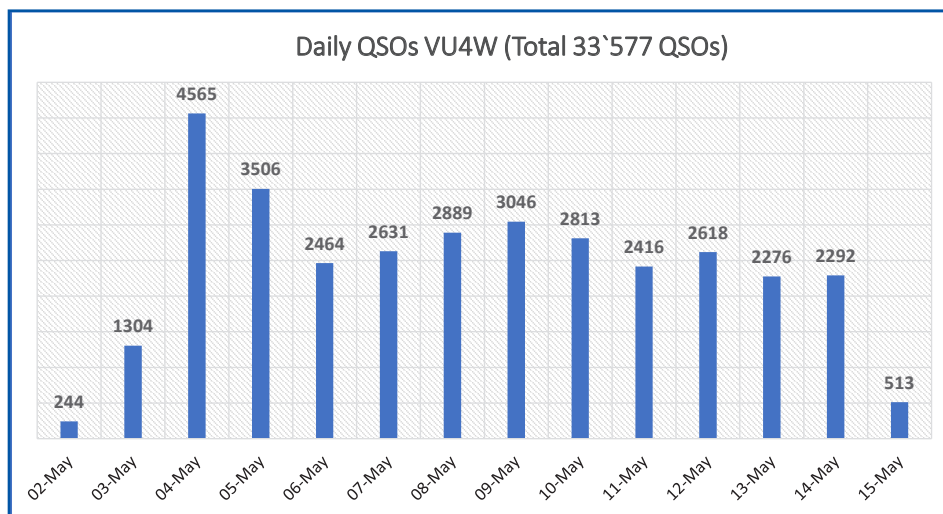
Operations

On 5 May, I uploaded my log with about 6,500 QSOs. The internet was

accessible only in the reception hall, which was 300 meters away from the shack. In order to talk with my XYL and to set the correct time, I walked there every evening. Dinner was usually served at 7 p.m., and on some evenings, I was the only visitor.

For the remaining days, my aim was to work more on the lower bands. On Sunday, 8 May, the first 300 QSOs were made on 80M CW and 40M FT8. Propagation changed daily, and for the worse. On Monday, I tried 6M and managed to get only six QSOs with Japan. Later, I uploaded the log and the totals were 7,732 CW and 10,092 FT8 QSOs. The targeted QSO count was set at 30,000 for the expedition to reach Mega DXpedition standards set by GDXF.

I received a message from the WSJT-X development team with a question about why I only operated with MSHV software instead of WSJT-X Fox mode. I had MSHV from my previous DXpedition to 3DAØWW





Yuris at Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair, India.

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown VU4W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total
160	32	31	0	38
80	56	64	0	69
60	0	37	0	37
40	63	73	0	79
30	61	78	0	80
20	90	103	55	110
17	83	96	0	105
15	86	90	47	107
12	62	67	0	75
10	67	60	0	73
6	0	2	0	2
Totals	108	119	67	133

because this was the only software that worked with non-standard call signs. Another problem was that I didn't have a steady internet connection and I couldn't provide my frequency for Fox mode. Consequently, I operated only on the standard FT8 frequencies. I know it was not the optimal solution; however, for this situation it was my only option.

The rest of my time went by in the usual routine. On Saturday, 14 May, I made the last QSO. My goal was reached and the total QSO count was 33,577. Unfortunately, not many contacts were made on SSB; the majority were on FT8, which is today's reality. On Sunday, I took down the antennas and packed all my gear. My biggest concern was for the falling coconuts; if they hit my head, I could have been severely injured.

Winding down

On my last evening I had a celebration dinner and took a photo with the chef and resort personnel. The following morning I began my journey back home.

Now that the QSL printing and dispatching is done, I give my thanks to everyone who supported this DXpedition and who worked with us. See you soon in the next one. 🌐

Band/Mode breakdown VU4W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	Total %
160	232	151	0	383	1.1%
80	901	1227	0	2128	6.3%
60	0	155	0	155	0.5%
40	699	1514	0	2213	6.6%
30	1041	1778	0	2819	8.4%
20	2800	3603	545	6948	20.7%
17	2329	4095	0	6424	19.1%
15	2551	3476	302	6329	18.8%
12	1524	1755	0	3279	9.8%
10	1469	1425	0	2894	8.6%
6	0	5	0	5	0.0%
Totals	13546	19184	847	33577	99.9%

Continent by Mode VU4W

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	Total	Total %
AF	7	68	75	150	0.9%
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	99	3405	8230	11734	14.8%
EU	664	9274	8880	18818	58.5%
NA	57	481	934	1472	19.4%
OC	9	241	828	1078	2.0%
SA	11	77	237	325	4.4%
Totals	847	13546	19184	33577	100.0%

NCDXF International Beacon Project

Status Update

SINCE THE DELIVERY OF VERSION 2 OF THE controller and refreshing all the hardware for each of the 18 sites, the beacons overall have functioned well. Listening reports have increased to cover more bands for all beacons with the rise of sunspot activity.

A graph of beacons heard shows a period of about six months in early 2022, when all 18 beacons were on the air.

In June 2022, 5Z4B stopped transmitting and hasn't been heard from since. Sadly, the operator Max, 5Z4MR, became a SK in November. ARSK is now looking for a new site and operator to host the 5Z beacon.

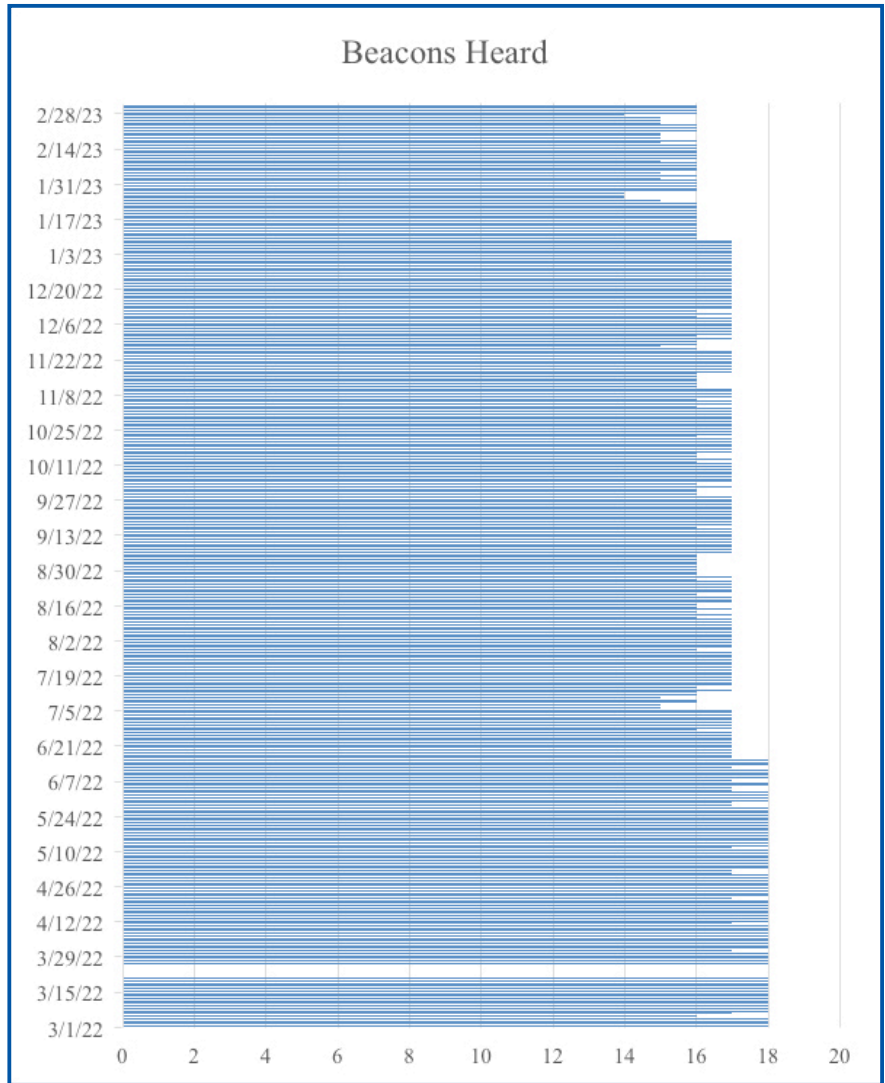
In July 2022 the ZS6DN radio failed with an open circuit. Dr. Gary Immelman, ZS6YI, was able to trace down the fault and repair the radio.

At the start of 2023, ZL6B stopped transmitting. Stephen, ZL1ANY, is working on repairs to the 10M portion of the antenna.

Various beacons are off on contest weekends.

All the operators take great care of the beacons – maintaining them, making sure the selected site is still suitable, and checking for reports of failure. We thank each of the operators for their dedication.

We especially want to thanks Peter, VE3SUN, for the attention he pays to the entire beacon network, several useful pieces of software, being the IARU rep for the IBP, the beacon web page, and keeping the conversation going with the operators.





Join us April 21-23 for the
74th IDXC
**The LARGEST Ham Radio
DX Convention!**
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www.dxconvention.com

NCDXF Director Profile

NAME & CALL SIGN: Don Greenbaum, N1DG

PAST CALLS: WB2DND, A52DG, C92DG

CURRENT QTH LOCATION: Duxbury, MA FN42

WHAT WERE YOUR PREVIOUS QTHs? Central NJ

WHAT IS (WAS) YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER?

Banking, then computer company executive (finance and management) and lastly, managing NHRA drag racing teams.

WHAT COLLEGE DEGREE(S) DID YOU EARN AND

WHERE DID YOU EARN THEM? BA, Rutgers; MBA, Baruch College

MARRIED? KIDS? GRANDKIDS? Married, 48 years with two children and two grandchildren

NCDXF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS? Treasurer

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS? Director of several community orchestras. Appointee to community group for Pacific Remote Marine National Monument/USFWS.

CURRENT DXCC STATUS? 359 Mixed & Phone (340 current), 348 CW. 3174 Challenge

DESCRIBE YOUR SHACK AND ANTENNA SYSTEM: K4D.

Amplifiers include an Alpha 9500, KPA1500, and a Command VHF2000 for EME. Antennas include a 72-foot tower supporting a SteppIR DB18 and a 6m7, a Titanex 160 Vertical, and a 30-foot tower for EME with an array of 4 Innov LFA-3 6 el beams.

DXPEDITION EXPERIENCE? A61AD (1990), KH9-Wake (1996), A52A (2000), K4M-Midway (2009), VP8ORK (2011), C82DX (2013), KH1/KH7Z Baker Island (2018), KH?? (2023).



WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT CONTRIBUTING TO NCDXF? Over the past 50 years NCDXF has granted over \$1.25 million to DXpeditioners. It is not surprising to see our grants amount to over 20% of the funds raised by rare DXpeditions. Your contributions make DX happen.

AS AN AVID DXER WHAT SORTS OF TRENDS DO YOU SEE? The best trend is that technology is enabling smaller stations to work the DX. The worst trend is bad behavior on the bands.

ANY TIPS FOR DXERS? Listen, listen and then listen again. By seeing where the DX is working people you know when and where to call. If you don't hear the DX don't bother calling because you are making it harder for everyone else.

ANY ADVICE FOR NCDXF? Find better ways to market ourselves so we can raise more money and finance more DXpeditions.

WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU? In 1985 I worked with Andy Warhol while he was learning how to use a Commodore Amiga Computer to draw Debbie Harry for our launch of the Amiga (I was Commodore's Treasurer).

ANY OTHER COMMENTS? Please read the Autumn 2012 NCDXF Newsletter article on Financing a DXpedition (by N1DG). It is still valid today.



Cycle 25 Fund & Cycle 25 Society



TO HELP SUPPLEMENT NCDXF's mission to provide necessary financial support for well-organized DXpeditions to rare and financially demanding DXCC entities, NCDXF established the Cycle 25 Fund in 2016. The goal of the Cycle 25 Fund is to double NCDXF's endowment through significant estate gifts from current DXers, which will allow NCDXF to continue its mission throughout sunspot Cycle 25 and beyond.

NCDXF Vice President, Craig

Thompson, K9CT, who oversees the Cycle 25 Fund, has established a Cycle 25 Society for those who participate. Thompson said, "The Cycle 25 Society is for honoring those special individuals who commit to estate giving before the next sunspot maximum. When you let us know your plans, we will honor you on our website and send you a special Cycle 25 Society pin as a memento of your thoughtfulness."


Craig invites DXers interested in the Cycle 25 Society to visit the NCDXF website www.ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html for more information. You can also contact Craig to discuss Cycle

DXPEDITION LENDING LIBRARY

NCDXF has a number of VHS/DVD videos and Microsoft® Power Point presentations on CD-ROM available for loan to organizations

wishing to show them at their meetings. There is no charge to use the programs in the FOUNDATION'S library, but clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. To view the complete listing of programs available for your club's use, visit our website, www.ncdxf.org, and click on "Videos."



25 Fund funding options, including specific bequests, designation of IRA beneficiaries and purchase of an annuity or life insurance. 

Since the announcement of the Fund, the following individuals have made estate-planning commitments:

Tom Berson, ND2T	Alan Rovner, K7AR
Al Burnham, K6RIM	Bob Schmieder, KK6EK
Bruce Butler, W6OSP (sk)	Rich Seifert, KE1B
Rusty Epps, W6OAT	Charles Spetnagel, W6KK
John Grimm, KØYQ	Ned Stearns, AA7A
Rich Haendel, W3ACO	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR
Glenn Johnson, WØGJ	Craig Thompson, K9CT
Hardy Landskov, N7RT (sk)	Dan White, W5DNT
Ed Muns, WØYK	

CONTRIBUTIONS

NCDXF relies heavily upon the generosity of its contributors to fund various projects. We ask you to consider making an annual contribution of US\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the FOUNDATION for financial reasons. If \$50 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of \$50! NCDXF is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. Send your contribution to: NCDXF, P.O. Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via our secure server, visit www.ncdxf.org/donate.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)


ARE YOU 70½ YEARS OLD OR OLDER?
If you donate to charities, then you can save on your taxes.

The IRS issued a press release in November 2022 stating that you can use a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to save on taxes.

All of us at this age can or must take a distribution each year from our IRA or 401(k) plans. Take a look at the distribution form from your plan trustee and you will see that there is a way to have your plan trustee send the distribution to selected charities or 501(c)(3) entities. If you meet the age where a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) must be taken

each year, this election qualifies as your RMD and, because you are sending the money directly to the charity, no taxes are withheld! Check with your tax advisor about which method is best for you.

NCDXF is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization and you can send money directly to NCDXF without any taxes being withheld. Please let NCDXF know that you are sending this from your plan trustee so that we can give appropriate documentation to you recognizing your donation.

For more information, please go to the IRS website and search for IR-2022-201, November 17, 2022. 

Show your support for NCDXF

NCDXF offers several ways for you to show your love for DXing! Impress your friends with a gold-toned lapel pin at a DX convention. Show up at your next hamfest sporting a NCDXF ball cap, don a NCDXF T-shirt or keep warm wearing the new NCDXF 50th Anniversary hooded sweatshirt or knit beanie to set up your Yagi on Field Day. We've also added wicking long-sleeved tech shirts to keep you looking *and* feeling cool on your tropical DXpedition. And when you return from that rare DX entity, you can send out your QSLs affixed with an NCDXF label. To place your order, fill out and mail in the form below or visit www.ncdxf.org to place your order online through our secure website. *Please note, due to drastic increases in mailing costs, shipping (included) is only available to US addresses.*



Navy blue long-sleeve hooded sweatshirt with full-length front zipper and pockets (sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2X & 3X)



White, long-sleeve tech shirt (sizes: M, L, XL, 2X & 3X)



Navy blue short-sleeve t-shirt, (sizes: M, L, XL, 2X, 3X)



Gold-toned lapel pin



Navy blue ball cap (one size, fits most)



Navy blue knit beanie (one size)



Roll of 500 labels

Send me the following supplies (shipping included):

ITEM	UNIT COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Join NCDXF with your Contribution / Renewal (circle one)			\$
50th Anniversary Sweatshirt (circle size S / M / L / XL / 2X / 3X)	\$60		\$
Short sleeve T-shirt (circle size M / L / XL / 2X / 3X)	\$20		\$
Long sleeve tech shirt (circle size M / L / XL / 2X / 3X)	\$25		\$
Ball cap	\$12		\$
Knit beanie	\$25		\$
Lapel pin	\$10		\$
Roll of 500 labels	\$10		\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$

Name & callsign _____

Mailing address _____

Email _____

Check enclosed or Charge to Visa / MC / AmEx (circle one)

Card number _____ Expiry _____ Signature _____

Mail your completed order form to NCDXF, PO Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012