Northern California DX Foundation

www.ncdxf.org Fall/Winter 2008

VP6DX
A Day in the Life of a DXpedition

— Eric L. Scace, K3NA

On Friday, 8 February 2008, we arrived at Ducie Island for a three-week DXpedtion operating as VP6DX and, while there, our team set many new DXpedition records.

Planning

Many design decisions of this expedition were derived from the fact that our ship, the R/V *Braveheart*, carried a maximum of 13 passengers and a crew of six. With 13 operators, each needed to be on-air 13 hours a day to man our seven operating positions. This arrangement allowed eight hours for sleep and a few hours for meals, bathing and other personal chores, in addition to other tasks essential to the expedition.

We settled on patterns based on four-hour operating shifts and a 28-hour "day." The typical pattern was two shifts (8 hours) on-air, one shift (4 hours) break, two shifts (8 hours) on-air and two shifts (8 hours) rest. The 28-hour pattern exploited the human circadian rhythm, which extends slightly longer than a calendar day. As the cycle repeated, each operator experienced radio conditions at slightly different times and on different bands, providing for an interesting change of pace.

This pattern also prevented us from assigning the same operator to the same band during the same time of day. For example, if the same operator always worked the 30M band in the late afternoon, he might fall into a pattern of working American and Asian stations — always loud at this time of day — but fail to recognize that, by reversing his 4-square antenna, he could add many long path European and Middle East stations to the log. By using this 28-hour pattern, different operators had the chance to approach a band's pileups differently and make new discoveries. Gab messages over the logging network (e.g., "Yesterday we worked Ukraine at this time on long path") helped convey knowledge to the next day's operators.

While the 28-hour pattern formed a foundation for planning, shift scheduling required additional juggling and some operators shouldered additional time-consuming obligations. Robin Critchell, WA6CDR, and Milt Jensen, N5IA, formed the technical support team, surrendering several operating shifts each day to maintain and improve the stations, generators and antennas. I sacrificed a 4-hour shift to upload the logs over the satellite Internet link onto the website, review e-mail messages submitted from the DX audience and prepare the next day's operating schedule. Other operators needed to fill those on-air shifts, and this is where the decision to form operator teams primarily with contesters paid off. Each day some operators spent three consecutive shifts on-air (12 hours), extending their "day" to 32 hours.

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Station setup

To help eliminate cross-station interference when operating two stations on the same band, we divided the operating positions into two camps: east and west. Viewed from above, over 800 meters separated these two radio tents. A path along the edge of the inner lagoon connected the two camps but, because of deviations around trees and water, the walk was about 1,100 meters and took about 15 minutes to make the crossing.

Each camp included a full set of transmitting antennas, with the exception of 160M (at the west camp) and 6M (east camp). Antennas stood in a specific sequence to separate harmonically-related bands such as 80M and 40M. Typically 900 meters separated the two transmitting antennas for the same band. Our site plan formed just one of five engineering decisions that worked together to permit us to run two full-power transmitters on the same band, even on the very narrow 30M band, with no cross-station interference.

Within each radio camp, WiFi linked each logging computer with a router. A microwave link, designed and tested by Milt, connected east and west sites together. Microwave antennas with integrated transceivers sat atop six-meter bamboo poles and at the west camp this pole poked up through a tree next to the operating tent. At the east camp, placing the antenna next to the lagoon provided a reliable line-of-sight connection. A couple hundred meters of CAT5 cable conveyed DC power and data signals between the microwave transceiver and the router at the supervisor tent. With floating batteries on the DC supply lines, this system proved robust even in the occasional heavy tropical rain shower.

The radio operators were not the only ones on shifts. Nigel Jolly, owner of the R/V *Braveheart*, and his son Matt (the captain), assigned two of their crewmembers to work on shore; the remaining four stood shifts on board ship. Ducie Island has no harbor or safe anchorage so, as wind and sea conditions changed, the ship needed to weigh anchor and move to a different location around the atoll. The man on watch also kept an eye on the weather radar; alerting us over VHF marine radios when showers threatened our camps so we could zip up the tents. The crew washed, dried and delivered our laundry, as well as fresh water, fuel and food supplies by jet boat; on some days sea conditions prevented the daily deliveries. The ashore crew prepared meals, washed dishes, moved fuel and water, delivered food to the west camp (which had no kitchen), dug new latrines when needed, burned trash and continued to improve our camp infrastructure.

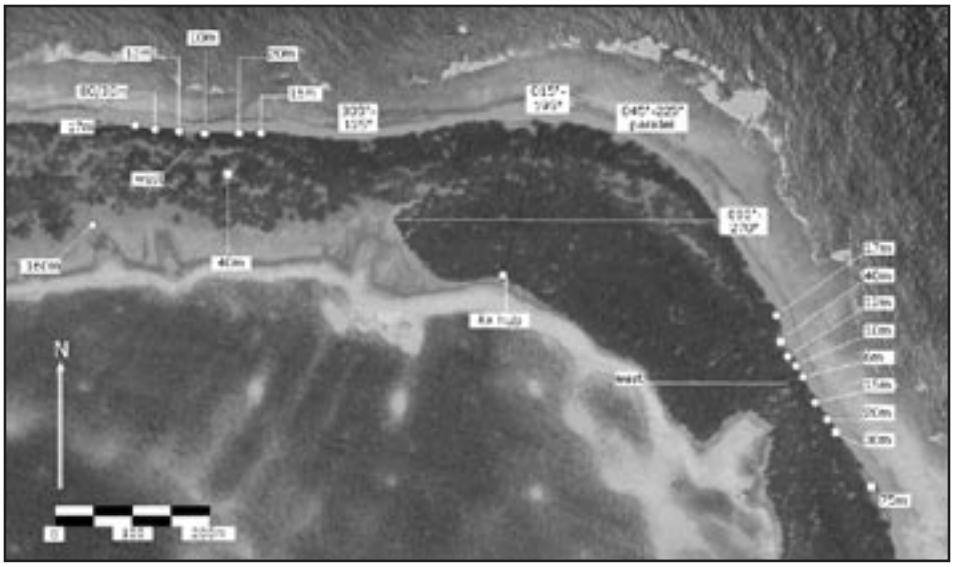
What follows is one GMT day, 17 February, in the life of this DXpedition.

00-02Z

The battery-powered clock in the field kitchen showed 4 p.m. local time; it was Saturday. A pleasant but warm afternoon began to fade in in-

Contributions

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 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! The **NCDXF** is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. Use the envelope supplied with the newsletter to send your contribution. If the envelope is missing, send your contribution to: **Northern California DX Foundation**, P.O. Box 1328, Los Altos, CA 94023-1328, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via our secure server, visit www.ncdxf.org.



Transmitting antennas and radio sites, as built.

tensity as the sun dropped toward the western horizon.

As the new GMT day began, Harry (Igor Booklan), RA3AUU, logged QSO number 74,461 on 15M SSB with Japan. Having been continuously on the air for four days and 21 hours, the hourly rate averaged 630 contacts, or about 15,000 per day, but Europe now sat in darkness and sunset was approaching the North American east coast. With the falling MUFs, the first hour of the new GMT day yielded 640 QSOs.

Seven men manned radios at two sites. The smaller west camp, with three operating positions, ran North America on 20M (Carsten Esch, DL6LAU) and 15M CW (Andree Schanko, DL8LAS). The second day of the ARRL DX CW contest had just begun and our operators on the CW contest bands handed out contest exchanges to every U.S. and Canadian station that called in, while interleaving contacts with DXers in other parts of the world. No caller was turned away without a QSO! Robin, WA6CDR, tested a partially disassembled OM HF-2500 amplifier at the West-1 operating position.

At the larger east camp, none of the four operators on duty paid much attention to the CW contest; all were running SSB. Les Fabianski, SP3DOI, worked mostly Asia with some U.S. mixed in on 17M. Ben (Bernd Och), DL6FBL, raced through a huge pileup on 20M, mostly U.S. but with the occasional European caller. On 15M, a Japanese pileup occupied Harry, RA3AUU.

Being a specialist in "edge" propagation, I perched on the cusp of the MUF, waiting for Japan to show on 12M. I had a slow American run going and, one minute into the new GMT day, the afternoon's first JA entered the log, but the next half-hour yielded few contacts on voice, so I switched to 12M CW at 0030Z. My first contact was Yuri Cheranid, RV6LO, which stimulated an exchange of chat messages over the computer network — it was 3 a.m. in Rostovskaya oblast. While a few stations in Portugal and Spain had been worked in 12M SSB an hour earlier, zone 16 hadn't been heard for six hours on any band above 17M, with one exception: the same RV6LO on 15M CW in the middle of an American pile-up at 2339Z. The operators on duty suspected a remote-controlled station in another country and flagged both contacts as suspicious.

At 01Z Robin announced the source of the amplifier's woes: an open 10-ohm 25-watt resistor in the step-start circuit. He hiked back to the east camp to the technical worktables with spare parts to see if he could create a suitable repair.

Because it was Sunday morning in Japan, the team stuck with the higher bands for longer than normal, hoping for a rich collection of JA calls at the end of their weekend. The previous day's runs to Japan had been the best to date, but this day's reduced east Asia volumes and the dropping MUF combined to force the 01Z hour's rate down to 473.

02-06Z

02Z corresponded to 6 p.m. local time and for supper Broughton and Nick barbequed fresh fish, serving it with vegetables. Four operators rotated off-duty: Carsten left west camp, turning over 20M CW to Dietmar Kasper, DL3DXX. Ben wrapped up his shift on 20M SSB at the operating position known as East-2; Cliff Sakalis, SV1JG took over the chair, turning his attention to 20M RTTY. Harry turned East-1 over to Tõnno Vahk, ES5TV, who cranked up the CQ machine with an unruly European pileup on 75M SSB, hunting for eastern Europeans during their narrow low-band propagation window.

I came off-air from East-4 shortly thereafter, but I gave my relief operator, Robert Lusnia, SP5XVY, a chance to eat dinner first. When Robert took over, I wolfed down a quick meal and headed off to my cot for some sleep; my next shift began at 2 a.m.

Les, in the middle of an 8-hour stint, walked away from East-3's 17M SSB pileup a half-hour earlier to be the first at supper and then went back on the radio, cleaning up a small South America pileup before focusing on Europe.

Within a half-hour Robin had fixed the West-1 amplifier. Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB, sat down for a final check of 12M CW for Asia but found slim pickings. By 03Z Andy locked the transceiver onto 17M CW to work JAs. Normally this radio would be hunting Europe on 160M, but that evening American contesters filled that band — and at that hour they focused eastward, running Europe. Few of them would hear our signal on this crowded band until after the European sunrise. The same situation held on 80M CW, which explained why Andree continued at the West-2 radio with America and Asia on 15M CW.

Robin, feeling victorious after his field repair of the West-1 amplifier,

arrived back in the east camp just in time for the last scraps of supper before heading off to sleep.

06-10Z

Harry, after too short of a nap, relieved Les on 40M SSB. Les, fortunate to have his 8-hour rest period occur in darkness, wasted no time finding his pillow. Carsten was the only other operator to come on duty at 06Z, and at 0619Z Andree asked where he was. Andree stuck with the 20M CW pileup for another 90 minutes before Carsten, who overslept, finally arrived. Andree moved to the extra cot next to the west radio tent; after 10 hours on the air, he needed a nap. Dietmar let Andree sleep two hours beyond the start of his next shift at 10Z, in part because 40M demonstrated tremendous depth that night. At 10Z Asia opened all the way to UAØA (Krasnoyarsk kray) to the north-northwest — while at the same moment the band remained open to western Europe, with Portugal, Spain and England logged. All this DX went in the log along with a massive pile of Americans, hot for the Ducie Island multiplier in the ARRL DX CW contest. What fun!

As this period closed, an alarm clock rang among the sleeping tents. I shut it off and woke Robin. A few minutes later Robin left for the west camp, and I entered the east radio tent.

10-14Z

The clock hour rate had peaked two hours earlier at 698, and declined as the MUF drifted down. The next hour stood as the slowest of the night: 368 QSOs. After eight hours on East-1 Tõnno was scheduled for a break but, not feeling tired, gave up his 4-hour off-time allowing Milt to sleep. He took a short break to stretch his legs and replaced Cliff on 20M SSB. I took over 75M SSB and looked forward to a new listening experience.

During the last two daylight periods Milt and Robin constructed a low-band receiving antenna system. Prior to arrival we considered two approaches for receiving antennas: separate beverage systems for each camp or a shared beverage antenna farm, midway between the two radio sites.

Microwave link antenna on six-meter bamboo pole used for data link between the east and west radio camps. 75M 4-square antenna in the background.

With the given amount of labor hours, the design team felt the shared approach would provide better results. Robin and Milt threaded three of the planned four beverages through the trees and assembled a centralized, remote-controlled switching hub, which allowed the 160M, 80M CW and 75M SSB operators to independently select one of eight listening directions. Using these antennas for the first time, we found that this superb system not only gave us excellent hearing on these low bands, but also provided wonderful insight into propagation.

At 1030Z Carsten abandoned 20M CW, inheriting the 80M CW pileup. The island settled into its typical post-midnight configuration: one station on 160M, two stations on 80/75M, two stations on 40M and the remaining two stations on 30M or 20M (depending on propagation). On that night 20M remained open all the way through — an infrequent occurrence during this DXpedition.

The CW low-band operators focused on the contest and Asia. QRN continued to be "horrid" on top band, according to Robin's complaint on the gab window, but Andy noted, "The beverages rock!" As the sun rose over the Caribbean, QRN levels dropped quickly on the 045° beverage.

Only the 75M SSB operator had the time to explore the long path on the 195° and 225° beverages. At 1300Z JT1BV called in on the 305° beverage. Forty minutes later, as twilight lightened the eastern sky, the long path opened up to Finland, Moscovskaya and Rostovskaya oblasts.

The final hour of this shift yielded only 437 QSOs, but the exotic call openings made it fun. 20M, slow through the night, strengthened by 1330Z and at sunrise, Harry left 40M SSB for 17M, already open to Europe.

14-18Z

Carsten and I squeezed the last out of 80M CW and 75M SSB, respectively. 80M CW closed first and about 15 minutes later absorption crept up a bit higher in frequency to close the 75M band. Ben pushed the chair away from the 30M CW East-4 radio, allowing Robert to put the station on RTTY. After a quick bite of breakfast, Ben poked the East-1 radio onto 15M SSB, where the band opened to Europe.

A similar frequency shuffle occurred at the west camp. Les arrived at dawn to move the 160M radio to 17M CW. Carsten hopped from 80M to 20M CW, but Andree stretched out 40M CW long and skew path openings to Europe for another two hours. Finally, the rising D-layer absorption shut down 40M. As Nick and Neal delivered breakfast and gasoline, Andree refueled the generators. Thirty minutes later he relieved Carsten on

20M CW, and I arrived to take the vacant operating position to 15M CW, running a mix of contesters and Europeans. Rates were good but Ben and I noted signals on 15M barely audible above the hiss of the antenna noise floor. The aggregate rate moved up: 645 during the 1400Z hour, 708 the next hour and 806 during the 1600Z hour. It wasn't only the feverish pace of the pileups that made the operators sweat; the sun baked the radio tents.

During the hours before sunrise, the low-band operators debated priorities for the next phase of receive antenna construction. Should a parallel 045° wire be added to narrow that direction's pattern and reduce the static level? Or should an east-west beverage be added to improve reception in the southern Caribbean, Central America, northern South America, Southeast Asia and Australia? The comparative difficulty in copying signals from these regions led to a consensus favoring an east-west beverage and at dawn Robin and Milt worked to get the wires up before midday.

At 1630Z the first of a string of watery signals from Scandinavia showed up on 15M, and absorption caused 30M signals to fade. Andy took over from Robert at East-4 and moved that radio to 12M SSB, hoping for a good European opening. An hour later Harry took the radio up to 10M CW, which exploded with contest callers. Fortunately, the contest activity introduced few dupes into the log and the decision to work the contest proved not only fun for the operators, but also beneficial to the overall expedition results.

18-22Z

As midday approached, the chat message volume increased on the logging computer network. Rising D-layer absorption in the ionosphere reduced signals on 20M and 17M. As the percentage of unanswered CQs increased, operators turned to chat messages to pass the time. More than time was passed: when a DX station answered a CQ, the VP6DX operator checked the Win-Test display to see on what other bands that station has yet to work us and often a little coaching occurred: "By the way, you can try working us on 12M sideband now. We are transmitting on 24987…"

Harry began his 8-hour rest period; a shift that was the most difficult for sleeping because bright sunshine and overly hot tents challenged even the most exhausted operator. It was better to schlepp a cot to the beach and sleep beneath the shade of a suspended tarp. The ocean breeze and the separation from camp noises helped; eyeshades and earplugs helped more.

The shift change also provided the trigger to change bands. Cliff took over from Tõnno on 20M SSB to serve the vast Sunday afternoon American pileup while Robert took on 17M SSB, also populated by North and South America. Ben continued on 15M SSB while Dietmar took 15M CW from me and both ran a mixture of U.S. and western Europe. Tõnno and Andy ran 12M SSB and CW, respectively. Les managed 10M, only marginally open, and switched between CW and SSB to keep up some semblance of productive rate. Nonetheless, the aggregate rate fell to 592 for the 18Z hour, up to 694 for 19Z, back to 548 at 20Z. Absorption finally blanked out 20M, forcing Cliff up to 15M SSB for the remainder of his shift. The last rate hour of this period improved to 738.

The crunch of footsteps announced Matt's arrival to east camp. Matt drove one of the R/V *Braveheart's* three landing boats across the lagoon's shallow southern entrance and up to the inner shoreline, delivering waterproof canisters of food to the kitchen. Right behind him was Theresa with a yellow waterproof bag filled with clean laundry! Neil prepared a light lunch of cabbage, clam ceviche and fresh baked bread.

12M and 10M coupled into transatlantic sporadic E: dozens of stations from Portugal, Canary Islands, Azores, Melilla, all entered the log during the middle of that shift. At the very bottom of the sunspot cycle, these DXers must have shared our sense of wonder at their nighttime high-band openings into the Pacific. On 10M the Canary Islands appeared to be the main beneficiary, but Les worked Portugal as late as 2115Z.

22-00Z

Carsten took over 15M SSB from Cliff, who took over 12M SSB from Tõnno, who had been on the air almost continuously for 20 hours and received the "iron pants" award for the day. Extra shifts from him, Harry, Les and Ben allowed Milt and Robin to complete and test the new beverage antenna.

Their jobs weren't done though; they needed to cut some replacement insulators of a larger size for a 17M antenna. The current insulators and string arced over after almost a week in the salty breeze.

A few off-duty operators who weren't able to sleep in the afternoon heat went to work assembling the 6M Yagi on a bamboo pole. I dug out the spare Elecraft K3 transceiver and programmed it as a beacon. We didn't have enough operators to dedicate one person during each shift to monitor this CQ machine, but by setting the radio on speaker watch at the picnic table where most off-duty operators hung out, we hoped to catch any answers but nothing but solar hiss was heard. In fact, we didn't hear anyone on 6M during the entire expedition.

D-layer absorption declined toward the northeast, permitting deeper Sunday afternoon pileups and sending the 22Z hourly rate up to 795. These good rates on the high bands might not occur late in the expedition, and QSO totals on these bands lagged behind those on the lower frequencies, so the team elected to delay a shift down the radio spectrum. Patience was rewarded. After a 90-minute gap, transatlantic sporadic E reappeared on 10M and more call signs from Portugal fell into the log; 10M open at local midnight in Europe — wow! And simultaneously 10M and 12M broke open to Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and China. Although the rate during the last hour of the GMT day fell to 480, it was still exciting. Dietmar's gab message said it all: "CT around midnight… amazing. Like in good sunspot years."

At 00Z the ARRL DX contest ended and we had many more days of fun ahead of us before returning home.

2008 scholarship recipients

In May 2008, Northern California DX Foundation Scholarships were awarded to two students, Matthew Lape, N1XB and Gregory Davis, N3ZL.

Matthew Harrison Lape, N1XB, Francestown, NH

MATTHEW WAS FIRST LICENSED in August 2004 and currently holds an Amateur Extra Class license. A 2005 graduate of Contoocook Valley Regional High School, Matthew is now enrolled at the University of New Hampshire with a GPA of 3.85 while studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering; he also serves on the Student Advisory Board for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Matthew's primary Amateur Radio interest is in DX phone and he operates mostly on 20M, 17M and 15M, enjoying contacts in exotic parts of the world. During contests he is always searching for those rare, distant contacts. He also operates across the U.S. and on 2M to stay in touch with his family of Amateur Radio operators. Amateur Radio has been an activity that has brought his family together for Field Day, local hamfests and trips to Hamventions.

Matthew has found that Amateur Radio has provided clarity and hands-on experience in the world of electronic theory, circuit design and signal propagation with real life application of the knowledge he is gaining through his formal studies. Matthew has his eyes on a career in audio engineering, engineering management or the high technology industry.

Gregory Scott Davis, N3ZL, Florence, SC

GREGORY WAS FIRST LICENSED in July 2004 and currently holds an Amateur Extra Class license. A recent graduate of Qwest Florence High School with a 4.479 GPA in predominantly honors-level classes, Gregory plans to enroll at Clemson University seeking a degree in electrical engineering.

Gregory began as a Ham using digital modes but currently devotes his daily operating to CW for DX and contesting. He is currently a member of the Florence Amateur Radio Club, FISTS, the North American QRP Club and ARRL. His interest in Amateur Radio began at the age of 9 and peaked at 14 after visiting a local air show where he saw radios in action.

He upgraded to General Class three years later and turned from PSK and RTTY to the challenge of CW. He was truly bitten by the DX bug that has provided experiences in everything from geography to electronic theory, wave propagation and antenna design. The result of Gregory's development as a Ham is a world of friendships across town and around the globe.

Amateur Radio opened doors for Gregory as he applied his knowledge to his Eagle Scout project of assembling and installing a series of 2-meter antennas for Red Cross evacuation shelters over 13 months. This project qualified Gregory to win the coveted Hiram Percy Maxim award and considerable press locally, at the state level in South Carolina and in *QST*! Gregory hopes to pursue a career in RF circuit design.

NCDXF Educational Fund

Since Don Doughty, W6EEN, made his original contribution of $20,000 in August 1997 and another $10,000 in 2006 to the NCDXF educational fund we have awarded a total of $27,000 in scholarships to 18 deserving students.

Our policy is to award scholarships based upon our portfolio returns and the corpus of the portfolio is always kept intact. The ARRL administers the educational grants under the criteria established by the board of NCDXF.

In light of Don's support of our educational efforts and to better recognize these efforts we are renaming the educational fund as follows: "The Don and Phyllis Doughty (W6EEN)/NCDXF Educational Fund."

Don and Phyllis have made an additional commitment of $10,000 to this fund, raising our corpus to $40,000. The NCDXF board thanks Don and Phyllis for their tremendous generosity.

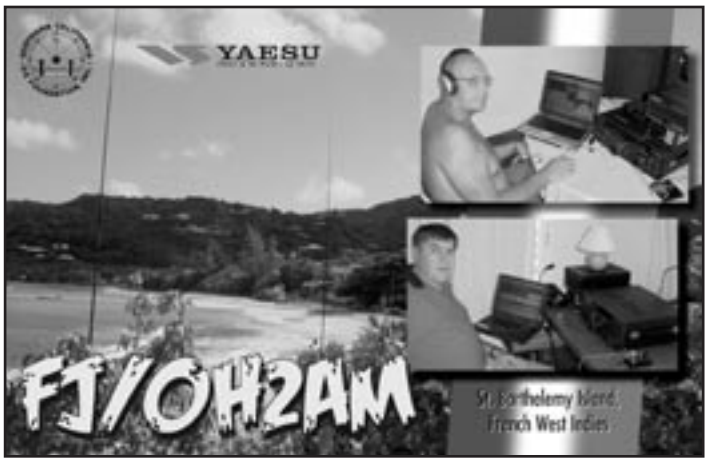
St. Barts and FJ/OH2AM and its ingredients

— Martti Laine, OH2BH

With the approach of my 50th anniversary as a DXer and DXpeditioner, it is gratifying to recall that I have had the pleasure of drafting and activating a bunch of new DXCC countries. These new ones date back to the early days of my Amateur Radio career in the 1960s, starting with OJØMR Märket Reef and 3CØAN Annobon Island.

This has given me new insight into the world of Amateur Radio, certainly affecting my outlook on DX and, undoubtedly, allowing me an enviable perspective to view the world — sometimes with great satisfaction and occasionally with a sense of deep disappointment. Here I touch base with the most recent one, Saint Barthelemy, FJ, and the one waiting at the gate, the Republic of Kosovo.

These past decades have seen many people in charge of DXCC; they have witnessed countless administrative actions — some well justified, others less so. These years have experienced many world complexities, their resolution and various ways to cope with them. The world has also seen towering DX personalities at both ends of the table, at the administration end and the production end. And this has been an era rife with dramatic signs of changing times to which DXCC has responded in a timely and professional manner, or equally with lack of knowledge or guided by interests coming from outside of the DXCC program.



Being away from our families at Christmas was the hardest part of FJ/OH2AM, but seeing Santa everywhere surely helped us remember the meaning of Christmas and the fact that the jolly old man with a white beard and a red suit hails from northern Finland.

Since 1935 when Clinton B. DeSoto drew up the underpinnings of DXCC as another operating award, the program has without doubt grown to become a foreign policy baseline for the entire world of Amateur Radio. This is a process which I have witnessed or followed, at times being highly supportive of what has been unfolding and at times just looking at everything with deep amazement.

A new gate opens up

While traditionally new countries had to pass the United Nations (UN) or the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) gate, followed by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) gate, the most recent administrative addition is the United States Department of State gate. Clearly, this has created a new situation in the entire DXCC game. It has brought in a country-specific approval gate (the U.S. in this case), which inevitably elevates our game to a completely new level, which can be strongly challenged. But the fact that DXCC is a U.S.-managed program, born and raised in the U.S., would seem to justify taking on board the U.S. State Department as one of the reviewing principles for allowing potential new counters to enter the DXCC list.

St. Barts enters DXCC

The U.S. State Department gate was drafted in the context of Swains Island not meeting any other gate and the end result brought us Saint Barthelemy, or St. Barts for short, while also revealing the strength and the weakness of that gate. An administrative change in French legislation affecting the relationship between two islands, Guadeloupe, FG, and St. Barts, FJ, was sealed in Mother France (Law 2007-224) on 21 February 2007, effective that same date. This was the actual Event Date, "an historical occurrence" as per DXCC rules. Although the Department of State had recognized the changes in July, they were inadvertently not added to the webpage until the omission was pointed out in mid-December. For DXCC purposes then, St. Barts entered the scene only after the appearance of that record on their website. That undercut the actual Event Date and its historical occurrence in moving the new country into the hands of a State Department employee.

Obviously, hungry DXpeditioners were left with two bullets. Keep their eyes glued to the State Department website and deposit their DXpedition gear in an airport locker or simply make friends with the State Department employee. We selected the latter and realized that "making a new DXCC country" this way felt like being the bottom link of the State Department chain. It seemed that the change prior to Christmas 2007 indicated that the status of St. Barts depended more on the Christmas rush than any true administrative factor. It was posted on the website for Christmas, prompting us to go there on short notice. For a variety of reasons, it is good to activate DXCC countries as soon as they are born. You cannot reserve them for the day of your convenience.

Activating St. Barts

Olli Rissanen, OHØXX, and I had to leave our families for Christmas. With a brand new country, in contrast to a regular DXpedition, you know for sure that 100% of DXers and wannabees will turn on their radios and adjust all other activities to fit. We had only one point to support the activation at that time: we were there to bring a Christmas present to DXers the world over, probably for the first time ever on Christmas Eve.

Olli Rissanen, OHØXX, wanted to add variety to his operating routine so during the daytime, he worked on the balcony underneath the palm trees; he moved the gear inside for the dark hours.

We most heartily agreed that the local Amateur Radio population should be in a position to know when their own DXCC country was to be born, but it was not to be. We considered this element seriously and decided to capitalize on the State Department gate the way it is defined. Those discovering the web update first would be in the driver's seat for a first activation. Adding to our undertaking was the fact that none of the local Hams were active on HF, nor had there been any DXCluster spots of HF activity from St. Barts during the previous six months.

This was a beautiful spot and a superb radio location. Over Martti's head the signals went to Europe (NE) while the entire northern sector faced the blue ocean.

We faced sniper fire from the locals and their immediate friends, and efforts to discredit our operation were immense. The police were sent to the scene by local Hams as part of the festive season, making our Christmas a very unpleasant one. Since we carried the needed CEPT licenses, the police did not see any reason to terminate our operation, and friendly as the police were, we had a big thrill at our end of the circuit.

Going to St. Barts by regular flight or ferry is destined to turn into a routine affair without the typical DXpedition excitement of rough landings and bad weather, but we did get our share of excitement. All the ports were closed in St. Barts due to a local strike; however, there were locals traveling to St. Barts under their own arrangements, mooring at their own piers. We found ourselves fully blessed with some local notables and even Immigration was open during the strike. Eventually our Christmas present reached Santa's bag just prior to this greatest day of the year.

A brand new DXCC counter

Whatever strategy we selected would not please every DXer. On St. Barts we were on stage with the United States in the front row. With this in mind, we decided to script the performance accordingly to mark their Christmas, but at the same time there was every reason to be fair. I recall when Joe Locascio, K5KT, broke in to say that he needed just a quick report so that he would not miss Christmas church. It would be just a quick 59, but there were also many others going to Christmas church. Therefore, wishing Joe a "Merry Christmas" and keeping the 59 on hold until his return was the only way for us to be fair to the others. Gladly, Joe soon rushed back from church for his QSO.

Staging your show at Christmas in the presence of everybody and in front of a demanding U.S. audience is not the easiest of tasks. Accordingly, we decided to formulate a precise strategy and follow it to the letter. I have operated with Olli, OHØXX/HP1WW for more than 40 years, making us a very compatible duo, an important and needed feature in any brand-new, no-hassle country activation.

We chose operating SSB by numbers for the most part, giving more time, for example, to W4s than WØs

by taking into account FCC statistics. Having practiced this for many years we were able to log people with strong signals and weak signals equally and faster in the spirit of an organized performance. Also, this way we wanted more than 90% of people to listen at any given time and enjoy our unique Christmas show underway instead of them screaming at all times and creating a seemingly unruly pileup. The entire undertaking was conducted on selected bands and in such a way that we were able to free people for Christmas in record time, hopefully with at least one QSO in their log.

We were pleased with the bands and tactics selected and heard no criticism of our radio operating, and the way we moved the multitudes. We logged 23,340 QSOs during the five days of operating, with the only break for our own Christmas lunch and those friendly visits by the local police. You can check your QSO at *www.n4gn.com/fj*.

How does this new gate work?

With the St. Barts case and all other experiences of new DXCC counters we strongly feel that the Event Date should be, for the sake of fairness and concern for the local population and thousands of people interested in the game, the date of an actual historical event. Seeing the whole DX world acting on a sporadic clerical action by a particular government body — such as the U.S. State Department — is not reasonable and will cause an affront to the country in question and its people at large, as it did this time to France and the French.

There will soon be other countries and more administrative changes that enter the U.S. State Department List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty and, setting the stage correctly would eliminate unfairness and complex technicalities. This gate therefore is still in need of some adjustment for the good of DXCC. We are aware of several cases likely to enter the scene in 2009.

Kosovo hung up at the gate

The world has changed dramatically during 2008. There is every indication that the United Nations and its telecommunication agency are not necessarily capable of resolving all political cases on the agenda. This being the case, the U.S. State Department gate may gain value, as we speak.

Current relations between the UN Security Council members may block the traditional gates. We therefore may need to proceed with the world as it stands. In the case of Kosovo, the UN remains seriously paralyzed and the world organization is likely to be replaced in this case by other more functional and regional organizations. An interesting and fundamental question is whether the Republic of Kosovo is a widely enough recognized country and whether it should be placed on the State Department list, as was the case with St. Barts.

Yes, indeed, the Republic of Kosovo is recognized by the U.S. government and it is at the top of the list on the State Department webpage. The Republic of Kosovo is recognized by 50 other states on all continents. In this case, the clerical guys in Washington acted promptly.

Summary

Studying the world and screening international events against the DXCC criteria is a highly rewarding and educating way of living inside this DX world of ours. Such activity is also liable to involve you in world politics and the fairness vs. unfairness of those at the core of the DXCC program. It will also encourage you to interface with many levels of society connected with a potential DXCC country and practice your own diplomatic skills. And when a new DXCC country is finally born and activated, you know for sure that you have the largest audience of any interactive media on your hands and you are in for a demanding performance. For some, it makes life worth all the trouble.

Postscript

As this story is being written (October 10), we all salute Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, our former President and UN Envoy for Kosovo, who is also associated with Amateur Radio

Martti Ahtisaari, recipient of the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize, receiving his 2005 appointment as UN Envoy for Kosovo from then-UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

Project Goodwill Kosovo, for being awarded the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. Understanding and resolving world conflicts and making this planet of ours a better place to live has been Martti's mission. His efforts have contributed to a more peaceful world and to fraternity between nations in the spirit of Alfred Nobel.

The NCDXF Board wishes to thank the estate of Vance McCliver, W4NYN, for their generous contribution of the proceeds from the sale of Vance's radios and other station accessories.

•

We apologize to Rich Hill, NU6T, for his call being left off of our 2007 "Heavy Hitter" list. Rich contributed more than $250 to NCDXF.

•

NCDXF congratulates Josh Fisher, W4WJF, who was invited to accompany the October 2008 VK9DWX DXpedition to Willis Island. The VK9DWX team set up criteria for two young Hams to be invited and Josh, one of our 2006 scholarship recipients, was one of the Hams chosen.

•

NCDXF is pleased to acknowledge a substantial monetary gift from the estate of Merle Parten, K6DC. Merle was a long-time director of NCDXF in the '70s and '80s and chose to continue his support of NCDXF with this gift.

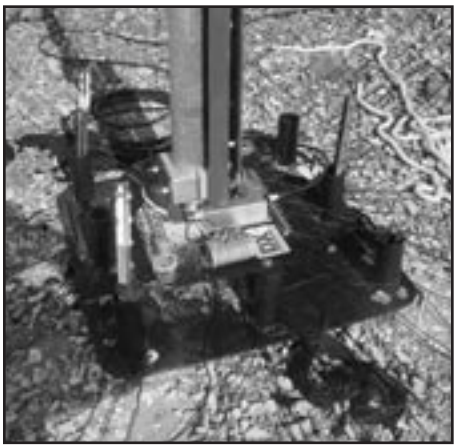
So you want to go to Clipperton Island?

— John P. Kennon, N7CQQ

Hatch the idea

THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS. A SMALL thought about, once again, going to Clipperton Island. We had such a nice time last time we went! Our group won the DXpedition of the Year at Dayton in 2000. Why not? My buddy, Bob Grimmick, N6OX, had been in and out of the country five times in the past six months to some great DXCC entities and he had been after me since 2003 to get a trip going. So what the heck, let's plan another trip. Bob will do most of the work and we can get lots of people who have always wanted to visit Clipperton. Right?

I had just recovered from the 2005 trip to Kure, K7C, which was a delightful three-week trip around the Hawaiian islands on a 65-foot-motor schooner and had almost forgotten about the lack of canned beverages such as beer and Pepsi. Instead, we drank bug juice mixed with a sort of gray water produced on the *Machias*. Then there was the take-your-life-in-your-hands-every-time-you-want-to-leave-your-nice-comfortable-bunk-in-the-forward-stateroom-to-the-aft-cabin, which contained the galley and crew quarters; not to mention the wonderful food. How much SPAM and rice can you eat?



Our 80 Meter antenna loaned by DX Engineering.

Our leaky radio home on Clipperton Island.

But, getting back to the plan.

Whom to invite

Why not ask some of the prior Clipperton expedition members? Let's see, some of the comments were "What, have you completely lost your mind?" or "What in the world would make you ever go back to that place?" Most of the counseling I received was from Charlie Spetnagel, W6KK; Michael Goode, N9NS, and Don Bostrom, N6IC, all of whom declined to even consider returning. So, we had Bob, N6OX, and myself. Bob gave me a long list of people who had attempted the trip in 2005 and most were still interested in visiting Clipperton. So the list making began. Thanks to Excel, list maintenance was fairly easy and I began to e-mail the "chosen."

Next, were just a few details like when, how long, how much and what boat?

When

All the previous trips had departed San Diego, CA, in either February or March, so that was easy. Next, I called Ted Dunn, owner of the *Shogun*. The sport fishing trade in San Diego is slow beginning in December and boat owners are always looking

Antennas on Clipperton.

for some sort of trip to keep their crew together and working. Ted told me that the *Shogun* would be in dry-dock during the first three weeks of February, and could depart around the end of the month.

Most trips to Clipperton take about three weeks — six days there, six days back and about 10 days on the island, for a total of about 22 days. So that was the plan: depart on 28 February. The boat cost about $3,500 per day for fuel and crew, and it was very important to figure out just how many days we were renting this floating hotel with a crew of seven and three gourmet meals a day. There are at least four or five boats, including

Ann Santos, WA1S.

the *Spirit of Adventure*, that travel to Clipperton so shop around for the best price.

How much

Well, 22 days at $5,000 per day is $110,000, so I called Ted Dunn and asked him to give me a quote for 22 days with 20 passengers for a trip to and from Clipperton, on and off the island, with food and drinks during the entire trip. Ted called back a couple of days later with a price of $108,000.

This would be my third trip to Clipperton, and I recalled that we had some financial issues that came up during those previous trips. First off, fishermen make trips to Clipperton all the time and those guys pay about the same amount for this 22-day trip, but they also tip the crew for their services while on the trip. Most Ham operators have not experienced this process while on expeditions, so I added $500 to cover the cost of crew tips. So, with $5,500 for the boat and $500 for extra costs, I set the cost at $6,000 per person, to and from San Diego. All other costs would be at their expense. I asked each person to send a non-refundable $500 to reserve their spot, which provided funds up front to purchase needed supplies for the trip. I say non-refundable because some participants back out, leaving organizers holding the bag or credit card for their vacancy. This is where you plan for designated members to cover any dropouts.

What to bring

Each participant needs to consider what they require for their own personal comfort. Bill Beyer, N2WB, and Al Hernandez, K3VN, two of the seasoned members, developed a system of storage for their personal gear. Using military-type shipping containers about three-feet-square, they pack and ship these watertight boxes from their homes to the embarkation point a week or two before departure. That's great planning!

For the main items to bring, I found a list that was used for previous trips to Clipperton and the trip to Kure Island. New generators are necessary — test them out to make sure they start each time. Ted was of great help here by suggesting we use diesel generators; by doing this the boat would not have to handle, purchase and transport gasoline, and because the cost of the diesel is figured into the cost of the trip, we don't have to pay for generator fuel.

John Kennon, N7CQQ, heading back to camp for another load.

This is where other team members should be included in the "work" process and I either ask for volunteers or delegate members to take on this job. Multiple meeting and Internet reflectors are great for this process. One thing to remember is "TP" or the "long drop." We learned about the "long drop" while visiting Kure; it's four pieces of 3/8-inch plywood cut to 12x36 inches, four pieces of 1"x2"x36" cut from 2x4s and an

A "team meeting" on the beach.

18"x18"x 3/8-inch piece of plywood for the top. Using a toilet seat for the pattern, a hole is drawn on the top piece and the center is cut out. Then you need some No. 6 galvanized nails and a nice toilet seat to attach to the top for comfort. Make sure a hammer and saw are included with your supplies. On this trip, I brought a second set of parts to construct another long drop, just in case.

We also used donations received along the way to purchase tents, toilet paper, coax and all the rest of the items on the master list. It's important to inspect and check the list every day — "You Get What You Inspect." There are no stores near Clipperton to get those lost or missing items, such as light bulbs or rain gear.

Our "long drop" built by N6HC and N7CQQ.

Permission and final notes

Because some of the current members also were participants in 2005, we had experience in getting the landing permit and the call sign. Having members from the Clipperton DX Club and the 1978 Clipperton DXpedition was a great help, so Bob and I asked these team members to obtain the necessary important documents.

Using the experiences of previous trips, planning and delegating we had the beginning of an expedition to Clipperton Island. We planned a budget and submitted it to foundations and clubs for donations and we asked ICOM to loan us some transceivers.

What happened

Well, the boat left a day early and that came off the 22 days I had planned. *(Note to self: Next time write the beginning and ending dates of the trip so you are on Clipperton during the two weekends you wish to be there.)* Don't use the words "22 days" without having those beginning and ending dates.

Our weather conditions were very bad and we were lucky to have sleeping tents that survived the three typhoons a day that we experienced. When it was not raining and blowing hurricane-force winds, the heat was near "broil."

Site location on Clipperton is an important fact to consider! We opted for three sites: CW, SSB and main camp. I strongly suggest that the main camp be combined with either the CW or SSB camp. At 61, walking three times a day to the SSB camp was too much for me, and good footwear is very, very important. Blisters and wet feet don't make walking back and forth any fun.

What was great? Well, all the Hams on the other end of the pile-ups. Their understanding and encouragement helped get us through

Our good doctor, Arnie Shatz, N6HC.

the days and nights. The *Shogun* crew was magnificent and the food was like the best steakhouse or hotel dining room I have ever experienced. The supportive team members, Bob, N6OX; Arnie Shatz, N6HC, and Ann Santos, WA1S, made sure I returned home in one piece still breathing.

So you want to go to Clipperton? I'm glad to answer questions, donate some cash or antennas and be very supportive as I wave goodbye and good luck to you when you are sailing away from the dock in San Diego.

I will be on the dock, planning what band to call you on from home.

Remember to donate to the Northern California DX Foundation, the ARRL and your local Ham Clubs who support these trips.

W9DXCC 2008

— Tim Totten, N4GN

DXers living in the W9 call area have been known to complain from time to time about the disadvantages of living in a region that must have somehow offended the gods of propagation, but one complaint you'll never hear from anyone living within groundwave of the Sears Tower is that there aren't any good DX conventions in the region. That's because every September — that one month of *good* weather each year — Chicago is home to the W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet.

W9DXCC has a small area where a few manufacturers and vendors display their wares. If you want to get some cards checked for DXCC, you're in luck. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities to swap lies with other DXers during the happy hour, or in the hospitality suite. And W9DXCC might have the best door-prize-to-attendee ratio of any Amateur Radio convention anywhere, but, at the end of the day, W9DXCC is all about the program. I've attended at least 14 or 15 W9DXCCs, and the program has always been top-notch.

This year, the program kicked off with a very interesting multi-media presentation on the Cocos, TI9KK DXpedition by Craig Thompson, K9CT, and I'll never again complain about mosquitoes. Other DXpedition presentations included 3B7C (Eric Scace, K3NA), the 6-meter DXpedition to V36M and 5JØM (Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV) and IOTA DXpeditions (Mike McGirr, K9AJ). Mike and I have both been to Scarborough Reef, BS7H, but after seeing his pictures from Rockall, I think that might be an even crazier DX destination. I guess sanity is not a requirement for DXpeditioners!

John Battin, K9DX, shared pictures and details on his very impressive 160-meter receiving array, leaving more than a few DXers drooling. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, updated us on the latest predictions for Cycle 24. Sadly, Carl now seems to have been swayed by the camp predicting a less-than-spectacular solar peak this time.

There was the usual ARRL forum, with Central Division Director George Isley, W9GIG, Vice-Director Howard Huntington, K9KM, DXAC rep James O'Connell, W9WU, and Contest Rate Sheet Editor Ward Silver, NØAX, all fielding questions from the crowd. Larry Phipps, N8LP, updated us all on the state of the art when it comes to computer and station integration.

Banquet speaker Eric Scace, K3NA, definitely held the audience captive during his presentation on Ducie Island, VP6DX; he really made us feel like part of the team.

You can't talk about W9DXCC without also mentioning W9WU. Jim has been the Master of Ceremonies at W9DXCC since the days of Marconi. Irreverent and not known for being politically correct, Jim is absolutely perfect for the job. He really keeps things moving and always seems to have just the right one-liner for every situation.

Once again, the W9DXCC organizers, led by Chairman Bill Smith, W9VA, were very gracious in giving me the opportunity to speak about NCDXF. I was very happy with the audience dialog this year! We received several great suggestions and other feedback about how to make the Foundation even better.

Again in 2008, ICOM America donated a beautiful new IC-7000, which was raffled off and the proceeds, some $2,090, were graciously donated to NCDXF. Thank you, W9DXCC and ICOM America, for your very generous donation!

Mark your calendars now for the 57th W9DXCC, 18-19 Sept 09, in Chicago. You won't be disappointed!

WØDXCC supports NCDXF

— Glenn Johnson, WØGJ

The 2008 WØDXCC, sponsored by the Twin Cities DX Association, was a great weekend for Amateur Radio. The WØDXCC and Rochester Amateur Radio Expo got started on 8 August 2008, with a big turnout at the ARRL Dakota Division Banquet. Saturday was a day filled with DX and contesting seminars at the University Center in Rochester. Add in several forums, vendor displays and a flea market, and you have the ingredients for a very successful convention.

The sold-out Saturday night banquet was the highlight of the weekend and the audience was treated to an evening of speakers, awards and door prizes. Carl Leutzelschwab, K9LA, world-renowned expert on the Sunspot cycle, gave us his prognostications about when the sunspots will return. Dean Straw, N6BV, editor of "The ARRL Antenna Book" and an expert in DXing on the low bands, shared his secrets on propagation, antenna design and operating practices. Gordon Hardman, WØRUN, president of Alpha Power amplifier company, told us about the latest and greatest amplifier issues for DXing as well as his own DX experiences. Other speakers included Tom Schiller, N6BT; Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV; Dr. Ralph Fedor, KØIR, and myself.

There were many smaller sessions for DXpedition presentations and many sessions for various contesting topics of interest.

DXCC card checking was available by ARRL's Sean Kutzko, KX9X.

ICOM and Yaesu donated an IC-7000 and FT-2000 for the raffle, raising $3,000 for NCDXF. Without the support of the Amateur Radio equipment industry, fundraising and DXpeditions would not be what they are today.

Early on Sunday morning, it was standing-room-only for the balance of the DX seminars and by noon WØDXCC came to an end.

Congratulations to the organizers for a job very well done!

From an outcast to a pearl

— Pekka Väisänen, President, FLS

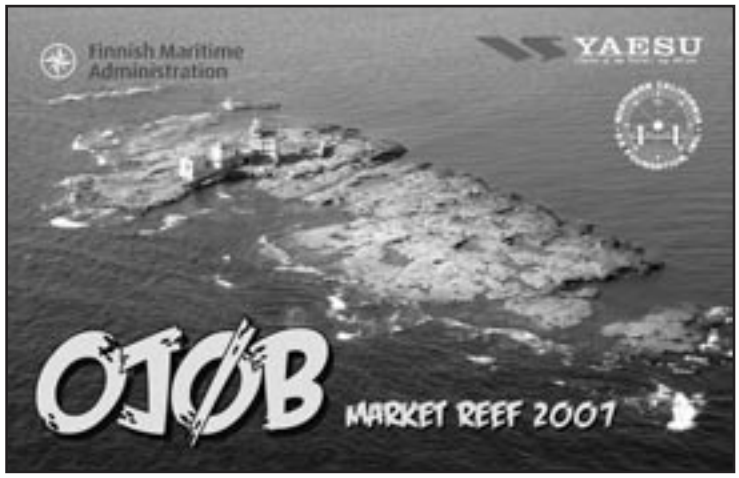
Märket Reef is known throughout the world since radio amateurs elevated its special status to a new level at the very core of their global community in the late 1960s, and have visited the rock several times each year ever since. Outside the realm of radiowaves, Märket remained an unknown, doomed lighthouse until the turn of the millennium. With its construction completed in 1885, the lighthouse was automated 30 years ago and the building has stood since then as a forgotten, rapidly dilapidating monument to the majesty of the sea.

In June 2004, the Finnish Lighthouse Society (FLS) came out in defense of Finland's most endangered lighthouses. The project attracted media attention, and the FLS was charged with renovating the sole building left on the lighthouse island of Gustavsvärn. Concern over Märket's fate was voiced repeatedly at the annual general meetings of the FLS.

In 2006, a trip to Åland Islands came to fruition, together with lighthouse activists from the island province. Luckily, traveling to Märket were also two former Märket lighthouse keepers, Kee Eriksson and Roland Carlsberg.

The project takes shape

A decision to refurbish the Märket light was made during that initial visit, and FLS representatives returned in August 2007 to photograph and evaluate the condition of the lighthouse. The project received a significant impetus from fine cooperation with local FLS Åland activists.



Soon the Åland government set up a working group, with a representative of our Society included in that group. On November 10, the first *Märket Day* was celebrated in the Åland Islands — in commemoration of the igniting of the Märket light on that same day in 1885.

The *Save Märket* campaign was launched, and the Märket postage stamp, together with Märket postcards and T-shirts went on sale along with an attractive 2008 Lighthouse Calendar. Several events were organized, and a reconditioned 1976 Märket video by Kee Eriksson was shown. On December 21, the Lighthouse Society carried the first shipment of mail to Märket and a distinctive Märket postmark was introduced much to the delight of philatelic enthusiasts.

A new lease of life

In January 2007, the FLS approached the Finnish Maritime Administration and, based on a proposed program of action, decided to lease the lighthouse until October 1. Within a preliminary budget allocation, a sum of €100,000-200,000 ($150,000-300,000) was seen appropriate for initial lighthouse renovation.

The Society also initiated a project to man Märket Reef with "new lighthouse keepers." In addition to a one-week tour of duty, these twin-member teams handled product sales and operated a canteen. While on duty, each team member was obliged to undertake designated renovation work, and strict rules were set out for off-duty activities. Good swimming and rowing skills were also required since guests had to be picked up by a rowboat as per the prevailing wind conditions. The visiting tourists represented many nationalities so the on-duty lighthouse keepers had to be conversant in several languages in order to be able to tell the visitors about the magic of Märket lighthouse.

In the course of the summer 2007, Märket Reef was manned by some 50 "lighthouse keepers" for a period of 141 days, and the lighthouse was visited by an estimated 500 guests coming with about 100 boats. Groups of tourists were also ferried to Märket by a high-speed speedboat.

Dawn of recovery

Some of the old structures of the lighthouse were dismantled and work to dry up the building was initiated in an effort to stop further damage to the premises. Similarly, work was begun to mend the windows of the lighthouse. The lighthouse has now been cleaned up and the original items found in connection with these efforts have been moved to a Märket "lighthouse museum." The positive experiences gained in the process have in part encouraged the Finnish Lighthouse Society and the Finnish Maritime Administration to extend their cooperation through 2008.

A grant gratefully received by the FLS from the Northern California DX Foundation of California, USA, has helped to encourage our Society to engage in international activity and information.

It is our hope that in the years ahead we will be able to exhibit for the benefit of our international audience this renovated, historically valuable Pearl of the Sea — the Märket Light.

DXpedition Lending Library

The **Northern California DX Foundation** has a number of VHS/DVD videos and Microsoft® PowerPoint 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. Please submit your request at least two weeks prior to your meeting and the program will be sent by First Class mail (CD/DVDs, $2 each; VHS, $3 each). Priority Mail rates start at $5, depending on weight and destination.

In your request, please provide the name of the club, your meeting date and an alternate selection in case your first selection is not available. Please return all material promptly so that it will be available for others.

Submit your request in writing to Dick Wilson, K6LRN, via e-mail at k6lrn@arrl.net… or surface mail to PO Box 273, Somerset, CA 95684-0273, USA *(please allow an additional week if your request is sent via surface mail).*

The following is a very abbreviated listing of videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs; for a complete listing of programs available for your club's use, please visit our website, www.ncdxf.org, and click on "Videos."

For items 1-124, please visit our website, *www.ncdxf.org*

125. 6OØN Somalia 2006 (PowerPoint)
126. AH1A Howland Island Jan/Feb 1993 (DVD)
127. 5A7A Libya 2006 DXpedition by Rudi, DK7PE (VHS, DVD)
128. J2ØMM Moucha Island DXpedition (off the coast of Djibouti) (VHS, DVD)
129. 3Y0X Peter I (VHS, DVD)
130. WRTC 2006 Florianopolis (VHS, DVD)
131. 1A4A Knights of Malta (60 min., DVD)
132. N8S Swains Island by K6SRZ (20 min., DVD)
133. 3B7C St. Brandon Island by 5 Star (60 min., DVD)
134. BS7H Scarborough Reef 2007 by 9V1YC (58 min., DVD)
135. ZL8R Kermadec 2006 (Raoul Island) by 9V1YC (46 min., DVD)
136. 5L2MS Mercy Ship Liberia 2007 (34 min., DVD)
137. J5C Guinea Bissau 2008 (DVD)
138. Top 7 DXpeditions by Bob Allphin, K4UEE (DVD)
139. 3X5A Guinea (DVD)
140. FOØXA Clipperton Island 1978 by N6IC (DVD)
141. XT2DX VooDoo 2002 (DVD)
142. K4UEE at VP8THU & VP8GEO (DVD)
143. A Look at Radiosport by K4ZA – Parts A & B (DVD)
144. 9XØR Rwanda 2008 (27 min., DVD)
145. 5T5DC Mauritania 2008 (21 min., DVD)

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