

Summer, 1981



There is always a new crop of DXers, those long in listening, faithful in QSLing, eager in learning and attentively listening to the older DX types. What they hear and what they remember is not always what the DX veteran of the years hears and remembers. We found that out...."before the Northern California DX Foundation," this hardly battle-aged DXer said incredulously, "before the DX Foundation? Wasn't the DX Foundation always here?"

It wasn't. If you came late to the DX scene, you found it waiting for you, organized and operating. If you are a worthy who long toiled in the vineyards, you'll know that the DX Foundation was organized in 1972, dedicated to the belief that the only thing better than DX is more DX. And the rarer, the better. Always.

And DX has been improved....immensely. With the initial financing, the Foundation has over the years moved to provide the leverage to get some really notable DX actions going.... It is not necessary to list them again, if you've been DXing you know that the Foundation brought Kingman Reef on the air as a new one back in 1974 and has not stopped since.

But it is necessary from time-to-time to remind you that we are around, a non-profit Foundation whose principal purpose is to promote DX and DX-related activities. And from time-to-time it is necessary to remind those who have shown an interest in the past that the ability to help DX is limited only by the help that the Foundation itself receives. We are Member Supported.

Thus, we drop around occasionally, like your friendly neighboring DXer who comes by to check if you've worked some new ones that he hasn't, to wish you well and advise that the Foundation is always in need. Your needy DX Foundation....for the needy DXer.

DXers hardly ever stop talking about DX and many a XYL can name numerous instances when the pre-dawn darkness was broken by the shout: "what's the frequency? Did he move up or down?" And at the International DX meeting in Visalia this spring DXers were everywhere and talking mostly about DX; the rest of the time was how well all the other DXers looked. Sleek and groomed and hardly a wrinkle to show for the years.

Last fall the Foundation helped bring Tromelin on the air with a small helping hand to AA6AA and N6ZV. They made the trip by small plane to the tiny airstrip at the weather station 600 miles north of Reunion Island. There the weather crew of this French outpost welcomed them and helped to provide action eighty through ten meters. The chef at the weather station was delighted to find someone on the island who appreciated his gastronomical triumphs. A bit of appreciation is always welcomed, be it DXing, cooking or things like that.

The Foundation hoped that efforts to bring Juan de Nova on the air would be equally successful, but they were only partially successful. Stuck out a bit into the Madagascar Channel, local reports are that there are still traces of Portuguese galleons and East India merchantmen ships wrecked on South Reef during the days of sail and sometimes wishful navigating. The DK9KD crew from Cologne, West Germany did get to Juan de Nova and did operate for about a day, but problems with local authorities wiped out the anticipated four to five day operation. QRX till next time. These operators were the same fine group that put on a great DXpedition to the Gloriosos and other Indian Ocean spots the year before. NCDXF was glad to be able to give some aid for all these fine efforts.

And ZLIAMO and company mounted a powerful and prolific effort from several Pacific Islands. A tremendous effort which NCDXF was pleased to help in a small way.

We hope you made contact with all of these excellent DXpeditions. And we hope that perhaps one of them was a new one for you.

There are still a number of semi-rare DX countries which are not especially difficult to travel to but are a bit frustrating to get the operating permission and the rig on the air. Even now some things are being worked on to keep the DXer not far from his rig. Some time these work out just as hoped, other times we run into problems. At Visalia, Martti Laine, OH2BH, indicated that he is not through DXing by a long shot and the big contest efforts probably will continue full bore in the future. It would be good to be able to name what is under consideration at this time, but sometimes this leads to....well, a bit of embarrassment as what was promised goes out the window because of unanticipated problems. And then again we have always lived in memory of the always strident cry, "don't tell me what you did for me yesterday. What are you going to do for me tomorrow?" More than one noble effort and office-holding politician has heard the cry and knows that what is past is past. What is coming up next week is what we are most interested in!

So the Foundation works at a variety of projects, knowing that the word will go out via the various bulletins when the hour is near. If you think that all DXers are equal, you are undoubtedly one of the freshly minted types. All it takes is a review of applications for assistance to learn that many are eager, but some don't understand. Such as the several who write and ask that a full station, including amplifier, be sent, along with a good beam and just indicate where the Foundation wants them to go and off they'll go... as soon as the check for the airline and other expenses arrives.

But if you think the Foundation might help, and you have something that looks interesting, and you have a valid license or permission to operate, and the spot is relatively rare, give us all the necessary details and submit the whole thing to the Northern California DX Foundation. The Directors being well-worn, highly experienced DX types most often react proportionately to the rarity of the proposed operation. The question must always be answered, "will it be of interest and need to DXers around the world?"

Suppose you decided to take the family off on vacation and you actually missed a new one while you were gone. Heaven forbid. But remember, DX always comes again... always. Many who waited years for Clipperton will attest to that. And that was another one that the Northern California DX Foundation helped to support. Albania was last heard in 1971 and China further back than that. Stations which were once common are now rare and it need only the mention of YA-Afghanistan to stir memories of how the Camel Drivers Radio Club was always on the air around the first of the month. But no more...

But when the times are ready, the plans are jelled, but perhaps a bit more support be needed to make things slide, the Northern California DX Foundation is the catalyst that makes it possible. And this has happened more than once. The work done in preparation pays off.

Surprisingly enough, sometimes all the support needed is just someone to handle the QSL cards. The Foundation has often moved to print the QSLs and to handle the logs for an operation. Sometimes it is just some help with a piece of gear.

That's it. All of it. We at the Foundation think we should write oftener. We are filled with good intentions. But when youve not written to your nephew for years, it is sometimes hard to get started. We'll try harder. And keep in mind, like Public Television, the NCDXF is Member Supported!

73,

-----de Louis aux Yeux Rouge, WA6AUD

Monsieur Louis aux Yeux Rouge couldn't quite cover all the news because he had to rush out to feed his friendly squirrel and keep his bee hives. So let us add the following to his pearls:

Remember to listen for the NCDXF-supported, scientifically oriented beacon station WB6ZNL which transmits a one minute message every 15 minutes on 14,100 MHz. See article in January, 1980 QST. There are five-9 second key down dashes attenuated in 10 db steps...100watts, 10watts, 1 watt, 0.1 watts, 0.01 watts. How far down the power scale can you hear the beacon from day to day? This sequence is repeated every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day.

WB6ZNL is the first of six similar beacons which, hopefully, will be on the air this year from locations around the world. Each station will transmit in sequence going from east to west around the world a few minutes apart. As more stations are added to the network, the listener will be able to determine the direction and quality of the 14 MHz band day or night opening from his own station. Ultimately, there will be 15-20 beacons world-wide transmitting sequentially at one minute intervals, all on 14,100MHz. More on this in our Winter Newsletter.

IS YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CORRECT?

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

BOX 717 OAKLAND, CALIF. 94604



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

Optional Questionnaire

Answer any or all questions
(check or circle or write in)

Name and call (optional)

Male Female

Married Not married

Age (optional)

Year first licensed

Number of years chasing DX

License class: AmExtra Advanced General Novice

Employment: Engineering or related Non-engineering

DXCC score

SSB

CW

Mixed

160

80

40

20

15

10

6

5BDXCC

5BWAS

5BWAZ

Operating preference: SSB CW other

Operating time: SSB _____% CW _____%

Favorite band

How many hours a week do you spend DXing?

Interests in radio other than DXing? Traffic Phone patching
Construction Oiscing VHF/UHF Other

How many hours a week do you spend in non-DXing work/operating?

Other hobbies? 1.

2.

3.

Do you consider amateur radio your number one hobby?

Do you like to work DX using a list operation?

If a station comes on that you need for a new country, will you
try to get on a list to work him?

What is your reason for chasing DX? International goodwill?

To get on Honor Roll Operating awards

Challenge of working the pile-ups

Just the fun of communicating long distances

Do you belong to a radio club?

Do you belong to a DX club?

TURN THE PAGE OVER FOR MORE QUESTIONS

If you do not wish to submit questionnaire or application--cut here.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____

(signature)

THANK YOU!

Have you ever worked/operated from a DX location?

Do you operate in contests? Always Just to work new countries.

Which contests are your favorites?

If you are on the Honor Roll or if you have worked every country currently active, what do you do to keep up your interest in DXing? That is, what are you going to do in the way of DXing after you worked them all?

Have you monitored WB6ZNL on 14,100?

Your station:

Transmitter

Receiver

Antenna(s)

Height

Usual power used

QRP?

Comments
