



Newsletter

Summer 1992

Steve Thomas, N6ST, Editor

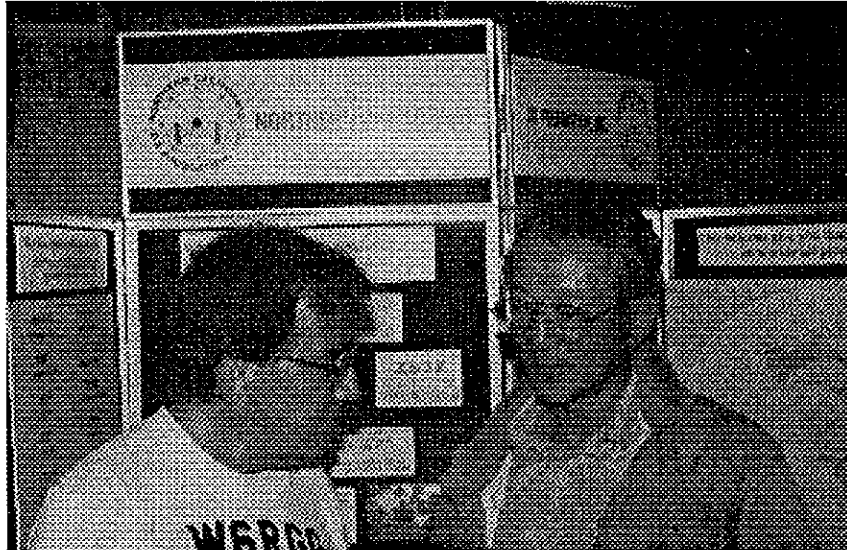
Northern California DX Foundation

Vincent Chinn, K6KQN Founder NCDXF

by John G. Troster, W6ISQ

Amiable Vincent Chinn, K6KQN, isn't one of the great talkers of hamdom, but take him to a Chinese restaurant, of his own choosing, and order him a bowl of noodles, and he will talk—a little. We had a bowl of noodles with Vince recently.

To most of us, working a rare country is one of the top goals of being on the air. And when you receive a QSL card from one of those rare ones, take a good look at it. Chances are it carries the logo of the Northern California DX Foundation, a now world-wide and world-known organization, which got started courtesy of Vince Chinn. He's the one who conceived the NCDXF and put it on the map, literally. How he got into ham radio, and how he



NCDXF Founder Vincent Chinn, K6KQN, chats with Bob Vallio, W6RGG at NCDXF booth at Dayton Hamvention

subsequently proposed and set in place the NCDXF is a good story, one for the record, and that's what we talked about, over the noodles.

In 1972, Vince was Secretary/Treasurer of the Northern California DX Club. One night at a meeting, he stood up and said something like this: "As you know, I'm an accountant and I used to work for

the Internal Revenue Service. So I have knowledge of the operation of tax deductible foundations. How many of you DX club members here would contribute money to a foundation which would sponsor DXpeditions, scientific radio investigations, aid amateurs in rare countries, help with QSL cards, etc., if it were tax deductible?" There were smiles and polite interest from a smattering of the audience. "Lotsa luck, Vince." But that was enough encouragement for Vince. He went to work.

A few weeks later three of us were summoned to Vince's apartment in Chinatown, SFO. It was just off Grant Avenue, the main street in Chinatown. Vince was born and grew up there, about as unlikely-looking a ham location as you could find. As I walked into a narrow alley between two Chinese restaurants, and up an outside flight of stairs, I re-checked the directions he had given to his place. A ham couldn't set up a shack in a city location like this.

Maybe he operated remote control, but surely no real operation from here. Under a dim shaded light on the stair landing, I pushed the door buzzer, wondering who would answer. The black door opened, and yes, there was our smiling Vince. And yes, there was his shack. Vince did operate from right there, with success, and with luck for sure.

At this first organization meeting Vince described again why he started the Foundation. He emphasized that this was not going to be just another group to support DXpeditions. He wanted NCDXF to do more, perhaps support some sort of scientific work which would benefit all amateurs, not just DXers. We all agreed.

"Now", Vince continued, "we are going to need some money to get started", at which time Lee Shaklee, W6BH, wrote a check for \$1000. Don Schliesser, K6RV, wrote a check for \$100, and W6ISQ munificently threw in a ten dollar bill. Host and organizer, Vince himself, K6KQN, popped for one whole USA dollar. There it was. The young fella from Chinatown, SFO, had got a Foundation started, and with a balance of \$1111.00!

As a kid, Vince played up and down the streets of Chinatown and in the small park across the street from his house. When he was eight, he began to take interest in the tennis courts in a local playground a few blocks away. As a tourist you might wonder where in the heart of bustling, commercial Chinatown there would be tennis courts and playgrounds? Well Vince knew, and as he tells it, he "whacked away" on the courts until he was eleven, at which time he began lessons way out on Geary Stree, at the California Tennis Club. Which incidentally, is the oldest tennis club (110 years) west of the Mississippi.

By the time he had graduated from Saint Ignatius High School and was ready for college, his "whacking away" merited him a tennis scholarship to Notre Dame! Did you think they only played fusbball at Notre Dame? Ultimately, Vince became the Chinese-American tennis champion of the USA.

At Notre Dame, Vince settled on accounting for his major. In '57, his sophomore year, he decided he needed a rest so he took what he calls, a "long semester break"— seven years, as it turned out. He played a lot of tennis, parked cars in Chinatown, and did other "goof off" jobs, as he describes them, around downtown San Francisco. It was during this long semester break, that Vince's friend George,

W6BUR, gave him a pep talk about ham radio. Two weeks later, Vince had his Novice ticket and went on the air from the apartment in the midst of Chinatown. Within the year he had his General license and joined the Cathay Amateur Radio Club, a Chinatown area group which started in the early 30's. Vince is still a member, and as a VEC, gives amateur exams at several locations in the San Francisco area.

In 1960, Vince joined the army and was sent to Augusta, Georgia to learn video engineering. A good place to learn electronics and he finished out his army tour as a TV engineer. By '64 Vince decided his break had lasted long enough. He returned to Notre Dame, took up accounting again, and re-joined the tennis team. He was graduated in '66 and went to work in San Francisco as an agent for the Internal Revenue Service. In 1972, he moved to a Certified Public Accounting corporation and remained with them for several years until he opened his own firm. Where do you suppose he located his office? Correct! In the building in front of the apartment with the unbelievable ham location. Yeah, Vince is a home boy, doesn't get too far away.

NCDXF didn't spring full bloom out of the Chinatown apartment with just that one meeting. It took a lot of years and much dedication by many interested amateurs to attain its present level of world-wide recognition and its ability to be the principal sponsor of major DXpeditions. But that's another story. Vince was treasurer for the first five years or so retiring as business grew and required more of his attention.

In 1973 Vince had to go to the Far East to consult for some of his business accounts. He planned the trip to coincide with the CQWW-SSB contest and secured a berth as an operator at XV5AC in Saigon, Vietnam for the big event. He also took along two assistant operators, K6RV and W6ISQ. Operating CQWW-SSB from XV5AC was indeed exciting. Our hosts at XV5AC, were the legendary John "Chester" Lunsford, W4EVB, and top contest operator Don Riebhoff, W7JA. Some of you may remember, sadly, that Don was killed a few years ago in Spain, in a tragic automobile accident. Another rare visit on that trip, was Vientianne, Laos, where Vince had an accounting client.

XV5AC was not a NCDXF operation, but following that, W6ISQ went on to XU1AA (then called Cambodia) a month later to operate CQWW-CW. That was the first official NCDXF sponsored operation which

we will tell about in subsequent historical sketches. Vince and Chester kept in touch. Some years later, Vince went to the annual hamfest at Albany, Georgia, and visited Chester. There, at the hamfest, Vince took and passed his Extra Class license. Why not? As good a place as any and besides, Vince likes to spread his ham activities far and wide. In addition, he has a Hong Kong license, VS6WW, which he uses at a friend's QTH when he is there on business trips.

At home in his apartment during the years, Vince gradually built up his station to where he was running a full Alpha kilowatt into a four element three band quad mounted on the roof. The building looked like a pagoda with that quad on the roof, and Vince's power probably brightened the neon lights along Grant Street for a few blocks. But he was a DX chaser and naturally needed a little power to get out through all those buildings in downtown San Francisco. TVI?? What's that? DX is. Who could find him anyway?

Hamming is first in order of non-profit action in Vince's life, but biking, Harley-Davidson style, rates high on a bi-continental basis too. He keeps the necessary leather and shades, in duplicate, in both San Francisco and Hong Kong. Recently when he missed a ride of the Hong Kong bikers to Beijing, he hopped a plane and caught up with them! There in Beijing, Vince and his friend George, W6BUR, set up a ham station, BYICIE, at the Chinese Institution of Electronics. The antenna is on the roof of a 25 story building, but so far, there hasn't been much activity from it — they are too busy learning the code. Incidentally, Vince and George had a problem in Beijing. They speak Chinese, but only Cantonese, not Mandarin.

Right now, Vince has joined the addicted and heads east to the Dayton Hamvention every April where he wanders around for three days, just as awed as the rest of us. He spends time at the NCDXF booth, but mostly he hunts down equipment. This year he bought a four element five band cubical quad which he recently erected on the roof of his new apartment overlooking the Golden Gate. (Yes, Vince finally moved from the old apartment in Chinatown a few years ago, but making sure it wouldn't get away, he turned it over to son Larry). Unfortunately, the big quad points smack into a huge tree about two feet away. How does a six story apartment house look into a big tree? This is San Francisco, the hills are steep!

Northern California DX Foundation

P.O. Box 2368
Stanford, CA 94309-2368

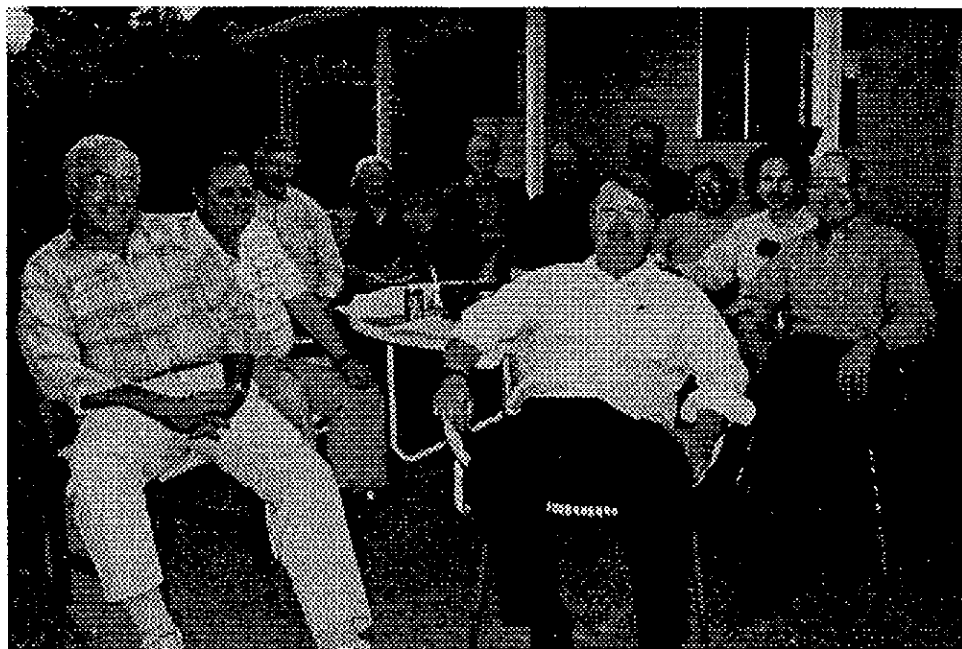
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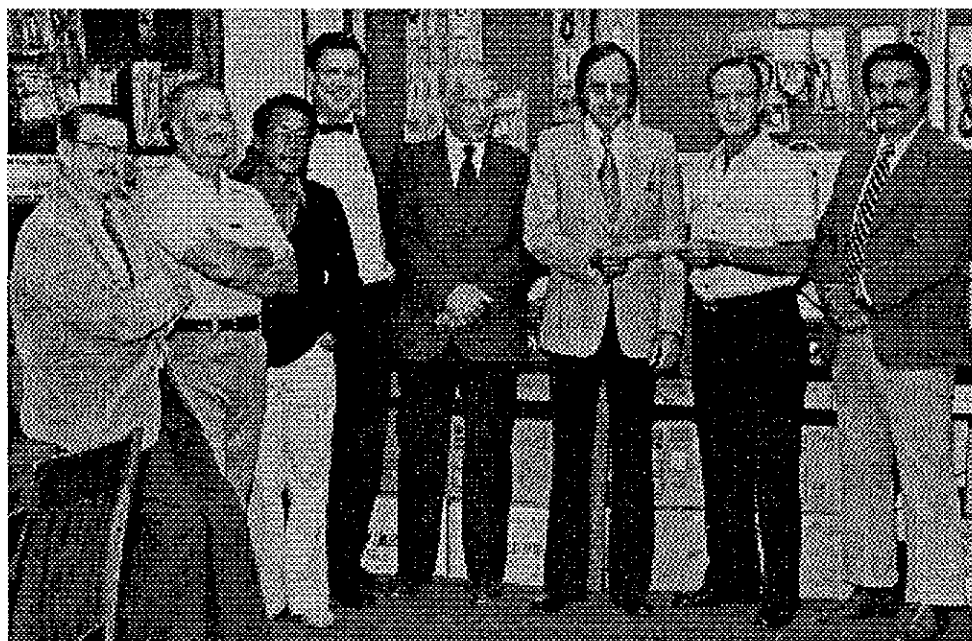
He says the SWR is weird on all bands, but he managed to work Martti at ZA1A in the July operation there, running about 20 watts. He hopes to retune the quad to include all the branches, the hill, his roof and the other adjacent apartments.

Now you know who we all appreciate, and much thank, for precipitating some of the rare DXpedition action. Next time you work a rare one which has been sponsored by NCDXF, give a nod toward Vince, K6KQN. He started the whole thing from a spot rare in itself, San Francisco's famous Chinatown, USA.





The Current NCDXF Board. L to R. Bruce Butler, W6OSP; Eric Edberg, W6DU; Rusty Epps, W6OAT; Josephene Clarke, WB6ZUC; Jack Troster, W6ISQ; Lou Beaudet, K6TMB; Steve Thomas, N6ST; Kip Edwards, W6SZN; Dave Leeson, W6QHS; Howard Brainen, WZ6Z; and Stan Kaisel, K6UD.
Photo by Marsha Kirschbaum, KD6AKQ



Board From Yesteryear. L to R. Bud Bane, W6WB; Merle Parten, K6DC; Vince Chenn, K6KQN; Jim Maxwell, W6CF; Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD; Don Schliesser, K6RV; Jack Troster, W6ISQ; and Bob Ferrero, W6RJ.

NCDXF DXCC Rock Report

de W6ISQ, "Rocky"

We are closing in rapidly on the Big One. Yes, gentle readers, as of August 1, 1992, our DXCC ROCK count was 96. The game's afoot; who will send in DXCC number 100? The rockbreaking news will be published in the next mighty NCDXF Newsletter.

How much further should we carry this DXCC ROCK extravaganza? Well, we're game and will keep adding to the list as long as anyone sends in new ones, at least for the foreseeable future. We stand at DXCC 96 now and there are 323 possible, so we still have wee bit to go. But PLEASE, BITTE, POR FAVOR, S'IL VOUS PLAIS, check the following list of confirmed countries and DO NOT SEND DUPLICATES. Our museum can hold only two examples from each country. And we don't want it to become so heavy we can't carry it to the exhibit hall at Visalia!

List of DXCC ROCK Countries Confirmed

1S, 3A, 3D2-Conway Reef, 3D2-Rotuma, 3Y-Bouvet Isl, 3Y-Peter Isl., 4S, 4U1ITU, 4X, 5Z4, 6Y, 7P8, 9V, A9, AP, BV, BY, C2, CT, DL, EA, EA6, F, FO8-Clipperton, FO8-French. Polynesia, G, GM, HB-Switzerland, HBØ-Lichtenstein, HKØ-Malpelo Isl., HV, HZ, I-Italy, 1AØ-SMOM, J2/A Abu Ail, JA, KC4-Antarctica, KG6, KHØ, KH3, KH5, KH5K-Kingman Reef, KH6, KH9, KL7, KP1, KP2, KP5, LA, OD, OE, OH, OHØ-Market Reef, ON, P4, PJ2-Bonaire, PJ2-Curaçao, PYØ-St. P&P, PYØ-Fernando de Noronha, SM, STØ-Southern Sudan, SU, SV, SV5-Dodecanese, SY-Mt. Athos, T77, TA, TF, TK5, TY, UA9, UB5, V2, V51, V73, VE, VK, VKØ-Heard Isl., VK9-Christmas Isl., VP1, VP8-Falklands, VP8-So. Georgia, VP8-South Sandwich, VS6, VYØ-St. Paul Isl, W-USA, XE, YB, YI, YU, Z2, ZA, ZD8, ZF-Grand Cayman, ZK1-South Cook, ZS-RSA, ZSØ-Penguin Isl.

Interesting New Additions

KI3V/7 sent a rock from a missile explosion crater in Bahrein. W8MEP/YI, a medical doctor, sent in sand and a pebble he took from a helmet found half

buried in a stream in the Kurdish north of Iraq. VE6OA sent in a rock taken from a dismantled statue of Lenin in Kiev. Then, for you golfers, VE6OA went up to Old Saint Andrews Golf Course in Scotland and retrieved a rock from there. W5XX sent in a sample from the easternmost point of the USA. It was taken from the last rock outcropping remaining above water at low tide from the eastern tip of the Virgin Islands!

TFIMM sent in a pebble from the Dead Sea still encrusted with salt. And we wish to send special thanks to TFIMM's young daughter who sent in a specimen from her native Iceland which was taken from her own personal rock collection.

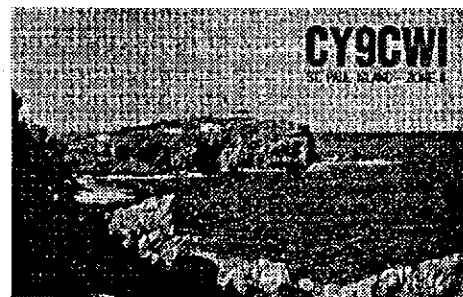
We will be sending out thank you certificates soon to all who have contributed to the NCDXF DXCC ROCK program. We thank you all for your help and for adding to the fun! Keep on throwing rocks our way. We love it.

73, de John G. Troster, W6ISQ "Rocky"

Beacon Operator, KH60, on Cover of August CQ Magazine

The cover of the August CQ magazine shows Bob Jones, KH60, checking out his 16 helix 432 MHz Oscar array. It's a real beauty. What the picture did not show was Bob's 14 MHz vertical which he uses to transmit his KH60/B beacon signal on the NCDXF 14.1 MHz beacon network. For 10 years, Bob has operated this beacon as part of the world-wide network, transmitting a one minute signal every 10 minutes. In the next few years, NCDXF is looking forward to replacing the type of beacon Bob, and the other network stations are using, with the new multi-band model now being tested.

de W6ISQ



NCDXF at Dayton



W6DU and W6OAT greet WA4JQS who was an operator on the VP8SSI DXpedition



Romeo, 3W3RR at NCDXF Booth in Dayton

Big Hitters

The Northern California DX Foundation is grateful for the support of these stalwart individuals.

\$100 to \$499

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Odds and Ends

We have received numerous questions about the date on the mailing label attached to these newsletters. That date is the date of your last contribution, according to NCDXF records. Take a look at the date. If it is more than a year ago, you may wish to consider sending in a contribution using the form on the back of this issue (or a copy if you don't want to tear up the back page).

You may also wonder why we are printing the contribution on the last page, rather than a separate sheet as we used to do. The answer is simple: weight. That extra bit of paper sent the total weight of the newsletter over 2 oz, costing significant additional mailing expenses. This issue with envelope weighs 1.9 oz!

When you write your VISA or MASTERCARD number on the donation form, please do so very clearly and double check to be sure it is correct. We have several donators who either wrote down the wrong number or their writing could not be deciphered. If you are among those, you have received a request for the correct number from Bruce, W6OTC. Please respond to the request so we can keep you on the active list!

Odds and Ends

by Eric Edberg, W6DU

You should know that we hold an annual election meeting for the Board of Directors of your Foundation. Often there are no changes made. This year WA9WYB tendered his resignation because of other heavy demands on his time. He will still be working with us in an advisory capacity. Jack Troster, W6ISQ, was elected to fill the director opening. Jack was one of the founding members of our Board and recently was appointed Corresponding Secretary. As we then had our full complement of Directors, eleven, he had no vote. He rejoins us as a Director in addition to his secretarial duties. There are no other changes. A full listing of Directors and Officers appears elsewhere in this issue.

*

There have been numerous letters complaining about poor QSLing practices on the part of some of the DXpeditions supported by NCDXF. We share this QSL concern and agree that there is justifiable reason for complaint. Many solutions to this problem have been offered and considered.

This past February we adopted a policy of holding back a significant portion of our support to those who have demonstrated poor QSLing performance and also to those whom we have reason to suspect may do the same. We will not implement this policy with those who have always done a good job in the past. This procedure will also have to be tempered with the realization that many important past operations would never have come into being had not NCDXF front money been available at the outset.

*

From the many FAX messages we have received, it is obvious to us that this service has been well accepted by the membership. We have even re-




ceived some membership credit card contributions via this medium.

*

The Board meets regularly every other month, usually at the home of one of the members. Sometimes it is necessary to confer on a more frequent basis. This is accomplished by scheduling an emergency meeting or by telephone consultation. The great majority of the Board members live within 25 miles of each other and the most distant member lives no more than 100 miles away. We have found it to be necessary for Board members to live near to each other in our type of operation. Not only does the Board provide direction, but it and the Advisors are also the staff. As we have no paid employees, small groups or committees often get together to handle Foundation business. Being a close knit group helps make that possible.

PENNSYLVANIA
MONTGOMERY COUNTY



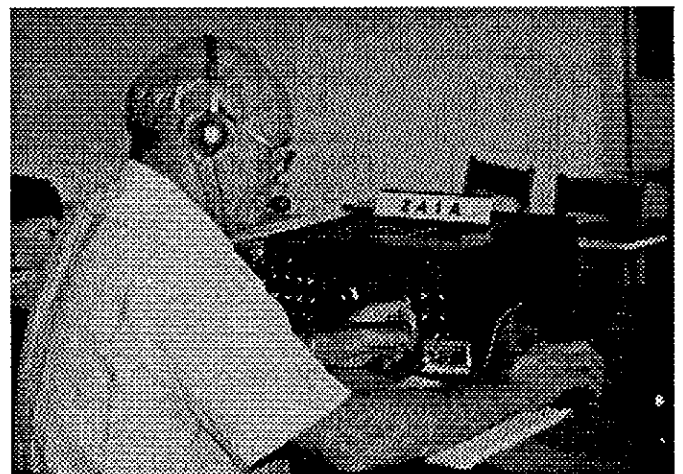
KA3WRH

ARNOLD F. WINKLER
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Blue Bell, PA
19422 U.S.A.

COMPARING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	MST	MODE
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
ZA1A	3	10	92	16:00	28340	59	SSB

THIS WAS MY VERY FIRST QSO EVER!!

PRE QSL TRX QSL 73! Arnold



Wayne Mills, N7NG operating ZA1A

A Trip to Cambodia

by Shin Onisawa, M.D., JAINUT

How such a trip as ours to Cambodia can impact on our minds is a matter of long perspective. It may be too early for me to clarify the meaning of this trip. However, before time will manipulate my impression, I would like to write what happened to me during this short but meaningful trip. Of course, it is impossible for me to discuss the situation in Cambodia as a whole. This is only a small report of our experience there through amateur radio operation.

To begin with, I had better describe how I became involved with XU8DX and who Sokun, its only operator, is. It was when I had finished a relaxing talk with a friend of mine in the US on 15 meters SSB early in the summer of last year that I heard a scream-like voice of a girl calling me. The signal was apparently from South East Asia. Reluctantly, I turned my beam that way and it was Sokun. She had been operating alone with this club station at the PTT in Phnom-Penh after the Hungarian group established it in the spring of 1990. She needed help to repair the amplifier there. She had been trained how to use the equipment but was almost ignorant of amateur radio. I had been interested in the developing countries and had often asked myself if I could do anything for the people of those countries through amateur radio. That was why I proposed some help for amateur radio to her.

It was surely surprising that this girl was speaking quite freely. I knew that Cambodia remained a communistic country at that time and I supposed that it had been forbidden for anyone to speak anything private on amateur radio as in the other countries where the dogma was ruling. She was 25 years old and single. Her father was a soldier of a capitalistic faction who had been one of the victims of the genocide by Pol Pot. Her mother was a school teacher.

She had to spend her girlhood in a camp in a mountain area by herself without being with her mother or brother. As I heard from her walking along the Mekong River from the PTT office to the

hotel late at night, she had escaped from the camp to the city at the age of 11 years. She walked alone all night for 40km. After that, I guess she worked so hard and did so well at school that she was selected to go to East Germany for further study at the age of 18 years. She stayed in Leipzig majoring in broadcasting communication for 5 years. The period in Germany has made a significant influence on development of her character, no wonder. She says that she is still one of the Khmer girls in a traditional sense. She is, she says, so polite, shy and timid. However, so far as I know, she sometimes behaves like a tomboy or a male executive especially at her office. She could be aggressive and concentrating. The latter might be formed or, at least, strengthened by the experience in Germany.

I am sure she knew something about life in western countries during this period. However, it was compulsory, on the completion of her studies, for her to come back to her homeland and to serve her government. Those days must have been frustrating and depressing to her. The country was threatened by attacks of the supporters of Pol Pot. On the other hand, her government was controlled by its neighbor.

There have been enormous number of refugees coming from the countryside into Phnom-Penh. For the first year or two, she taught students at a post school. She said the students were much older than herself and always brought their children to the class.

When she was told to manage the club station by herself after the Hungarians finished their opera-



Sokun on the key in the manner of 9V1YC. I taught her the orthodox way of keying later!

tion there, I am sure, she felt a big window opening before herself to the outer world through amateur radio. She has been so active since April of 1990 that she has worked more than 10,000 stations by now. I taught her the code on the air in the summer of 1990. For a while, she hasn't wanted to discard the privilege of being a YL on SSB. However, she is getting more active on CW. She is hopeful to receive her private licence very soon and is willing to educate more young hams by herself.

Well, I decided to visit Cambodia in this summer after considering that for a long time. It was the main purpose for me to support the station bringing in some new equipment and antennas. It's been some time since the visitors like Hiro, JA2EZD, James, 9V1YC or Atsusi, JF3NRI, were there. Sokun has been struggling to maintain amateur radio activity against a rather cool attitude to it by the surrounding people. Of course, I used to dream of seeing around this country and surely wanted to see Sokun, who often called me "papa". If you are engaged in medical services as I am as a pediatrician, it might not be so difficult for you to understand how hard it was for me to find a replacement for my duty at the hospital. But, with the help of a medical school staff nearby, I could luckily manage to take a vacation long enough for this trip.

Two of my friends, Tak, JH1OJU, and Hide, JHØFBH/1, who are keen DX chasers here, agreed to go with me. They have not only enjoyed this trip but also have contributed much to its success.

A propeller driven airplane which had us on aboard was ready to land at our destination, Pochengton International Airport, after an hour flight from Bangkok early in the morning of Oct. 9. There were vast rice paddies spreading below. It was like a green hued carpet with a very fine and fluffy texture. High coconut trees were standing at intervals among them. It was a beautiful and peaceful scenery. Who could imagine there used to be holocausts going on at some places in this land several years ago? Our airplane landed at a small airport of Pochengton very soon. Strong

sunshine welcomed us getting off the airplane and heading to the airport terminal a few hundred meters away.

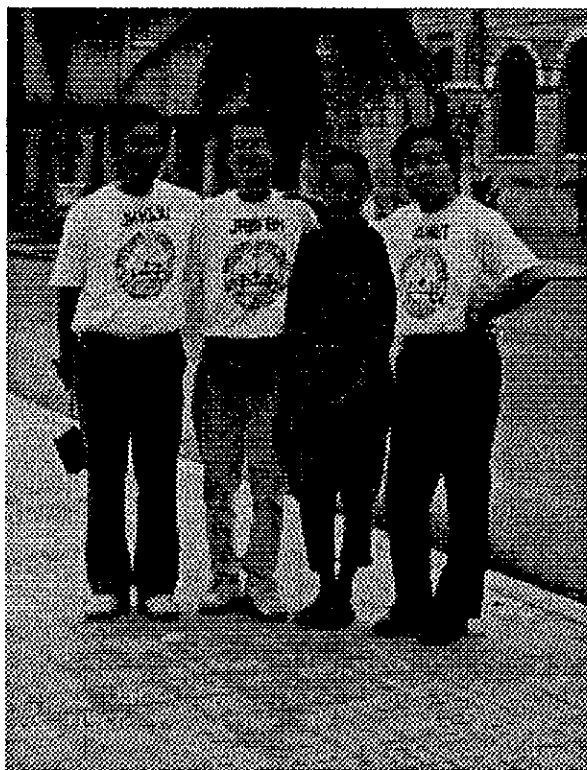
There was a crowd of people in the big but only waiting room of the airport. It was noticeable that most of the visitors were from the western countries. I saw a Chinese American lady who came to investigate possible investment there. There was also a group of people visiting the PTT on satellite business from NEC in Japan. This, one of the poorest countries, already seemed to be a target of the market for the developed countries in the near future. And it also seemed to testify that peace was finally coming to this country.

All of sudden, Sokun was standing behind me with her best smile, I noticed. She wrapped herself in a traditional long skirt hued silky dark green and a white blouse. She was a slender and fairly tall girl with lightly dark skin and wavy long hair. Her outlook was surely a little different from the typical Khmer girls. She really looked like a smile of a flower as her name indicates in Khmer language. She talked fast to me about something of the customs as if she had already been with me for a long time. Yes, it was her voice and intonation that I had been familiar with on the air for a long time. She and another lady tried to care for us getting through customs quickly.

An old van and its driver were offered to us by the PTT during our stay. In it, we went to the city area through a suburb. Slightly overcast weather softened the burning heat outside at that time. However, the breeze coming through the windows of the car was still hot. There were old houses scattered along the street. Most of them were made of wood. There were also some high floored ones. It was remarkable that a few houses were gorgeous and made of concrete with stony fences. Later on, I was told that those people living in such houses had invariably become rich by means of corruption. I was also impressed at the distinct variety of races in the people passing by on the streets. It was not very difficult even for me to distinguish them, Khmers, Vietnamese, Chinese or the other minorities. Most of Vietnamese had immigrated to this country since the Vietnamese army expelled the

Pol Pot. Some of the Khmer people expressed a definite dislike or hatred of the Vietnamese. I thought at present they were too busy living for themselves to be involved in racial problems. However, in time, when they have some room in the economical and political sense, there will be complicated racial problems among these fairly well distinguished people. At present, most of the people were very poor. They were mostly thin and poorly dressed. There were many children playing on the streets. Most of them were barefoot and the younger ones were even naked.

The main streets were chaotic with numerous bicycles, tricycles and motorbikes going to and fro. As there were no traffic signals anywhere, we could not help hesitating to go across the streets especially in morning and evening rush hour. Tricycles were a kind of taxi named cyclo. A passenger was transported on its front seat supported with a couple of wheels. Motorbikes seemed to have become the main means of transportation in the city recently. We often saw a whole family,



In front of the PTT office just before sunset. From left to right, Tak JH1OJU, Hide JHØFBH, Sokun and Sin, JA1NUT

a couple with 2 or 3 children, riding on a motorbike. The people invariably seemed very relaxed and pleasant. Sokun was of the same opinion as mine that the prospect of the arrival of peace in the very near future was making them much more cheerful and active than before.

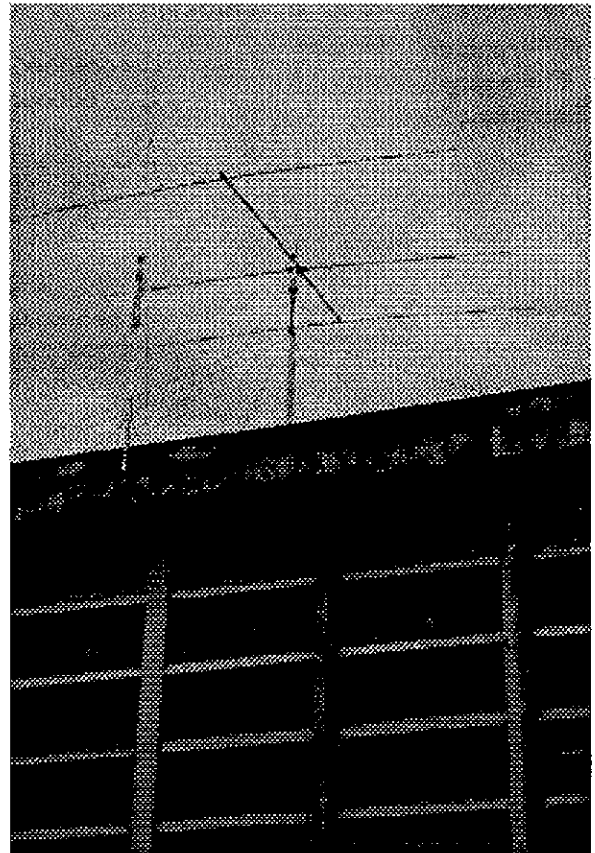
The PTT was located in the center of the city. It was a few acres large and had a few old buildings. The buildings were all tile roofed Spanish style with 3 or 4 stories. They were poorly cared for a long time as the others were in the city. The paint was partially peeling off. There were lots of weeds growing in the yard. The courtyard was rather narrow and was full of old cars and trucks. On each building, there were two towers. Between them, 2 or 3 sets of dipoles were installed. They looked to be for HF commercial communications. The building which had the shack of XU8DX was located in the back. The shack was an isolated room in the 1st floor. It was a fairly big room with a high ceiling which used to be used for the telephone relay room in the past. There was a hammock slung between machines and also a portable bed in the back. I was sure Sokun had prepared these for us. We were using the existing set up, FT757GXII and FL2100Z, adding another FT757GXII with its power supply and antennas including a Butternut HF7V vertical. We tried to put up a full sized dipole for 160 meters at a height of 30 meters, which failed to work well. Unfortunately, it was not easily accessible by ourselves to be repaired and we had to give up that highly demanded band. The tribander was on a few meter long pole on the roof of the building. We could see the Mekong River running a few hundred meters away in the northern direction. These antennas were surrounded by many buildings, towers or commercial antennas but were still in a fairly good place for radio. The wiring in the shack was quite messy. Some power line wires were put directly into the sockets, sometimes causing sparks and outages. We replaced the old guy ropes for the tribander with new guy wires because the former seemed to have been decayed and about ready to break. I guess it might be quite difficult for Sokun to maintain the set up alone, especially, the antenna system.

At the meeting with Mr. Lar-Narath, the Deputy Director, on the day of arrival, I explained to him what brought us there and why we would like to stay at the shack throughout the nights. I knew James and Atsushi had not been allowed to do so in their operation of XUØAA, which restricted them to work much DX on the lower bands at night. He seemed very interested in the propagation forecast from Phnom-Penh to various parts of the world, which Bill, N4AR, had given me for this purpose. Based on it, I told him it was indispensable for us to be in the shack throughout the nights to make contacts to various parts of the world on the lower bands. However, he was at first a little bit reluctant to give us permission, though he seemed to have fully understood us. Later on, one evening, he dropped by at the shack and smiled at us telling that amateur radio was not making any actual benefit to them but, he believed, it was a gem at the PTT. He was a gentleman of short stature, about 50 years old, and seemed a person whom Sokun had the deepest trust in at the office.

After a couple of days, we had a dinner with Mr. Chroeung, the Director, and Mr. Lar-Narath at a hotel. The Director also sounded a little bit unwilling to give us the permission to stay at the shack throughout the nights. His apparent reason of the denial was our safety at night. At first, he looked to have made a grimace. He was a little bit older than Mr. Lar-Narath and had totally grey hair. He first kept quiet while we were talking or making requests. It was as if he were judging us at a trial as a judge. But, with time, he started mentioning his old Japanese friends as one of his fond memories. Talking over glasses of red wine, he became very friendly and sociable with us. At last, he gave us the permission for overnight operation as well as the accommodations at the PTT.

He also expressed his plan to utilize ham radio as an aid for commercial communications. Sokun was the person who was most pleased to hear him saying that. As I already mentioned before, she had been threatened to stop the operation of XU8DX since its beginning. It is needless to say that amateur radio could not exist as a real hobby

in such a developing country as Cambodia. It won't yield any interests by any means. Sokun took amateur radio in a little different way from the rest of us. If she were in a free and wealthy part of the world, she wouldn't have taken it so much. Anyway, amateur radio seemed to have taken a place at the PTT, judging from the Director's words. The Director also wanted us to look for some electrical parts to repair the equipment and to send information on amateur radio antennas. They seemed to consider using them for communication between their foreign embassies and the PTT in their homeland. This favorable change was really thanks to Sokun's persistence for a year and a half. In addition, our efforts might be of some help, if little, to the situation. How many times we had made cheers with tasty red wine during that night!



The 3 element tribander on a 5 meter pole. The rotator was a donation from NCDXF which had been brought by 9V1YC et al. The Butternut vertical in front was installed during this trip and worked well for the lower bands and WARC bands.

During the weekend, we were invited to Sokun's home for a lunch. Her home was on a block in a quiet district, which was orderly divided. It was a flat house in medium size on a lot of about a quarter acre. Of course, it was old but still neatly cared for. The front yard was not large at all but had a variety of plants and trees. There were two or three trees a few meters high and abundant with a kind of tropical fruits. They were bunches of small nuts with thin but juicy content around a fairly big core. Sokun called it like "Long gan tree". I could not find it in a dictionary. A friend of mine in the US later told me it should be Lichi nuts, which is a well known product in Thailand and South China. The house had several rooms whose center was a living room. They were only least furnished. But, she had a stereo run with a storage battery. It surprised us a lot when we heard a Japanese pop song coming out of that stereo. Her mother, named Simon, was a slender lady, who always wore a charming smile on her face. She spoke beautiful French. However, the lack of our knowledge in it prevented us from freely conversing with each other. Dou, her brother, seemed a little bit shy to us. He was a student of a university there majoring in agricultural economics. To our surprise, there were a few dozen small children in another room. Yes, they were Simon's pupils. She was teaching them according a schedule alternatively either at the school or at home.

There were no water supply nor drainage system. Rain water was collected in a big pottery pot and was used for living.

In a small courtyard, there were gorgeous dishes ready for us. Boiled fish taken in the Kong River and cooked shrimp were served with various spicy sauces. We also enjoyed a kind of cake made of sticky rice with almond and banana jammed in it, which reminded me of our traditional rice cake in Japan. Of course, there were various kinds of tropical fruits on the table including that Long gan tree fruit and short bananas. We thanked a lot to Sokun and her family for these cooks. At the same time, it convinced me that this country had been originally very rich with farming and fishing products. This was one of the most leisurely

lunches we took there.

Well, the band conditions were quite different from those in Japan at the same time of year. The higher bands, especially 15 and 20 meters, were open to various parts of the world at night. It was as if we were watching a kaleidoscope. Early in the evening, 10 and 15 meters were open to Europe. It was a little bit difficult to determine if the path was short or long. The Europeans did not sound wobbly at all. At midnight, the signals from the whole northern hemisphere often hit us on 20 meters. The east coast was rumbling into XU with



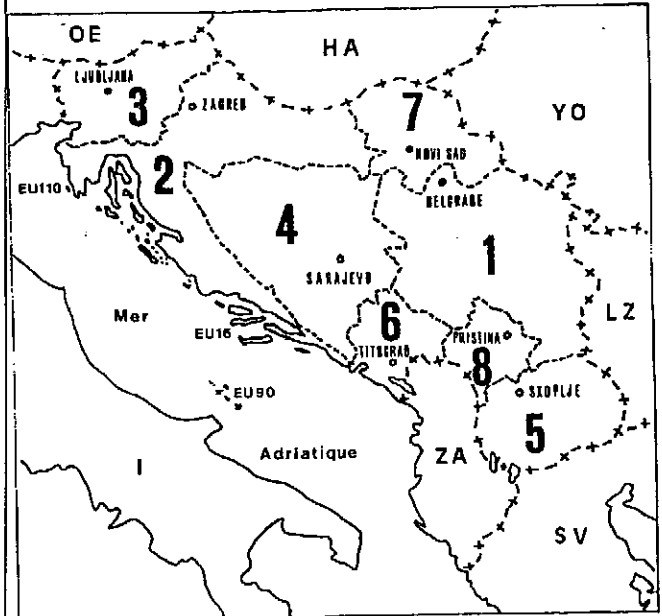
Operating: Sin JA1NUT with Tak JH1OJU and Sokun looking on.

much flutter on 10 and 15 meters early in the morning. Contrary to the higher bands, the lower ones were disappointing to us. They were unexpectedly quiet but scarcely open to DX. On 80 meters, we could not work with any DX other than JA, VK, YB and a few other Asian countries. The conditions on 40 meters were a little bit more fruitful but still quite variable from day to day. Early in the evening it was open to the entire US at the same time. They were generally more favorable to the west coast than to the east coast. However, the west coast sometimes sounded very wobbly while the east coast came through with solid signals. There must be quite different path to the east coast from that to the west coast. As for the conditions on the lower bands, James told me that mid-October might be too early for low band DXing. He operated as XUØAA in Dec. of '90 and was an experienced DX chaser in this area. It

may be risky for me to make our observation generalized because of its short duration. However, considering our results together with James' advice, it should be during wintry months, that is, from Jan. to Mar. when someone else should try DXing on the lower bands from this country. The Butternut vertical which was a gift from JA1KXY worked fairly well on the WARC bands. Sokun will carry on activities and fill the demands of XU on these new bands soon. We made about 7300 QSOs from Oct. 9 through 16.

Early in the morning of Oct. 16, an hour prior to my flight from Phnom-Penh to Bangkok, I needed to put an end to the activity of XUØJA despite the intense pile ups from the east coast on 15 meters. I thanked them and announced that I hoped all of them to keep their concerns with XU8DX, and through it, with this country, which was just at the starting point for reconciliation and reunion. Then I pulled the switch.

We would like to acknowledge the following hams, who have supported us throughout this trip; JA1KXY, NCDXF, W6DU, N4AR, K8KJN, KDØJL, W6CYX, NF6S, JO1CRA, JF1KOB, JP1DJV and the JNTDXC members. The last but not least thanks to Sokun, whose patient help made this trip possible.



YU1	Serbia	Belgrade
YU2	Croatia	Zabreb
YU3	Slovenia	Ljubljana
YU4	Bosia-Herzegovenia	Sarajevo
YU5	Macedonia	Skoplje
YU6	Montenegro	Titograd
YU7	Vojvodina	Novisad
YU8	Kosovo	Pristina

The DXAC vote on the independent republics is now scheduled for late September, 1992. We thought you might find this map useful. Courtesy *Les Nouvelles DX*.



This special QSL "card" is the result of one of the very early NCDXF sponsored DXpeditions. During the operation the group used KP6KR, but Rusty made one contact with his own call and this is the resulting QSL. The confirmation itself is 8 x 10 inches. The P.O. Box used for the 1991 ZA1A QSL operation was regularly opened by Jack, WB6QDC and the thousands of envelopes slit open and made ready for answering by Jack and his wife.



The Downing Foundation

by Steve Thomas, N6ST

The NCDXF received a very significant grant from the Downing Foundation a few months ago. This grant was specifically intended to be used for scientific purposes and for the education of native Ham operators in DX countries. A portion of this funding helped make possible the ham radio education of Albanian citizens during the ZA1A operation late in 1991. Another project being heavily funded by the grant is the NCDXF tri-band Beacon upgrade program.

The Downing Foundation, under the stewardship of John Downing, N6YRU, is involved with several varied programs. The chief purpose of his foundation is to provide funding to people with a vision to do something extraordinary where traditional funding sources are not available. He prefers to provide funding where he can make a significant difference - where perhaps the project could not have happened without his assistance. The range of projects funded is indeed quite varied. The Santa Fe Institute has some of the finest minds on the planet (six Nobel Laureates) involved in computer modeling of complex adaptive systems. Their research, partially funded by the Downing Foundation, takes them into diverse fields from the Latin American economy to modeling the immune system.

The Downing Foundation also has provided funding for the Women's Sports Foundation and for Rebecca Twig, a pursuit cyclist, who, in a comeback after a 3½ year layoff, won a bronze medal in the Barcelona Olympic Games.

The California Shakespeare Festival in Berkeley receives funding from Downing as does the San Diego Potters Guild. The Potters Guild funds were used to send two potters to the Beijing Pottery Institute to study the methods, materials and techniques and do a collaborative work with Chinese potters.

John Downing, an Extra Class licensee, has been involved in Ham Radio since 1961, when he was licensed as WA2YMZ in New York. He also holds the call V31ZZ and was licensee of KC4AAA/MM during a time when he was doing oceanographic research.

New Shows

by Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC

Three new slide programs added to the list came from many directions. HC8X is an account by KQ1F of her trip to Galapagos and shows not only amateur radio activity but also offers magnificent slides of the island sights.

N6HR gave us his account of a one-man operation to the Faroe Islands. This is our first show about this remote island which is not on the air that often.

The Palmyra Island of 1963 is a gift of W6FAY who operated from this island before it became the target of DXpeditions and he offers a nostalgic account of the "good old days" of DXing.

The Araucaria DX Group of Brazil has sent us a video describing the members of this club, their stations and their activities— truly a world class club.

Dave Heil, K8MN gave us a video of his station and activities during his assignment in Sierra Leone where he operated as 9L1US. This long tape was kindly edited by Jim Hurst of West Georgia College and Henry L Owen, Jr., W4VWA. Our thanks to them.

The same two gentlemen also edited a Dave Heil tape of a trip to Finland which pictures Dave's visits with some of the outstanding DXers of Finland (and their stations) and which describes how those competitive world class Finnish teams attract members and set goals.

The Penguin Island, 1990, VHS video is a copy of the slide show which was produced by MoBre.

PJ9W, "Spirit of Victory" produced by Jack Reed, WA7LNW, describes the world's largest contest effort by Radioteam Finland. It shows the custom designed towers and antennas and the operators and crew which the Finns used on Curaçao for the CQWW SSB Contest. Very impressive.

Empire of the Air is the story of 3 men (Edwin Howard Armstrong, Lee Deforest and David Sarnoff,) who most influenced radio.

The Kansas City DX Club sends us their productions of Contest Night Live and DXing Kansas City Style, both humorous from this very talented club and a nice change from all the serious VHS we carry.

So there is good new viewing for clubs needing program material.

One request please: PLEASE return the cardboard covers which come with VHS. I can find no replacement source for those covers not returned so it is a problem.

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, P.O. Box 788, 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 & ZLIAMO, 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 ZLIAMO & ZLIADI (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 D16SI 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 Dxpediton (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, A15AA, by D16SI, 1988 (65 slides)
26. XX9CW by DK7PE, 1986 (16 slides)
27. 1988 Palmyra by K9AJ, KP2A, WA2MOE, W0RLX, 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 hour
36. Y63-KC6-P29, Micronesia/Melanesia by KQ1F & K1XM 20 min
37. YL DXpedition to Wallis Isl June 1989 by NM7N, N7HAT, N4DDK, KA0MX 20 min
38. A51JS, Bhutan by VK9NS, Jim Smith 1 hour
39. HC8X, Galapagos by KQ1F 34 min
40. Faroe Island May 1991 by N6HR 28 min
41. Palmyra Island, KP6AZ, 1963 by W6FAY
13. Pile Up Busters, Humorous. (10 minutes)
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 minutes)
16. The K6UA contest station story (25 minutes)
17. HK0TU DXpedition of 1983, Malpelo (25 minutes in Spanish)
18. The Ship That Shouldn't Have - VK0JS Heard Island DXpedition (90 minutes)
19. The New World of Amateur Radio (28 minutes)
20. S0RASD 1987 by the Lynx Group, The Western Sahara Story (37 minutes)
21. Auckland Island 1988 by ZLIAMO, ZLI8QD, N7NG (60 minutes)
22. Dr. Owen Garriot's First Talk to hams about the Space Shuttle
23. Russian Ham Radio Tour by WA6WXD, Oct 1986 (45 minutes)
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 Malay Vyaotskij 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, N4GNN, 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 ZLIAMO (27 min)
37. Visalia Convention of 1990 recorded by W6NLG (2 hours)
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 & HA5WA Produced by W4BRE (27 min)
41. All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition + BY1PK (32 min)
42. ZS8MI by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show (40 min)
43. Jim Smith, A51JS, VK9NS, visits the SF Bay Area by WA6BXV (80 min)
44. R9ZF/NN7A, NN7D & W7YS, Aug. 1989 Lake Teletskoye, Siberia (30 min)
45. VU7, Laccadive Is 1984 (65 min)
46. VU7, Andaman Isl 1987 by Combatore Radio Club (30 min)
47. 3Y5X Bouvet 1989. Video by JF11ST (in Japanese, good photography) 35 min
48. VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC. 1991 by K6IMN (125 min)
49. 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle (25 min)
50. ICOM's "More Than Radios" The legacy we leave to the young. (25 min)
51. T33R-T33T Banaba, Nov 1990 by SM7PKK, TF3CW, OH1RY (22 min)
52. This is ATV by Western Washington AT Society (12 min)
53. New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure by AA6LF (55 min)
54. YB3ASQ: Indonesian Stations and Sightseeing by W7TSQ 25 min
55. XF4L of 1989 by JH4RHF, XE1OH, OH2BH, W6RGG, XE1L, OH2BU and N7NG 25 min
56. ET2A by W4IBB, Jack Reeves May 91 12 min
57. IS0XV by UW3R et al July 1990 35 min or 2 hours (your choice)
58. Jarvis 1990 by K3NA and KN3T 35 min
59. 3C0CW, Annobon 1991 by the Garrotxa Club of Spain
60. Araucaria DX Group of Brazil, about contest stns and ops 30 min
61. 9L1US by Dave Heil, K8MN Ed. by Jim Hurst, West Ga College & W4VWA (45 min)
62. Dave Heil, K8MN visits Finland. Edited by Jim Hurst & Henry Owen, W4VWA (35 min)
63. Penguin Isl. 1990 from a slide show by Wayne Mills, N7NG, Produced by MoBre (15 min)
64. P19W-1990, "Spirit of Victory", Radioteam Finland, Produced by WA7LNLW (48 min)
65. Empire of the Air; The Men Who Made Radio Recorded by K16YB
66. Contest Night Live, by the Kansas City DX Club (30 min)
67. DXing Kansas City Style, by the Kansas City DX Club (30 min)

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. JF11ST/7J1 DXpedition to Okino Torishima of 1979 (25 minutes)
6. Australian travelogue - Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island (55 minutes)
7. Ham Radio in the South Cook Islands by ZK1CA & ZK1CT (70 minutes)
8. VR6 by ZLIAMO & ZLIADI (copy of slide show above)
9. Looking Up in Rio Linda, 1986 by W6GO/K6HHD (45 minutes)
10. Revillagigedo, XF4DX, of 1987 (15 minutes)
11. Northern Texas Contest Club - towers and contesters (45 minutes)
12. It Started With A Broken Fence - JH3DPB Tall Tower tale (15 minutes)

1992 Contribution

The Northern California DX Foundation relies heavily upon the generosity of its members to fund various projects. We urge each member to consider making an annual contribution of \$25 U.S. or its equivalent in foreign currency or IRCs. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the Foundation for financial reasons. If \$25 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of \$25! The NCDXF is an organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U. S. taxpayers.



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