



Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter

Winter 1991

New Three-Band Beacon

On the Air

NCDXF's local beacon, W6WX/B, is now transmitting on three bands, one after the other. After W6WX/B completes its one minute transmission on 14.100 MHz, it automatically switches to 21.150 MHz for a repeat of the same one minute message. Next it switches to 28.200 MHz. There is a two second interval between transmissions. So, a listener has two seconds to switch between bands. Try listening on the three bands and send reception reports to Al Lotze, W6RQ at the P.O. Box on the back of the newsletter. Our long term plan is to convert all the beacons to the three band design over the next few years. This promises to be a fairly expensive undertaking.

Improved Design

The new three-band beacon is in final test stage now. One important improvement will be new automatic controls in the timing system, so the beacon start time will not drift. The RF detector and the key click filter are also re-designed. During this test period, W6WX/B may be off the air for a few days now and then as changes are made. The new design and construction is being done by NCDXF Director Dave Leeson, W6QHS, and NCDXF Advisor, Bob Fabry, N6EK.

JA2IGY Beacon Stolen

Jack Troster, W6ISQ

W6RQ had not received any SWL reports about hearing JA2IGY Beacon Station JA2IGY on the NCDXF 14.1 MHz Net since October 10. Of course the beacon might have gone off the air after that date and we had just not had later reports. But apparently JA2IGY went off the air sometime in mid-October for whatever reason.

From time to time, beacons have been reported off the air for prolonged periods due to power supply problems, moving, re-arranging, etc. So

we didn't think too much about it. We recall W6WX had been off for months just a year or so ago when someone broke into the shack where W6WX was located and stole it. Besides we recall from photographs that the JA2IGY location of this beacon, and other JARL equipment was in a small shack on a mountain top at about 8000 feet elevation. So, perhaps the equipment was difficult to get to and repair.

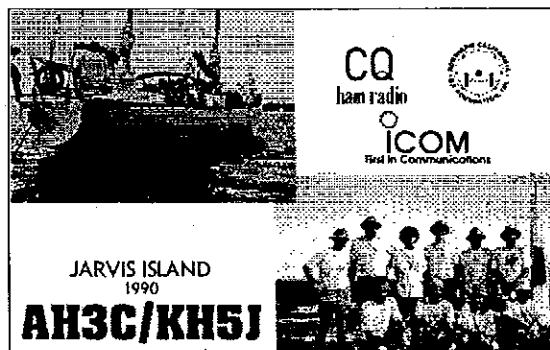
Finally, on 22 January, we FAXed JARL, making inquiry. We received this reply dated 24 January 1991 from Mr. Jay S. Oka, JA1TRC/KH2J, Manager, International Section:

"We quite understand your and other's concern that you have not, of late, heard JA2IGY Beacon. What has actually happened is that the transmitter was stolen and this will account for the suspension you mentioned in your letter. However, please rest assured that this suspension is a temporary one and sometime during the latter part of February this year, we expect to replace the stolen transmitter with a Kenwood TRC-70 which is a crystal controlled single frequency transmitter for commercial use."

On the West Coast USA, we always listen for the JA-Beacon following KH6O to give us a clue about what to expect from that general western and southwestern Pacific area. A valuable input station for us listeners here. Our western-most (and eastern-most) beacon will once again soon be working for us all. We will welcome JA2IGY back to the net.

de W6ISQ

NCDXF Beacon Coordinator



New Shows

by Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC

We have three new slides shows: the first Rotuma DXpedition of 1988 given to us by W6SZN, Kip Edwards, the 4J1FS show given to us by K7JA, Chip Margolis and ZS8MI given by Peter Sykora. The Rotuma show illustrates how a complex trip is planned plus Kip explains a good deal about the history and appearance of the island. The 2nd MV Island group show is an interesting description of working with the Russians to plan and accomplish this joint operation. And the Marion Island show lets us see just how this remote island looks and what a year's assignment there must be like. All three slide shows leave us impressed with just what hams can accomplish to make DXing of sustaining interest.

More videos came our way this last quarter too. The KC Club parody of a DXpedition to Tonganoxie Island is filled with humorous moments. This is the same club which gave us Pile Up Busters which so many clubs have enjoyed. K6EDY and ZL1AMO provided a video of their trip to Tuvalu in 1989. And W6NLG taped the Visalia Convention of 1990 to give viewers a "feel" for what it is like to attend this yearly premier DX convention. Henry Owen, W4VWA saw to it that the Rotuma slide show was put on tape for those clubs who can only handle that medium and Dan Whitsett, W4BRE, produced two more of the Hungarian DXpedition shows: XW8 and XU8 and again he makes the trips very interesting for those who cannot travel to Kampuchea or Laos. A video of one of the yearly All-China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition comes next on the list to show us how important this competition is for our Asian friends.

The ZS8MI slide show has been put on tape also for a slightly shorter version than the slides and WA6BXY, Jerry Foster, provided us with a video of Jim Smith's visit to the San Francisco Bay area shortly after the A51JS DXpedition. A member of the Northern Arizona club who traveled to Russia, Bill Schuchman, W7YS, provides us with a video of the joint operation of R9ZF by the Northern Arizona and Perm Clubs made by UA9FBY on his homebrew video camera equipment! (Yes, the Russians make not only their ham gear but also their video equipment!) And, finally, from the VUs we have received a video of the 1984

Laccadive and their 1987 Andaman DXpeditions made into separate tapes. So we have quite a bit of new material from various sources to help make your club meetings more interesting.

One last comment: several notes have come about the different levels of quality of our materials. If you realize the many sources of these programs and that not all of us are gifted photographers or can even afford top notch equipment, you will see the reason for the spread in quality. But, on the other hand, I believe each program has something of interest to offer. And they do constitute a history of amateur radio, don't they?

NCDXF Rock Collection

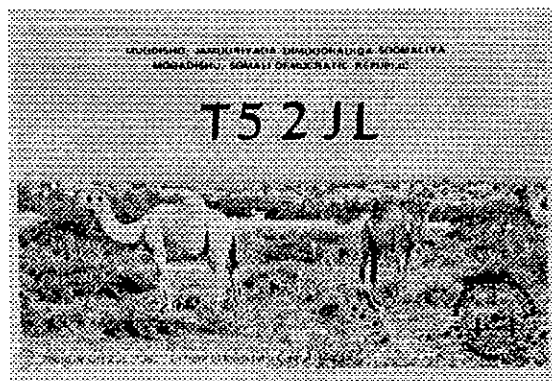
by John G. Troster, W6ISQ

First Siberian Rock Received

We received a nice rock specimen from Bill Schuchman, W7YS, which he picked up on his R9ZF DXpedition to Lake Telekskoye, Siberia. The rock is about the size of a U.S. silver dollar and almost as thin. It appears to be a greenish serpentine rock of some sort. I will check with friends at the U.S. Geological Survey for a better name.

Bill, along with NN7A and NN7D, operated R9ZF from 11-17 August 1989 with eight USSR amateurs from Perm and Barnjal. A photograph on the QSL shows beautiful Lake Telekskoye surrounded by very steep mountains. The location was in the Altai region of Southwestern Siberia about 300km north of Mongolia.

We thank Bill and the DXpedition for sending this rock sample for the Foundation's rock museum. It is our first rock from Siberia and we're really proud to have it. Recently we talked with Martti Laine, OH2BH, when he was operat-



ing on Penguin Island. Martti said he had a rock for us from the island. Profuse thanks, Martti, but be sure what you send is an actual rock-type rock which is part of the island.....and not possibly something the penguins left to harden there on top of a real rock! Whatever it is.....many thanks, Martti.

HELP US WIN DXCC-ROCK & WAS-ROCK

In case some of you haven't heard about all this, we have asked all DXpeditions to send us a small rock from their DXspot for our rock museum if it is easy to find and if it is not too much trouble. You can join in the fun from your home too because we are trying for DXCC-ROCK! So, if you live outside the USA, send us a rock to help us win our DXCC. And if you live inside USA, send us a rock from your state for our WAS-ROCK.

The rock you send us should be small, about 2 inches by 2 inches by 1 inch (5 cm x 5 cm x 2 cm). If you are on Kingman Reef, a sand sample would be just fine. If you are on an ice island, a pill bottle of ice would be nice (!). Pick up a sample too from the countries you go through enroute that DX spot. The rock should be from the ground and not a rock shop.

We are not too particular where the rock comes from within the country because the country location is more important in this collection for DXCC-ROCK than the rock-type itself. This rock is not for a geological collection. It is for DXCC-ROCK and WAS-ROCK, a "fun" collection of rocks from countries and states where NCDXF has friends and/or DXpeditions.

Who will be the first to send us that rock from his country or state? Might as well be you! Thanks.

73, "Rocky", W6ISQ



Bruce, W6OSP; Howard, WZ6Z; Lou, K6TMB and Rusty, W6OAT in front of the Northern California DX Foundation booth. Look for us at both Visalia and Dayton this year.

VK9NS May Visit A5 and S2

Late word is that Jim Smith, VK9NS, may possibly be returning to Bhutan sometime in the May 1991 timeframe for 2 to 3 weeks. He is also talking to officials in Bangladesh about possibilities there. There is the further possibility that he may also return to Heard Island, but he is not promising anything yet.

USSR					
UW3EQ					
RADIO	DATE	GMT	MHZ	SET	QWY
NCDXF					
<small>EX/TX _____ WITH QREL. RES. IN ZONE 16 <small>FORM BUREAU 12/84</small></small>					



Big Contributors

The following amateurs, shortwave listeners and organizations each contributed \$100.00 or more during 1990. When you hear them on the air you may wish to thank them for their generous support of the Northern California DX Foundation. We sincerely thank all of you for your generous support. Notice particularly the \$1500.00 donation from the Southern California DX Club (SCDXC). The Southern California DX Club has formally challenged the Northern California DX Club to match or beat its donation. We are eagerly standing by the post office box to see what will happen!

\$100 or more

5NOWRE, AA4SY, AF6S, CADXC, F6EEM, HIDXA, I1-50156, JA1EM, JA3AFR, JA3PFZ, JA7RHJ, JA8IYI, JE2SPQ, JM3DDG, K4CTD, K4KUZ, K6ILM, K6OZL, K6TMB, K6XT, KA9QIK, KI6WF, LA7XB, N4BIG, N6FSF, N6HVZ, N6ST, N7EF, N7NG, N8CEO, NB6L, NE8Q, NK2D, SFDXA, SM0AGD, VE3MR, VE3MR, VK5WO, W0CD, W0MLY, W1PCD, W1PCD, W4BAA, W4RIM, W5BOS, W5ZPA, W6AQ, W6AXH, W6DU, W6EEN, W6EUF, W6ISQ, W6KH, W6OSP, W6OTC, W6PVE, W7FKF, W7NCO, WA6HXM, WB6APX, WB6UOM, WB6ZUC, WG6H, WG6P, WZ6Z

\$500 or more

K4TKM

K0IR

\$1000 or more

W6OAT

\$1500 or more special challenge

SCDXC \$1500.00

The Northern California DX Foundation will be at both the International DX Convention in Visalia, California on April 12 to 14 and at the Dayton Hamfest April 26 to 28. Look for us!



Northern California DX Foundation

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Stanford, CA 94309-2368

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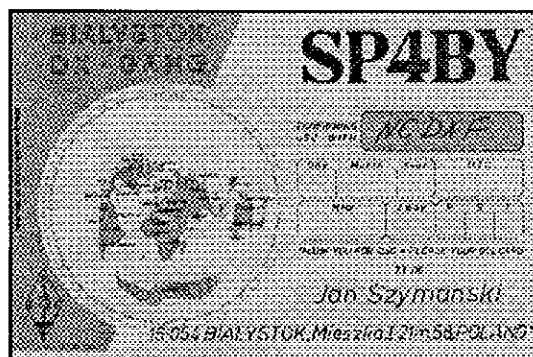
Beacon Project Manager:

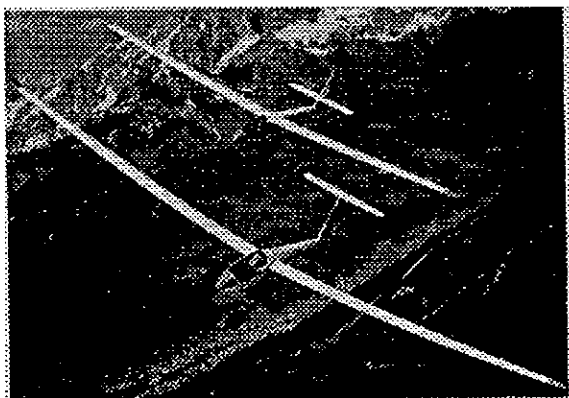
Jack Troster, W6ISQ

Newsletter Editor & Publisher:

Steve Thomas, N6ST

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DL9SC

German Amateur Radio Station
 CARL A. SCHALHORN
 SCHLEHENWEG 46 DXCC
 D-7080 AALEN/WÜRTT.
 FED. REP. GERMANY
 ZONE 14 ITU 28
 QTH: AALEN DOK: P 22

to AMATEUR RADIO
N C D X F



I am glad to CONFIRM				OUR QSO				OR SWL-REPORT			
DATE	TIME	MODE	CLASS	TIME	MODE	CLASS	TIME	MODE	CLASS	TIME	MODE
DAY	MONTH	YEAR	HR	MIN	SEC	HR	MIN	SEC	HR	MIN	SEC
								SSE/CW AM/FM			

RIG: ICOM IC 720 A ANT: 3-el-3 bdr-beam - Inv.V JN58BAU
 LOCATOR: 10 07E 48 59N
 PSE QSL via DARC, D-3607 BALMATAL-1, Postbox 1155 or direct JN58BAU
 A QSL IS THE FINAL COURTESY OF A QSO MVI TXR FR QSO ES HPE CUM AN
 PSE I QSL TXR I NY 73

Carl

Dear Friends,

MEGA-THANKS for your very pleasant surprise I had when I found a reprint of my QSL-card, DL9SC, on the back page of your winter 1990 NEWSLETTER.

Please find enclosed my 2nd QSL-card, also with the NCDXF-logo - and a rather justified remark of our spiritual precursor Confucius. I trust that you will agree with his statement. (Hi).

Keep up the good work.

73, Carl, DL9SC

I live in a very small house but my windows look out on a very large world.

Confucius 550 - 478 BC

I wonder how surprised Carl will be now!
 Steve, N6ST, editor

VIRGINIA
 JAMES CITY COUNTY

W4TMN

NAME	CALL	DATE	TIME	MODE	CLASS	TIME	MODE

LAWRENCE E. BOELLHOFF
 P.O. Box 393
 TOWNS, VA
 23168 U.S.A.
 EX: W9MOL (1946) - W4SOB - W5HIC - W6WOL
 A6106 (WVW40) - K2ZAM - F999 - N6ST
 P.O. Card Tr. Card

WAR WAC 3000
 WAC 3000
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New DX Book

Long time NCDXF supporter, Martti Laine, OH2BH, put his year in the United States to good use and wrote a book which is tentatively entitled Where Do We Go Next?. Martti describes what it is like on the other end of the pile-up and how it feels to be the first one to put a new country on the air. Richly illustrated, and running almost 300 pages, this is one you may wish to own yourself. All copies ordered in advance of the publication date will be personally signed and dedicated by the author. For information write to KTE Publications, 2301 Canehill Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815 USA.



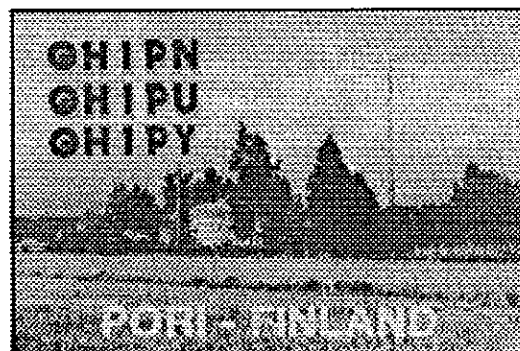
Easy Rider

Are you familiar with the Ten-Tec HERCULES II amplifier? I've had one for six months and it gives me a solid, no-tune 500 watts output on all bands. I power it from a deep-cycle, 12 volt RV battery with a 10 amp charger. After about 600 QSOs in the CQ WW Test, the battery was still at full charge.

The HERCULES II weighs about 15 pounds and the charger about 5 pounds. If a DXpedition were going to a place where 12 volt batteries were available ... well, it sure would save a lot of weight and space on the flight.

73,

Roger Corey, W1AX



Letters

Schwandorf, Germany
December 16, 1990

Dear NCDXF,

Enclosed please find my \$25 contribution for NCDXF (charge to my VISA card).

I want to point out, that I DID NOT contribute any money to NCDXF the last two or three years, because of your close co-operation with this "QSL selling organization" called European DX Foundation. They did have real price lists for QSL cards. When you just sent them an SASE, you got your own QSL card back with a "rubber stamp confirmation." For one or two additional IRC's, you could get a black and white QSL, while you had to pay much more to get a full color QSL card. Well, you might say, confirmation is confirmation, but it's SELLING QSL cards, anyway!!

But it seems, that radio amateurs all over the world are thinking about this, and I see some hope, that some ham spirit is coming back and we make again good use of our well-working QSL bureau system and don't want to get paid totally for DXpeditions.

One other reason is the number of DXpeditions to very rare countries during this and also the upcoming year. During April 1990 I could work three new DXCC countries, which finally put me into DXCC Honor Roll.

Regards to all of the NCDXF staff.

Merry Christmas to you and yours and may 1991 be a successful DX year again for all.

73,
Gerhard "Gary" Jaeger, DF2RG

We received a brief note from WA6WHQ some time back who said "If you ever need, or know someone who needs a QSL manager, I would like to offer my services. 73, Lou".

If you have such a need, contact Louis Berry directly at 2259 N. Marter Court, Simi Valley, California 93065.



Riga, Latvia

The Latvian club station, YL1WW, is very active on all bands plus use callsign RQ9W (RQ7W in 1989) in contests. QSL YL1WW, RQ9W, EK2Q (1 to 9 May 1990) and old UQ1GWW to:

Igor Kuzhelev

P.O. Box 418

Riga 226001, Latvia USSR

If you can please use this information in every issue until the end of the year.

Thank you,

Igor, UQ2GJR

Steve,

Congratulations on your wedding & fine honeymoon trip. The newsletter was worth the wait. Always enjoy reading it. Best of health and success.

73, Eric WD9GGY

Dear Steve,

I'm the new editor of the ARRL Letter; someone passed along the latest issue of your sheet and I used your beacon story.

If there is some way you could add me to the NCDXF Newsletter mailing list, I'd appreciate it. I expect I'll be able to use more tidbits from it in the future.

If someone can do this, thanks in advance.

73,

Jim Cain, K1TN

ARRL Associate Editor

Jim, you are now on the mailing list.

73,

Steve, N6ST

TUNISIE
3V8PS

TO RADIO	DATE	GMT	2-WAY	MHZ	RST

FROM 10 TILL 24 FEBRUARY 1986, 3V8PS WAS OPERATED BY IK1CJT.
I THANK PIERO 3V8PS AND HIS XYL ANGELA FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY,
FINE COOKING AND GOOD CARE.
THANK YOU AGAIN PIERO, 73 SANTINO.
QSL MANAGER IIFOU

Dear NCDXF Board,

The World Radiosport Team Championship is over now but it was universally hailed as an unbridled success by everyone involved. We're glad that you were able to play a significant role in it.

The contest itself produced more activity than we had ever imagined. The winning team had over 1400 QSO's during the 10 hour contest period with over 2000 calls in the contest database. The marketing and promotion of this event resulted in one of the most exciting on-the-air activities ever and it was your vision and investment that helped make it all possible.

The international goodwill and friendships created will endure for many years to come. As one of the most incredibly talented and influential groups of amateurs ever assembled in one place, enabling most of them to meet in person for the first time was a thrill that we'll never forget.

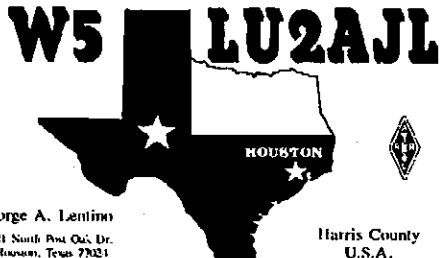
I have provided a recap of the media exposure that the NCDXF received as an official sponsor and I hope that it met your expectations for return-on-investment. We encourage you to promote your status as an official sponsor in the months to come.

All of the competitors left the event with a new perspective of international competition and gave their thanks to you as sponsor and supporter of this amazing affair.

Sincerely,
Steve Morris, K7LXC
Co-Chairman



P.S. Thanks for loaning us Rusty, W6OAT. His Committee put in an incredible amount of work to get the scores finalized - you folks are lucky to have his experience and insight working for you.

W5 LU2AJL



Jorge A. Lentino
121 South Post Oak Dr.
Houston, Texas 77021

Harris County
U.S.A.



OFFICIAL SPONSOR

Plaque presented to the Northern California DX Foundation by the World Radiosport Team Championship for our support of the Goodwill games.



At the World Games picnic July 1990, W6OAT, President NCDXF (center) accepting LZ banner recognition award from Bulgarian game participants LZ1MS (left) and LZ2PO (right). W6ISQ photo

Rocas Alijos XE/KK6EK A Minimalist's DXpedition

by Robert W. Schmieder, KK6EK

This has to be a record of some sort.

One single contact from atop an isolated blade-like rock 20 ft. across and 110 ft. high 185 nautical miles off the Pacific coast of Baja California, relayed through the expedition boat and a phone patch in New York City to the president of the Explorers Club?

Total cost: \$68,000. Time to get ready: 2 years.

Hmmm? Was this single contact so important? Why did we do it?

Well, actually, we were there for a larger purpose. We went to Rocas Alijos to explore this isolated

and forlorn oceanic volcano, to obtain biological specimens and photographs, to make bathymetric charts, to obtain samples of the volcanic rocks that just break the surface, to observe erosive changes since 1837, to measure water temperature and chemistry, to observe the currents, to document the resident

birds and sea lions, to look for evidence of Spanish Manila galleons from as long ago as the 17th Century, and, of course, *to talk on the radio.*

The project was conceived in mid-1989, when biologists at the Los Angeles Country Museum of Natural History pointed out to me that Rocas Alijos was what Albania is to radio amateurs: *Most Wanted.* These remote rocks lie at a transition between two major biologic provinces: by-and-large, what lives to the north is completely different from what lives to the south. Yet there has been no significant scientific study of the site since 1837, when the French passed by on their way to somewhere else.

Discovered in 1791 by the Spanish, these rocks apparently had long been known by the name

Alijos, which means two things: (1) lightening of a ship, as in throwing things overboard, and (2) smuggling. Now the Manila galleons passed very near Alijos on their way to Acapulco over a period of hundreds of years, and were so badly overloaded and waterlogged at the end of the long journey across the Pacific. Could the name have come from the practice of surreptitiously dumping porcelain and other treasures at Alijos, in the hope of returning later to pick it up? My research group, Cordell Expeditions, isn't interested in treasure, of course, but the thought of finding evidence of their presence was fascinating. The thought of being the first human to stand on the rocks was equally fascinating. And the thought of transmitting to an enthusiastic amateur radio world eager to get a contact from a place that almost certainly would *never* be active again was truly intoxicating.

My first act was to write to Chod Harris, VP2ML, who thought that Alijos might count as an island for IOTA, and to Martti Laine, OH2BH, who kindly referred me to Michel Christ, XE1MD, in Mexico City. Of course, it would be a world class radio event, I figured.

After all, Alijos is *really* far away, and certainly will get a special prefix, like XF9, which would be irresistible to amateurs. I began the odyssey of pulling the DXpedition together.

Sobriety came slowly. Figuring that this would be a perfect place for high tech to compensate for short time and difficult conditions, I wrote to the major ham radio magazines, including the one famous for its editorials about why we should move with all haste into high tech radio. To my amazement, I did not receive a single reply. I wrote to the controllers of several of the well-known DX nets, people who deal day in and day out with DXpeditions. Again to my surprise, these people seemed to know little about actually fielding a DXpeditions, although they kindly wished

XE/KK6EK/MM

Confirming QSO with	Date	Time (UTC)	MHz	Mode	RST
QSL: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> This					

XE/KK6EK/MM was the designated call sign for the special event station, the 1990 Cordell Expedition to Rocas Alijos, 185 nm west of Baja, California. The expedition was carried out during 29 Oct. - 9 Nov. 1990, by 30 scientists aboard the vessel Quasitar 105 from San Diego. The purpose of the expedition was to explore and describe the marine environment and geology of these volcanic rocks; it was the first comprehensive study of this remote site. Discovered in 1791, Rocas Alijos may have been used for smuggling by the early Spanish Manila galleons. During the expedition, scientists used scuba, remote sensing and sampling, and technical rock climbing to obtain photographs and specimens of the rocks, plants and animals. The expedition was organized and led by Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK. Radio operations were conducted by Dr. Schmieder and by Les Tallow, KB6YBS.

CORDELL EXPEDITIONS is a nonprofit group fielding research expeditions to unexplored oceanic sites such as islands and seamounts. Communications with persons interested in marine science and island biology/geology are welcome. Please to the San Francisco Bay area, please visit us. Our vessel, the Cordell Explorer, WT1394, is listed in *Boating*.

426 Walnut Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94594 USA
Tel: (415) 934-3736

me well and gave me other references to contact.

The final blow came in May, in the form of a letter to Chod from Roger Ballister, G3KMA, who interprets the rules of IOTA. His opinion was that Alijos, being mere *rocks*, could not count for IOTA. Oh, well. But his concern for our safety did seem irrelevant: "...from the picture I cannot see how anyone could operate from one of the rocks without taking quite a serious risk. Perching on a rocky crag for hours on end would be doing just this..." Unfortunately I failed to reassure him the we weren't going to perch on a rocky crag; we were going to do a technical climb to the top and sit comfortably on its 20 ft-square top!

Faced with no official endorsement of our DXpedition, my ambition to carry balloon-borne antennas, folding masts, hanging dipoles, solar rechargeable batteries, microprocessors, and several lucky hams to the top diffused. Why go to the trouble if there would be no one out there who cared? I resolved to slip back into the essential reason I first got a ham license in 1962: It would be fun.

I carried on an extensive correspondence with XE1MD, who gave me lots of good advice about dealing with Mexican officials. I had no shortage of hams on the air who wanted to help if they could: XF1C on Cedros Island; XE2TCQ in Tijuana; and several others. In the end, I don't know whether I got any help or not: by the day before we were to leave for the expedition, I still had no authorization from Mexico and no callsign. That night a telephone call from the American Embassy in Mexico City gave me a verbal authorization to use the call XE/KK6EK, Not XE2/, or XF1/, or XF9/, just XE/. I queried them repeatedly, with visions of losing my license if I used the wrong callsign. Yes, they said, just XE/KK6EK. Good luck.

The vessel had two extra berths, and I decided to fill one of them with a ham radio operator. I got on the maritime nets, and soon my phone was ringing energetically. A typical call went like this: "I'd love to go. Count me in. Just let me check with the wife." (and hour later...) "sorry, the Chief says 'No way.' Sorry." This went on until almost literally the last minute. Finally, Les Thilow, KB6YBS, had the good sense to *not* ask his wife. He just said "Yes." And he was aboard.

We sailed out of San Diego at noon on October 29, 1990, with a scientific crew of 30, including Les. Two days later we were at Rocas Alijos.

While I attended to the scientific operations, Les talked on the radio, using XE/KK6EK/MM as a special event callsign. Not surprisingly, the maritime nets didn't feel comfortable with that. They had never heard of an XE/ call, and wanted to know what we had in writing. "Well," I said, "we had nothing, but please believe me, the Mexican government waited until the last moment to authorize XE/ verbally from Mexico City, and they did authorize it." OK, said the nets, that was good enough for them. But I could tell from their absence that they weren't really convinced.

Every day we kept a schedule with Bob Fabry, N6EK, in Berkeley on 14.342 MHz at 0100 UTC. Bob acted as a message center, and uploaded and downloaded messages from various sources. A veteran of many of his own (real) DXpeditions, Bob has a powerful station and provided both pleasure and security.

Finally, the day came for me to climb to the top of the rocks. It was the climax of a 3-day ordeal to establish the route: a line anchored in the ocean running to a ledge at 30 feet, a free climb with technical aids to the top, done by Explorers Club member Jeff Bozanic; installation of a line from the ledge to the top which we could use to make the ascent. I was the last of the four to make it to the top, carrying my knapsack, papers and pencils, camera, specimen collecting bags, and of course a radio.

"*Qualifier 105*, this is South Rock," I called."XE/KK6EK."

"South Rock XE/KK6EK," Les returned. "This is the *Qualifier 105*. XE/KK6EK/MM."

We were on the air from Rocas Alijos. Perched on a rocky crag for hours. But having a wonderful time. The view was tremendous, to say nothing of the feeling of standing where no men have stood before. I gathered a few samples of soil and rocks, some dead birds and eggs, a mite. Saw a couple of spiders but couldn't catch them. The view was tremendous. About 10 feet in any direction we risked death should the crumbling rocks slide out from under us. The view was tremendous...

Les was on 20 meters with Jim Enterline, KV2Z, in New York City. Like the author, Jim is a member of the Explorers Club, and organized an Explorers Net on 14.342 MHz at 0100 UTC every second Wednesday. This day he was at the Club HQ, with a phone patch to Nick Sullivan, the Club president. Far below me, bobbing in the water in an inflatable boat, was archaeologist Charlie Brush, a past president of the Explorers Club and holder of the world's record high-altitude scuba dive. With me was Ron Skinner, who had engineered most of the climb and much of the logistics of the expedition. My words were intentionally melodramatic:

"Mr. President, I have the honor to report to you that I am presently standing on a place on the Earth where no men have stood before. I have this moment raised the flags of Cordell Expeditions, the Explorers Club, and the *Qualifier 105* in a symbolic statement of triumph on Rocas Alijos, in the Pacific Ocean west of Baja California. We do this in tribute to the legions of brave explorers who came before us with all the ambition and daring we possess, but without the comforts of our 20th Century tools. We salute all who embrace the spirit of exploration, past, present, and future."

And then I added: "And this is coming to you by the miracle of amateur radio."

The view was tremendous. The DXpedition was accomplished.


Threatened by a darkening sky, we hastened down the line, and packed our gear on the ledge. Throwing it to the waiting inflatables, we slid in a tethered free-fall down the line into the cold Pacific water, and were soon aboard the main vessel warming up.

An 18th Century expedition with 20th Century tools. Anachronistic perhaps, but it's more fun than facing likely death from scurvy, starvation, natives, or shipwreck. We have the best of both worlds: the thrill of discovery and the safety of technology. Part of that technology was some nifty solid-state electronics that performs the miracle of wireless communications. Thanks, James Clerk Maxwell.

Was it worth it for one contact? You bet! Would I do it again? Well, tell you what ... If you put Alijos

on your *whatever* list, and take me up on the challenge of fielding the highest tech gadgets that could really be put to use on this seriously remote, tiny, hard-to-get-to place, I'll not only show you where it is; I'll pull you up on the rope and personally throw the power switch!

Robert W. Schmieder
Cordell Expeditions
4295 Walnut Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

ITU 13	BRASIL	WAZ 11
	MEMBER	ZX2 CW
P. O. BOX 7088 01051-SÃO PAULO-SP	GMPR CWSP CWAS OPCW CWCE NCDXF	TOCANTINS QTH: ARAGUAINA ZIP: 77 800
<input type="checkbox"/> PSB <input type="checkbox"/> QSL <input type="checkbox"/> TRS <input type="checkbox"/>		STATION NUMBER LOC: G1 62 UQ
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		
NCDXF		
WESLEY H. LINDQUIST RUA VILLE ROY, 5051 09.870 LABREA AM		75' FROM _____

Silent Keys

The NCDXF received a \$100.00 check from the Northern California Contest Club honoring the memory of Pat Whittle, AK6T, who died of a heart attack in January 1991. The NCCC Secretary, Alan Maenchen, AD6E, said, "The idea here is that the Foundation offers the best way to enhance the sport of radio competition which Pat enjoyed."

An early major supporter of the NCDXF became a silent key recently. Here is what the Jan. 18 ARRL Letter had to say.

"William G. Hoover, KB5AH, died Jan. 1, in Santa Barbara, Calif., after a brief illness. He was 62. He had been the Santa Barbara section ARRL club coordinator, as well as a past president of the Santa Barbara ARC, EC for Santa Barbara country, and SBARC's volunteer examiner coordinator. The Santa Barbara News Press noted his Amateur Radio emergency work.

A memorial service for KB5AH was held Jan. 8. In his memory, the Santa Barbara ARC will dedicate their club station at the Santa Barbara Red Cross facility to his memory, and will place a plaque there denoting his service to the club and to the amateur community."

We also received a note from Alicia Gonzalez Rodriguez, KP4CL, stating that her OM, Felix, KP4CK, an NCDXF supporter, died Oct. 12, 1990. Alicia sent a contribution and sounds as if she is going to be active.

Newsletter Mechanics

by Steve Thomas, N6ST

Some of you may wonder how a newsletter such as this is produced. There are other ways to get the job done, but if you are interested how I do it, read on. The first step in doing the newsletter is determining what articles are needed and arranging (read harassing) someone to do it. Since we ask each DXpedition to which we provide funding to send us a report, often we have a ready source of interesting articles, though they sometimes have to be reminded! When the Foundation receives letters and QSL cards, the person receiving them will make a preliminary decision about potential appropriateness for the newsletter. About three times a month I receive a thick envelope with QSL cards, letters and exchange Newsletters (such as the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club Key-Klix). I look over each item and note items that I may potentially use.

The ideal way for me to receive copy is on a disk (5 1/4 or 3 1/2 inch) in Microsoft Word format. Several of the board members will take the effort to type letters and articles received and hand me a disk. This is by far the easiest way for me. Other board members will send contributions to me via our local DX Packet Spotting Cluster. Others will give me paper copy and I type it into the computer.

I bring all copy into Microsoft Word on my PC and run a spelling check and read over the material and edit to clean up the prose and to fit into the space available in the newsletter. I also at this point apply formatting such as justification and type font selection. QSL cards and other illustrations are scanned at 300 dots per inch with a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet flat bed scanner. QSL cards are normally scanned to produce a 50% image size in the computer. This is about the size I normally use and speeds the process of putting the graphics in place.

The newsletter is assembled in PageMaker 3.01. I start with fixed information such as the masthead, return address, board member list and place them where they will be in the final output. After this I "salt" the issue with QSL card pictures. If an article has an illustration associated with it, I place it on the desired page and instruct PageMaker to "flow" text around it. That way I can have a picture in the middle of the page and the column widths will be automatically adjusted to surround the picture.

As articles are "placed" in the newsletter, I will do many editing adjustments to make them fit. For example, I may go through and eliminate a few "the's" to shorten paragraphs and save a bit of space. I may slightly increase or decrease the spacing between paragraphs and, as a last resort I can change the type

size by one point or more (a point is 1/72 of an inch). You would be amazed how much space can be saved by changing from 11 point to 10 point type! This story ended up in 10 point type to fit the page.

After I think the newsletter is almost completed, I will print out a copy on a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet II. At this point I almost always notice subtle and not-so-subtle things that aren't right. I will repeat the print-and-fix cycle until I am satisfied the major mistakes have been eliminated. Then at a board meeting I provide a draft copy to each board member and advisor present and they look it over and suggest improvements. Patty Winter, N6BIS, is a major help at this point. She can spot bad grammar, incorrect punctuation, or misspelling a mile away. I treasure her marked up copy since the changes she recommends are crucial to producing a professional looking publication.

I implement the suggested changes and print out two final copies on special high resolution laser printer paper (I use Strathmore Legacy paper). One of the copies is handled carefully since it is going to be the printer's master. The second copy is used to assemble what is known as a "printer's dummy". Since we print on 11x17 inch paper, the dummy allows the printer after he has made the printing plates to assemble them in the correct position. For example in a 12 page newsletter, pages 1, 2, 11 and 12 are printed on the same sheet of paper. Without the dummy, the chance of a printing error is greatly increased.

The master and dummy are delivered to the printer who makes the plates, prints and assembles the newsletter and adds any return mailers. Based on the printer's delivery time, the board schedules a weekend get-together to apply mailing labels to the newsletter and separate them by state and zipcode as required by postal regulations for non-profit mailing. If you see a little green sticker on your newsletter that says "S", your newsletter was on the top of the stack for your state. You may also see a "3" or a "5" if we have 10 or more addresses with the same first 3 or 5 digits of the zipcode. We have to provide the post office with a count of the newsletters, this is the point at which we do that. As each state or zipcode group is labeled, they are counted and the number recorded. One person, usually Rusty, W6OAT, cuts the mailing labels apart into the appropriate groups for the "S", "3", or "5" stickers. This saves a lot of time since the other workers just grab the labels and stick them on without having to read and consider each one. By foreign postal regulations, some countries require the newsletter to be delivered in an envelope. After we have finished addressing all the newsletters, Eric, W6DU and Lou, K6TMB, take them to the Menlo Park, California, post office for mailing. We all breath a sigh of relief that another big job is done.

XW8DX/CW QSL Statistics

by Pierre Ettinger, F6HIZ

I finally managed to finish all the statistics regarding the QSL's of XW8DX/CW. I think that you will find some useful information! In particular out of the 12500 stations that contacted the XW8 some 6000 sent their QSLs direct. I have received some 2200 QSL through the bureau and at least 40% of those cards are duplicate of QSLs sent direct! (All duplicate QSLs have been sent back!) Another interesting number is that on the average each station has made slightly more than 2 QSO with the XW8 stations. 73, Pierre



XW8DX
XW8CW

DECEMBER 1989
BY: HASPP ZOH & HASWA Gyul
VIENTIANE - LAOS
ZONE 26 - ITU #9

hygain.

Editor's note: Pierre did an extremely thorough job with the QSL statistics for XW8. I have compacted the data considerably to fit into the space available (If I hadn't done so, the information would have taken well over 12 pages to present, unless I made the type so small it couldn't be easily read. Any errors that you may find are most likely mine.

Steve Thomas, N6ST

Country	DL	EA	F	G (UK)	HB	I	IA	OE	OH
# of QSO	907	240	362	445	69	1444	205	82	670
# of Stations	504	146	171	221	41	696	92	32	239
# of QSOs/stn	1.80	1.64	2.12	2.01	1.68	2.07	2.23	2.56	2.80
% of QSL direct	45	49	64	53	54	64	53	53	39
% without contribution avg. *	5.5	5.0	33.0	3.0	0	1.0	0	0	0
contribution \$	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6
per stn. avg.									
contribution \$.60	.90	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0
minus postage **									

* The stations who sent SAE without return postage, the SAE were sent back with the QSL's but without postage. Most of those envelopes have arrived, but the addressee had to pay postage plus a penalty which is generally more than the postage

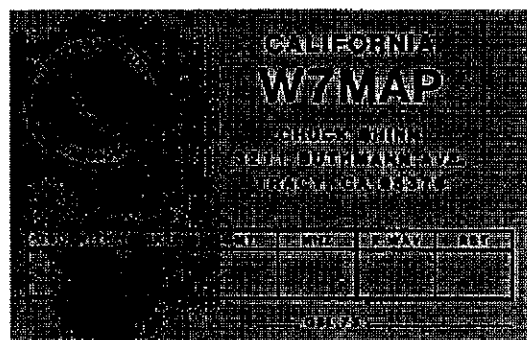
** The postage is based on the French postal rates.

Country	OK	ON	OZ	PA	SP	UA	Y2	YU	SM
# of QSO	246	146	188	166	282	1620	159	292	504
# of Stations	83	60	83	80	136	975	87	187	243
# of QSOs/stn	2.96	2.43	2.27	2.08	2.07	1.66	1.83	1.56	2.07
% of QSL direct	37	52	67	63	41	16	41	28	55
% without contribution avg. *	25.0	6.0	0	4.0	34.0	23.0	31.0	13.0	0
contribution \$.45	1.4	1.4	1.2	.45	.30	.50	.60	1.3
per stn. avg.									
contribution	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	.25	.10	.70
minus postage **									

* The stations who sent SAE without return postage, the SAE were sent back without postage in order to minimize the expenses.

** The postage is based on the French postal rates.

Country	JA	YC	VK	VE	USA
# of QSO	6037	280	293	343	8233
# of Stations	3305	156	211	196	4066
# of QSOs/stn	1.82	1.79	1.39	1.75	2.02
% of QSL direct	23	23	25	60	62
% without	4	8	8	40	42
contribution avg. *					
contribution \$	1.1	1.1	1.1	.76	1.2
per stn. avg.					
contribution	.35	.35	.35	.75	1.2
minus postage					



-->> For USA and America's the QSL manager is F2YS/W2 (Millbrook, NY)

Over 97% of the envelopes of USA and Canada were SASE and many hams have sent more than one SASE.

Country	CE	CX	HK	LU	PY	YV
# of QSO	25	34	26	97	257	40
# of Stations	16	22	23	63	142	31
# of QSOs/stn	1.56	1.55	1.13	1.54	1.81	1.29
% of QSL direct	50	50	65	44	45	51
% without				36	21	
contribution avg.						
contribution \$.60	.85	
per stn. avg.						
contribution				.15	.40	
minus postage*						

*Postage is based on US Postal rates.

KALININGRAD

UA2FZ

NCDXF MEMBER # 3985

TO RADIO	DATE	GMT	MHz	2-WAY	EST
NCDXF					

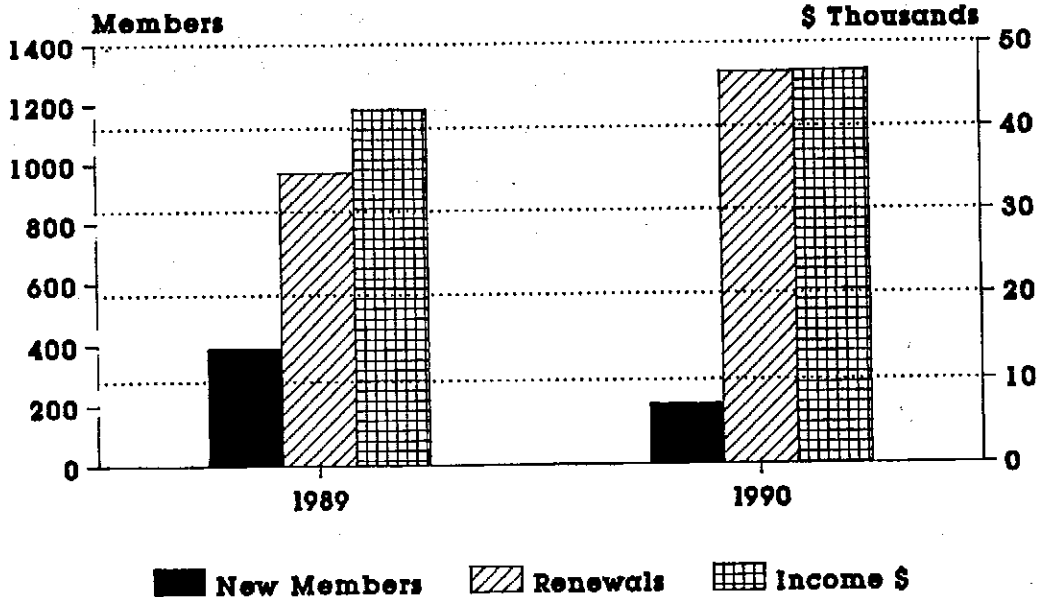
ZONE 15 **OBL 125**

Pse QSL Tnx 73 **Igor A. Ardeev**

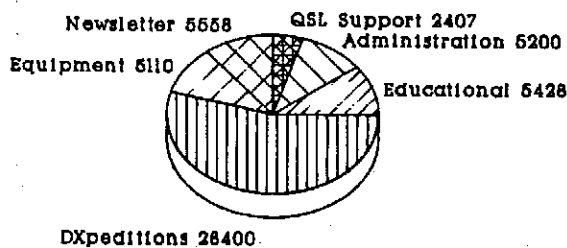


Foundation Newsletter Editor Steve, N6ST; DXpeditioner Bob, W6RGG, also operator of the W6TI DX news bulletin broadcasts; and well-known California DXer and contester AG6D at the World Games picnic. W6ISQ photo.

NCDXF 1989/1990 Income Sources



NCDXF Expenses 1990



As you can see, renewal donations are the lifeblood of the Foundation. That is why we try to make it easy for you. The donation form has been reworked in response to member comments to make it easier to put into the envelope, and to provide more space for the credit card number. There is even a handy hint on the form where to fold it! Because we made the form a bit too big last time, members were very creative in the ways they folded it to make it fit in the envelope; it just about drove K6TMB crazy! The "Income" bar is primarily interest income from the capital endowment that established the Foundation.

On the expense side, we think you will be very pleased with our ratio of administration to other activities - less than 13% of total ex-

penses; some of that amount is actually postage related to the newsletter. This is primarily because all directors and advisors serve without compensation and there are no paid employees. You will also notice many director's calls in the big contributor category. We are doing this because we believe in it! Even the expenses of going to Dayton are borne individually by all the Foundation Directors who go.

While we are on the subject of income and expenses, why not add a clause to your will with the NCDXF as the beneficiary - perhaps of your ham equipment that your family will no longer need, or even stock or cash. If you want to tell us about it, we can thank you in advance, otherwise we are willing to be surprised.

Slide Shows and Videos

The Northern California DX Foundation has a number of slide shows and videos available for loan to organizations wishing to show them at meetings. Clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The amount involved can be learned from the postage on the package when it comes to you and is usually about \$2.90. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet and more than one choice of program in case there is a great demand for the item. Correspondence should be addressed to Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC, 207 Evergreen Drive, Kentfield, CA 94904.

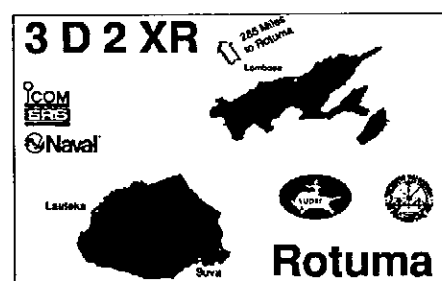
Available Slide Shows:

1. Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island expedition of 1974 (148 slides)
2. K5YY on Africa of 1978 (62 slides)
3. Colvins on Easter, Galapagos, San Andreas, etc. 1984 (140 slides)
4. W6REC & ZL1AMO, Kermadec 1984 (58 slides)
5. AH0C (Saipan) CQWW Contest Operation of 1983 (82 slides)
6. 1985 Clipperton expedition (191 slides)
7. Ponape Island by N6HR, travelogue (81 slides)
8. Pribilof Island operation of 1982 (48 slides)
9. Midway by NA6T & KD7P (120 slides)
10. Antarctica, Arctowski, Palmer, Peter, Macquarie stations (101 slides)
11. VR6, Pitcairn, Mar/Apr 1979 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI (51 slides)
12. SM0AGD 1982 Pacific DXpedition (150 slides)
13. 9U5, Burundi by ON5NT (57 slides)
14. TYA11, Benin by ON5NT (61 slides)
15. VK3DXU/2, Lord Howe Island by K2UO (52 slides)
16. 3A, Monaco, by F6EYS & F6HIX of 1984 (43 slides)
17. 5X5, Uganda by DJ6SI of 1985 (115 slides)
18. Market Reef, July 1983 by PA0GAM/OH0/OJ0
19. KX6DS, Marshall Island (34 slides)
20. Andorra, by DL1HBT, DL3HAH, DL5BAD, DL4BBO, DL4BAH (50 slides)
21. 1986 Clipperton DXpedition (176 slides)
22. Peter I Island, 3Y, of 1987 (127 slides)
23. KP2N, 1986, CQWW DX CW contest (55 slides)
24. OF0MA, Market Reef, 1987 (28 slides)
25. Abu Ail, AI5AA, by DJ6SI, 1988 (65 slides)
26. XX9CW by DK7PE, 1986 (16 slides)
27. 1988 Palmyra by K9AJ, KP2A, WA2MOE, WORLX, F6EXV, JA5DQH (93 slides)
28. 1988 Kingman by the above operators (96 slides)
29. 1988 4U, KC4, VK9Y, VK9X and 9V1 by W7SW (73 slides)
30. Banaba Isl, T33JS + T30 & T27 by KN6J & VK9NS (80 slides, 80 minutes)
31. XF4L by XE1L, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, OH2U, JH4RAF, W6RGG & N7NG
32. Publishing the DX Bulletin by Chod Harris 24 min
33. Rotuma 1988 by W6SZN, 73 minutes
34. 4J1FS, MV Isl, 1989 with Finnish, Soviet & American DXers by K7JA 16 min
35. ZS8MI, Marion Island by Peter Sykora, ZS6PT 1 hr

Available VHS videos:

1. XU1SS (plus BV0YL and BV0JA) (35 minutes)
2. 7J1RL of 1976 and 1978 (includes ZK9ZR, Mellish Reef)
3. VK9ZR DXpedition of 1978 (plus Ogasawara)
4. Frankford Radio Club ARRL phone parody + JH7YFL WWCW
5. JF1IST/7J1 DXpedition to Okino Torishima of 1979 (25 min)
6. Australian travelogue - Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island (55

- min)
7. Ham Radio in the South Cook Islands by ZK1CA & ZK1CT (70 min)
8. VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI (copy and slide show above)
9. Looking Up in Rio Linda, 1986 by W6GO/K6HHD (45 min)
10. Revillagigedo, XF4DX, of 1987 (15 min)
11. Northern Texas Contest Club - towers and testers (45 mi)
12. It Started With A Broken Fence - JH3DPB Tall Tower tale (15 min)
13. Pile Up Busters, Humorous. (10 min)
14. FG/W2QM/FS, French St Martin, DXing Senior Style - Another Wrinkle to DXing
15. 1984 Laccadive Island DXpedition, VU7WCY, plus 1983 VK0HI from TV (60 min)
16. The K6UA contest station story (25 min)
17. HK0TU DXpedition of 1983, Malpelo (25 minutes in Spanish)
18. The Ship That Shouldn't Have - VK0JS Heard Island DXpedition (90 min)
19. The New World of Amateur Radio (28 min)
20. S0RASD 1987 by the Lynx Group, The Western Sahara Story (37 min)
21. Auckland Island 1988 by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, N7NG (60 min)
22. Dr. Owen Garriot's First Talk to hams about the Space Shuttle
23. Russian Ham Radio Tour by WA6WXD, Oct 1986 (45 min)
24. 3Y DXpedition 1987 - W4VWA copy of the slide show
25. Peter I 1987, from JA7ARW
26. 1979 Spratly Isl DXpedition by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BJL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A
27. 1988 Malyj Vysotskij Island by OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX 23 min
28. 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5MY, HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988 Produced by W4BRE
29. Aruba, P40V CQWW Test (12 min)
30. A Message from Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (12 min)
31. Navassa of 1988 by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q, W3GH (38 min)
32. Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SV0AA, April 1989 (40 min)
33. NO1Z/KH1, Howland Isl 1988 by NO1Z, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL (20 min)
34. Boeing ARC at the Electronic Convention and Great Wall of China (audio tape + VHS 30 min)
35. KC Club DXpedition to Tonganoxie Island (30 min)
36. Tuvalu 1989 by K6EDV and ZL1AMO (27 min)
37. Visalia Convention of 1990 recorded by W6NLG (2 hours) NA at this time
38. Rotuma, 1988 copy of the slide show (73 min)
39. XW8CW & XW8DX 1989 by HA5PP & HA5WA (27 min), produced by W4BRE
40. XU8CW & XU8DX 1990 by HA5PP & HA5WE (25 min), produced by W4BRE
41. All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition + BY1PK (32 mins)
42. ZS8MI, by ZS6PT, partial copy of slide show (40 min)
43. Jim Smith, A51JS, visits the San Francisco Bay Area, videotaped by WA6BXY (80 min)
44. R9ZF/NN7A, NN7D & W7YS, Aug 1989 Lake Telekskoye, Siberia (30 min)
45. VU7, Laccadive Isl 1984 (65 min)
46. VU4, Andaman Isl 1897 by Combetore Radio Club (25 min)



Northern California DX Foundation
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