



# NCDXF newsletter

www.ncdxf.org

Fall 2018

## KH1/KH7Z — Baker Island

Don Greenbaum, N1DG

**W**HAT DOES A FREEZER FULL OF underwear, 2,914 nautical miles and a little red rubber boat have in common? A remote island in the middle of the Pacific called Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

### Planning

The Dateline DX Association was founded in 1995 to mount a DXpedition to Wake Island (KH9). Two years later, members returned to KH9 and in subsequent years members have operated from many places along the International Date Line in the Pacific. In 2009, our DXpedition was to Midway Island (KH4), also along the date line, where, as with each trip, we demonstrated to the relevant agencies our stewardship of these fragile ecosystems.

In 2015, we contacted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pacific Island Refuges and Monuments Office seeking permis-

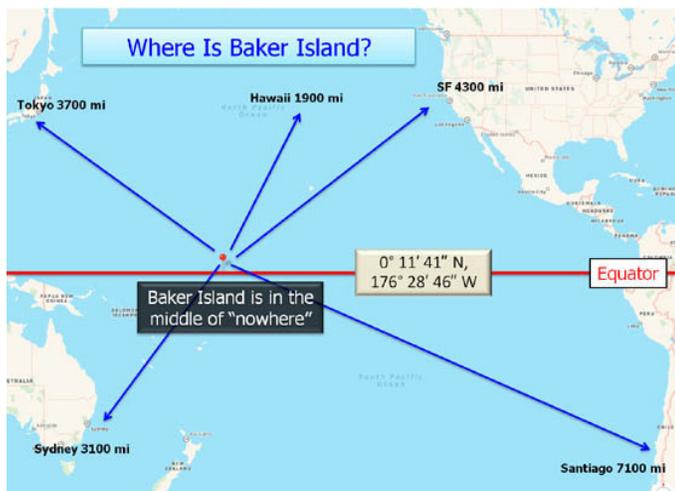


sion to operate from Howland Island. After a year and a half, however, we were asked to withdraw our application for Howland pending news of an opportunity for Baker Island NWR (Baker), which we did. We also continued to work with USFWS on standards and suggestions for a compatibility determination.

sion to operate from Howland Island. In early July 2017, the USFWS Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office selected the Dateline DX Association for a DXpedition to Baker and issued us a special use permit number.

The co-leaders for this DXpedition were Don Greenbaum (N1DG),

*continued on page 3*



In late April 2017, the USFWS released a “draft compatibility determination for Amateur Radio operations on Baker Island.” The public comment period ended on 8 May, and the FWS received some 24 e-mails in support of a DXpedition to Baker, none opposing, and four applications were received for opera-

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Baker Island, KH1/KH7Z.....	1
President’s message .....	2
FT8 Mode .....	7
Silent Key, W6SZN .....	8
Curacao 2018 .....	8
Board of Directors profile....	9
NCDXF Contributions .....	9
Cycle 25 Fund & Cycle 25 Society.....	10
NCDXF lending library.....	10
NCDXF products.....	10



# NCDXF

P.O. Box 2012  
CUPERTINO, CA  
95015-2012  
USA

[www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org)

President ..... JOHN MILLER, K6MM  
[webaron@gmail.com](mailto:webaron@gmail.com)

Vice President ..... NED STEARNS, AA7A  
[aa7a@cox.net](mailto:aa7a@cox.net)

Secretary ..... GLENN JOHNSON, WØGJ  
[w0gj@arrl.net](mailto:w0gj@arrl.net)

Treasurer ..... DON GREENBAUM, N1DG  
[don@aurumtel.com](mailto:don@aurumtel.com)

Directors ..... TOM BERSON, ND2T  
[berson@anagram.com](mailto:berson@anagram.com)

KEVIN ROWETT, K6TD  
[kevin@rowett.org](mailto:kevin@rowett.org)

CRAIG THOMPSON, K9CT  
[craig@thompsonet.com](mailto:craig@thompsonet.com)

ROSS FORBES, K6GFJ  
[k6gfj@comcast.net](mailto:k6gfj@comcast.net)

RICH SEIFERT, KE1B  
[ke1b@richseifert.com](mailto:ke1b@richseifert.com)

GEORGE WALLNER, AA7JV  
[gwallner@gwallner.com](mailto:gwallner@gwallner.com)

LEE FINKEL, KY7M  
[ars-ky7m@cox.net](mailto:ars-ky7m@cox.net)

Advisors ..... RUSTY EPPS, W6OAT  
[w6oat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w6oat@sbcglobal.net)

TIM TOTTEN, N4GN  
[n4gn@n4gn.com](mailto:n4gn@n4gn.com)

Historian ..... ROSS FORBES, K6GFJ  
[k6gfj@comcast.net](mailto:k6gfj@comcast.net)

Beacon Project. PETER JENNINGS, VE3SUN/  
AB6WM, IARU LIAISON,  
BEACON WEBSITE

CHARLES MASON, W4NJK  
BEACON OPERATOR LIAISON

Video Library ..... DICK WILSON, K6LRN  
[k6lrn@arrl.net](mailto:k6lrn@arrl.net)

Webmaster ..... JOHN MILLER, K6MM  
[webaron@gmail.com](mailto:webaron@gmail.com)

Admin Services ..... DOUG BENDER, WW6D  
[newsletter@ncdxf.org](mailto:newsletter@ncdxf.org)

Managing Editor ..... DEBI SHANK  
[debi.shank.design@gmail.com](mailto:debi.shank.design@gmail.com)

## From the President's desk

The NCDXF Board met at the Visalia International DX Convention on 21 April 2018, and accepted the resignations of Glenn Rattmann (K6NA), Steve Merchant (K6AW) and Glenn Vinson (W6OTC) who announced their retirements. We thank them for their many years of service to the Foundation.

To bring our complement of Directors to 11 once again, we welcome Ross Forbes (K6GFJ), Rich Seifert, (KE1B), George Wallner (AA7JV) and Lee Finkel (KY7M). We are proud to have this distinguished group of experienced DXers and business professionals on the Board. They will provide guidance, support and leadership for the Foundation for many years to come. Please visit our website ([www.ncdxf.com](http://www.ncdxf.com)) and click on the "Officers" button along the left hand margin to see their impressive biographies.

I was honored to be a team member on the DXpedition to KH1 Baker Island this past June/July. The DXpedition commemorated the 81st anniversary of Amelia Earhart's disappearance on 2 July 1937 near Baker & Howland islands. A full report from team co-leader Don, N1DG, on the massive undertaking to activate Baker Island is showcased in this newsletter. Suffice it to say, it was an experience of a lifetime for me personally.

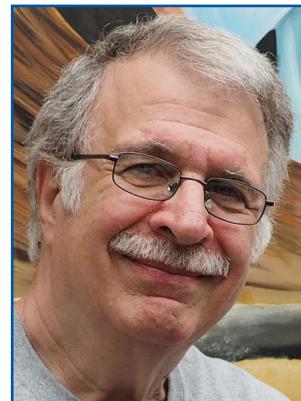
One of the lessons learned as an operator on the Baker Island team is that FT8 is rapidly becoming a valuable communication tool for DXpeditions, since much higher rates are possible compared to RTTY. Elsewhere in this newsletter I've listed my reasons why FT8 will likely become the digital mode of choice for future DXpeditions (*see page 7*).

We all know, unfortunately, that our DX fraternity is not getting any younger! We have heard many DXers say they want to "give something back" in appreciation for all the years of enjoyment they have received from DXing. The Cycle 25 Fund was created to do just that and is an excellent way to help maintain NCDXF in perpetuity. In this issue, you'll find information about the program (*see page 10*), including a list of 12 notable DXers who have already designated NCDXF as a beneficiary in their wills and IRAs ([www.ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html)).

On a personal note, I want to thank each of our contributors for your continued support. You are the backbone of NCDXF. We could not do what we do without you. A full list of individual and club contributors is always shown on our website.

As always, if you have comments or suggestions to help improve NCDXF, please contact me directly. I would love to hear from you.

73 and Good DXing!



**What WILL You Do?**  
• Cycle 25 Project •

SOLAR ACTIVITY

Historical And Filled Data: Cycle 21, Cycle 22, Cycle 23, Cycle 24, Cycle 25, Cycle 26

Predicted Data: Cycle 25, Cycle 26

See [NCDXF.org](http://NCDXF.org)



Tom Harrell (N4XP) and Kevin Rowett (K6TD). We quickly added team members from past date line operations, mostly veterans of the aforementioned Midway DXpedition. We formed teams for boat selection, antennas, radios, IT infrastructure and fundraising. Many others volunteered with logistics, propagation forecasting and equipment loans. K6MM built the website ([www.baker2018.net](http://www.baker2018.net)) and we were off and running.

The Baker Island NWR consists of Baker Island and all surrounding waters within 12 nautical miles. The island, itself, is only .81 square miles, roughly ¾ mile by 1 mile. The USFWS website describes Baker Island as “the crest of an ancient steep-sided coral reef cap and massive underlying extinct volcano emerging from the deep ocean floor of the equatorial Pacific. The equatorial undercurrent deflects off the western flank of the seamount, pushing nutrient-rich waters up into the sunlit zone, thereby increasing marine productivity and benefiting many species of marine life. This phenomenon only exists on Baker, Howland, Jarvis and a few other Pacific equatorial islands.” It is treeless, very hot and humid. We were told it rarely, if ever, rains in June and July.

Baker and Howland Islands are best known as the destination in 1937 of the ill-fated Amelia Earhart journey. A little known fact about the island is that in 1935 Hawaii sent teams of recently graduated high school students to Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands to colonize them. They eked out a meager existence in these harsh environs until 1942, when they were evacuated because of the danger of the war years. We decided early on to commemorate these brave pioneers on this DXpedition.

The KH1 DXCC entity, Baker and

Howland Islands, ranked No. 5 worldwide on Club Log’s Most Wanted List. The last DXpedition to KH1 was K1B on Baker Island in May 2002, the only major DXpedition there; AH1A was the only major DXpedition to Howland in 1993, and were made during solar cycle highs. This would be the first during a solar minimum. Yet, demand was high and given the time it took to obtain the permit, the window for going during an active sunspot period had passed.

Our permit was contingent on finding an acceptable vessel (to us and USFWS), a date when the Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office of USFWS could send a resource monitor and approval of the team. The operating dates would also depend on sea and landing conditions. The permit limited the team to 11 permanent ops on the island, so three team members would be on the ship and members would rotate on and off as surf conditions allowed.

Regarding Special Use Permits,

they allow for one activity. Our permit was specific to “Amateur Radio Operation.” If we wanted to dive and look at the fish, another permit was required. Swim? Take a professional video? Beach volleyball? Those were all separate permits.

After a month of searching, we selected a very experienced vessel out of Fiji, the *Nai’a*, which had been to this area many times on searches for Amelia Earhart and had a very experienced crew who could safely get us on the island, help move the tons of equipment to the stations, and provide food on a daily basis.

The team of DXers on this trip included many veterans of prior DXpeditions. James Brooks (9V1YC), Ned Stearns (AA7A), George Wallner (AA7JV), Tomi Pekarik (HA7RY), Ken Tanuma (JN1THL), Michael Snow (KN4EEI), John Miller (K6MM), Kevin Rowett (K6TD), Don Greenbaum (N1DG), Rick Boulis (N4HU), Warren Semon, Jr. (N7CW), Arnold



*Nai’a* arriving in Pago Pago to pick up team.



*Freight delivery to Nai'a.*

Shatz (N6HC), Robert King (VA7DX) and David Farnsworth (WJ2O) had all been to rare and environmentally sensitive locations. More importantly, many had traveled together on past trips so we knew each other's habits and operating skills.

## Equipment

The radios of choice for this harsh environment were Elecraft K3S transceivers, and Elecraft eagerly agreed to loan us eight radios and eight KPA500 linears; they proved to be ironclad as none failed in the heat. NONE.

DXEngineering provided all the coax, connectors, tape, fiberglass poles, RX antenna supports, etc. Anything we needed was just a phone call away!

The USFWS permit dictated that no antennas could be higher than 43 feet and only guyed verticals were allowed. This challenged the engineering talents of the team and we assigned George, AA7JV, the well-known, low-band DXpeditioner to design efficient verticals for all bands. During the winter before our trip, George built some two-element phased verticals for the HF bands, a vertical for 160M with a tuner that would compensate for changing tide levels, and a "fat" 80M vertical that would also tune on 40 and 30 Meters. The idea was to get the low band verticals as close to the water as possible at mid-tide level, which meant IN THE WATER at high tide.

In addition to George's homemade verticals, we contacted SteppIR antennas for three big IR and three small IR antennas to ensure all radios had flexibility on many bands. The SteppIR

verticals allowed us to operate up to eight radios at a time. Like the Elecraft radios, we had no antenna failures due to electronics; storms were to be a different matter.

Operating in tents with operators close to one another required headsets with good noise rejection. Bob Heil outfitted the team with the latest Pro7 Headsets that were also useful in eliminating local environmental QRN/M (birds!).

Among other important donors, Rig Expert provided their AA-54 Antenna analyzers which made antenna building a snap and UX5UO Print provided our QSL cards.

## Information technology

Ned, AA7A, was assigned to be our IT guy. We decided early on to network the stations, as they would be separated by 100 to 200 meters to reduce station interference. This allowed for communications between stations and easy log collection, using N1MM+ as our logging software. We also were planning on experimenting with remote operation from the boat for the ops staying there overnight.

With the low sunspots, the remote location of Baker to Europe and the desire to operate on 12, 10 and 6 Meters, we planned on integrating FT8 into our mode plan to take advantage of weak signal opportunities, which is a faster digital mode to work than RTTY. The team went one step further and contacted Joe Taylor about the possibility of adding a DXpedition mode to WSJT-X that would allow us to work more stations faster.

As the fall of 2017 progressed, the idea of a multi-stream fox/hound option took shape and the WSJT-X team released beta versions of what today is known as version 1.9.1 with a selectable fox/hound mode. Our last on-the-air test in May 2018 demonstrated this was a stable and reliable software version and it performed flawlessly once on the island.

## Biological protocol

An important consideration to the team, USFWS, and our permit was the protection of the environment. Our ship was subject to inspection in Pago Pago after a thorough hull cleaning. Everything not made of plastic or metal had to be frozen for 48 hours and put in sealed bags. All clothes going to the island had to be purchased new before freezing. Our wives are used to all sorts of radio shenanigans from us and I'm sure filling the freezer with underwear must have taken the cake. All used antennas, tent poles, masts, etc., had to be thoroughly cleaned and sealed. The purpose for all this was to ensure that no seeds or insects be brought to the island by us; even our diet was restricted to foods without seeds. We are confident that we left no new species on the island.

## Finance

Visiting a remote DX location like Baker Island National Wildlife Reserve is an expensive undertaking. Our final expenses topped \$470,000, 50% of which was underwritten by the team members. The Northern California DX Foundation made a substantial grant of \$75,000 to this undertaking, other U.S. clubs and foundations donated \$25,000, and foreign clubs added \$12,500 in total funding. Individuals donated \$65,750 between the time we announced the trip and began transmitting, and an additional \$24,000 came in from then until we turned on OQRS. Lastly, \$32,000 was contributed by OQRS fees (as of this writing, 45 days after turning on OQRS). Without the support of foundations and clubs, expensive DXpeditions to rare locations just would not take place because of timing. Most of the expenses occur before the teams leave home.



*Daybreak and the first view of Baker Island.*

## Testing

All equipment was assembled and tested in April. The tents were built in Georgia to ensure all parts were there while the radios, amps, network, software and antennas were deployed and thoroughly tested at K6TD's QTH in California after the International DX Convention in Visalia. It should be noted that once on Baker, every station, antenna, PC, tent, etc., was deployed without failure and stayed deployed until we left, a testimonial to good planning and quality of the equipment we took.

## Getting there

An advance team arrived in Fiji to meet the 5,800 pounds of gear air freighted from San Francisco and move it from the forwarder and onto the *Nai'a*, and then sailed to Pago Pago on 15 June. Team members traveled from three continents and five countries to Pago Pago, in time to board the *Nai'a* and depart on 20 June. Before departure we had a final meeting with the team, ship crew and USFWS personnel to go over setup plans, team assignments and the goals of our expedition.

Our voyage was uneventful and we passed through the waters of Tokelau and Kiribas before entering the reserve on the evening of 24 June. The team and crew then started pulling supplies out of the hold and prestaging the order of gear to be moved to the island. Tents for shelter and the 7-day survival food and water were first. At daybreak we had our first sighting of the day: a beacon on Baker and a warm welcome from millions of birds!

Captain Rob and several of his crew went ashore to test the passage and landing procedure, and over the following 10 days not one piece of gear

went into the water — I can't say the same for our team and crew, though — and no one was hurt getting on or off the beach.

The advance team of Kevin, K6TD; George, AA7JV; Don, N1DG; James, 9V1YC, and Allie from FWS were on the island by 0730 local time. The landing was not too bad, but the weather on Baker was brutal. By 1000 it was well over 100°F and Baker has no trees, so we worked in direct sun. The tide was rapidly getting rough as well, but *Nai'a's* crew got all the tents, generators and emergency food and water supplies with Mike, KN4EEI; Rick, N4HU; Arnie, N6HC, and Tomi, HA7RY, on the beach before the surf cut off access for the morning. This team put up the operating tents and main meeting tent, and set up the basic camp layout, and members of the ship's crew dug a hole for the latrine.

At 1400, the high tide allowed reinforcements to arrive with fresh energy and the exhausted original landing team departed. This new group put up the sleeping tents and moved radios, antennas and generators to the storage and operating tents. Most of the equipment, fuel, water and emergency food needed for the expedition was now safely on the island and distributed.

By sunset, everyone was off the island so we could rest up. A hearty meal was had by all and shortly after sunset the ship was eerily quiet. By 0700 on day two team members were again headed to the island.

Antenna building was the first priority before the sun got too hot and by lunch there were two antennas up in the CW area (160M and the 80/40/30M antennas). The SSB tent had a big IR ready for action. Once the day got too hot on the beach, the radios, gen-

erators and network operations took place and by sunset on 27 June we had three stations operating. The team was exhausted but ecstatic that we were operating ahead of schedule.

Our joy at the speed of our setup came to a halt around midnight when a major squall came onshore from the West, accompanied by a nasty tide. So much for the assurances that it never rains on Baker in June! The low band antennas at the water's edge were no match for the water, as the aluminum bases sheared off. After a four-hour stint we were QRT in the operating tents, while those who had gone to bed were wide awake in their tents and holding them up for support.

Since we were on the island, at first light we quickly moved all hands to repair the broken antennas and put up the full complement of SSB and CW antennas, digital tent antennas and radios. By sunset on day three the complete camp was up and running and operations were in full swing.

Our meals arrived from the ship at times the tides permitted and the team rotated back to the ship a few men at a time for showers and rest — such would be life for the next week.

By day four we had all eight stations going, with team members taking four-hour shifts. Digital operations began and the FT8 station on Six Meters was beaconing away (no contacts were ever made on Six). Almost 11,000 QSOs would be made on this day, as conditions were good to all parts of the globe. Signals out of Western Europe were particularly strong and our decision to always have two stations on 20M when the band was open paid off; we never missed a European opening. On some days we had three stations on 20M as the good separation between the camps



*Why are these men smiling? They are doing what they like BEST!*

allowed FT8 to slip between the SSB and CW stations without interfering. In fact, the CW tent did more interfering with SSB than FT8.

Band conditions over the next five days declined slowly, but we still averaged over 8,000 QSOs a day. The weather remained hot and humid around the clock and often there were afternoon and evening storms, some were so strong that the ship had to go out to sea to get away from the reefs. None of the storms did any damage, however, since we had moved the antennas away from the waterline and laid down more radials.

On 4 July, after 7½ days of operations, the captain warned us that a storm was approaching which would make getting off the island dangerous two days later, so the decision was made to take down the low band antennas at sunrise on 5 July and pack a few of the stations during the day with the goal of consolidating the three operating tents into two. The furthest station from the beach departure point was completely dismantled and moved off the island

before sunset and around midnight, after the HF bands were all but closed, we went QRT (12 UTC 5 July).

At daybreak, with the *Nai'a* crew, we tore down the rest of the stations, packed the remaining tents and spent the rest of the morning loading everything onto the beach for the crew to retrieve back to the ship. By early afternoon, everything was aboard the *Nai'a* and we began our journey back to Fiji with dolphins leading the way.

The storm, as forecasted, created high seas and the return voyage had its share of rough waters; however, with almost 70,000 QSOs (18,100 uniques) under our belt and emails pouring in congratulating us on a fine job, we enjoyed the voyage and the rest we all needed.

### **FT8**

Our use of FT8 during the DXpedition was controversial when announced, but very successful when implemented. Many curmudgeons have bemoaned the use of computers in making contacts (even those using

them for RTTY) so we took a bit of grief in the run up to June. Yet, on day three when we started operating FT8 in earnest, reports from the DX community were overwhelmingly in favor of this new mode as many hams with modest stations made contact with us for the first time.

In fact, for almost 900 stations (a third of them EU stations), one QSO on FT8 would be their only KH1 contact. Despite a late start (they were the last stations to be built), FT8 would account for 16,670 QSOs, roughly 24% of our total. We worked 5,664 unique stations on FT8, almost a third of our unique total. And, it was fun watching ops on our team who had not planned on any digital operation vying for a place in the chair.

The biggest problem we experienced with regards to FT8 was the number of people who did not get the message about the need to use WSJT-X 1.9.1 in hound mode. Many were copied, but never completed a QSO because the software didn't respond to being answered. As the week went on, more and

more callers figured it out and made it through during the last few days.

### Other thoughts

When we announced our trip to KH1, quite a few hams questioned our decision to go in June, at the bottom of the cycle, and at the expense of the operation. More than a few would-be supporters questioned whether ANY Europeans would work us; low band operators questioned the summer conditions, and some even suggested we postpone our trip for a few years for better conditions.

Here are some of the reasons we pursued KH1 at that time.

First, our permit was for a period ending in September 2018 and was subject to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service having a resource officer available to accompany us. We went when we could.

The low sunspot activity just meant we had to make sure our equipment was up to the task, 43-foot antennas notwithstanding. We put on our engineering hats.

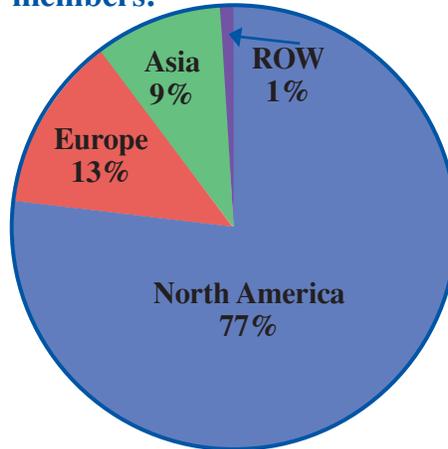
We made sure we had a ship and crew up to handling the harsh environment of Baker Island, and took along what we thought were some of the best operators on the planet.

Geographically, our QSOs were divided 42.1% Asia, 36.6% North America, 17.3 % Europe and 4.0% Rest of World. By mode, the breakdown was 47% CW, 28% SSB, 25% Digital. Who says CW is dead? Our decision to stick to 20 Meters when it was open paid off, as 40% of our QSOs were made there.

Despite it being June, we worked 12,407 stations on 40, 60, 80 and 160 Meters. Our 160 total alone was 1,706. Despite the low sunspot number, we worked more unique stations in Europe (5,673), than Asia (4,876) and Europe accounted for 17.3% of total QSOs. And, despite the cost, there was not one team member who felt we would have had the successes we did without the *Nai'a*.

Our visit to Baker Island also did some good. The ship's crew fixed the sign that marks the island, and while we were immersed in the pileups, the crew walked the entire beach removing the debris they found — plastic bags,

### Geographic breakdown of funding excluding team members:

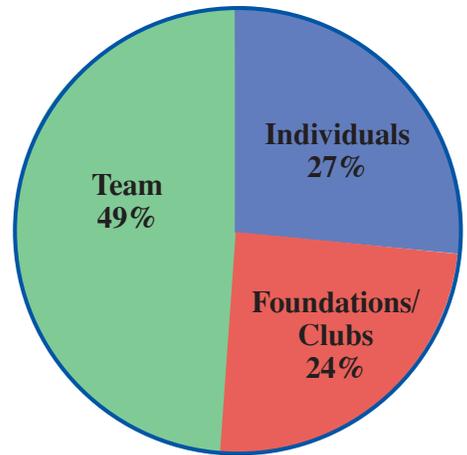


*The Dateline DX Association is a firm believer in disclosing all finances to the DX community. We hope others will join us in this full disclosure effort.*

fish buoys, metal and all sorts of trash — and took it back to Fiji for proper disposal. We left the refuge with no sign of human activity: our goal from the beginning.

We are also pleased with the support of the DX foundations and clubs who, along with the team members, provided 85% of the pre-operation funding. Individuals quickly realized we were going to put them in the log once we started operations and they, too, contributed to our efforts. As of this writing, there are still some unfunded expenses, but we hope OQRS income will cover the deficit as the requests continue to come

### Our sources of funding:



in. Remember, each QSO cost \$6.70.

Last, but not in any way least, was the support of the Pacific Islands Refuges & Monuments Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior office in Hawaii. Their people provided guidance during the permit process and, subsequently, in our planning of the operation. Allie Hunter was an engaged member of the team assisting in everything from building the latrine to erecting tents and joining the ops in the radio tents. This trip would not have occurred without the assistance of the USFWS personnel. 

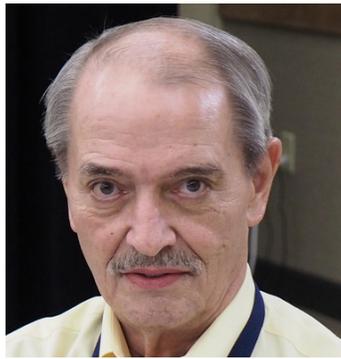
### Why use FT8 mode in DXpeditions?

FT8 is rapidly becoming the digital mode of choice for DXpeditions and here are some reasons why:

- Important for little pistol stations, especially in antenna-challenged HOA or high-noise neighborhoods.
- No other mode has the capability of working five different calls in parallel in the same sub-band with queuing.
- Very high rates possible compared to RTTY, which equals more ATNOs in the log.
- Easier to reach certain parts of the world under poor propagation conditions and weak solar cycles.
- Excellent mode for challenging bands like 6M and 160M.
- Still get credit for a digital QSO toward awards, etc.
- May attract new operators or revitalize older ones.
- Excellent mode for hearing- or speech-impaired hams.
- DQRM not a problem.
- Less stressful for DXpedition operators.
- Has tremendous remote operation possibilities.



## G. Kip Edwards, W6SZN



NCDXF DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY G. Kip Edwards, W6SZN, of Indianola, Washington, died on 6 June 2018, at the age of 71. The Foundation has lost a dear friend and valued colleague.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1947, Kip was first licensed as KNØPID at the age of 11. The family moved to Washington State where Kip later became K7GGC.

Kip graduated from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law in 1971, and joined a major law firm in San Francisco where he became a partner in 1978. In 1976, Kip passed the Amateur Extra exam and became W6SZN. After retiring in 2013, Kip and his family moved to Washington.

An ARRL Life member, Kip served

as President of Northern California Contest Club. He was also a member of the Northern California DX Club and also served as that club's president. Kip was an enthusiastic DXpeditioner and contester, having achieved Top 10 status in many DX contests over the years.

In addition to his role as Secretary and newsletter editor for NCDXF, Kip also served as Secretary of the Yasmé Foundation and editor of the Western Washington DX Club's Totem Tabloid. He was a member of the ARRL Maxim Society and a founding member of the Kitsap County DX Club. Kip made many great contributions to the Foundation over the years, helping to move it forward in numerous ways.

He was caring, creative and had a wonderful sense of humor. His work will not soon be forgotten. 🌐

## Curacao 2018 Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure

*Jim Storms, AB8YK*

THE CURACAO 2018 DAVE KALTER Youth DX Adventure of PJ2Y went QRT at 1745 EDT on Monday, 23 July. The youths made 6,261 QSOs starting Thursday evening at 1930 EDT and ran until QRT time. There was a concentrated effort to have a FT8 station on the air as much as possible. Also, there were two additional radios on the air almost constantly; one on SSB and the other alternated between SSB and CW. All CW QSOs were made by the youth; the adults only made a few SSB and FT8 contacts, as the youth were quite active on the radios.

There were a few challenges. During prime band opening time on two of the days, we had power losses resulting in lost time of about 8 hours. The youth chose to do their sightseeing on Monday to permit contacts on Sunday while people were off for the weekend. Each operating day we didn't see bands open until about 10 and they usually operated until midnight when most bands closed for us.

The team was very compatible and worked extremely well together. We thank all of our sponsors and espe-



### By continent:

Continent	Total	%
NA	4,072	65
EU	1,803	29
SA	236	4
AS	77	1
AF	42	1
OC	27	0

youth. I know several people tried to work all kids on not only one, but

cially all those who contacted us. The multiple contacts on a band were great, as usually it was a different one of the

more than one band.

The QSO card will be designed and printed soon (see our PJ2Y QRZ page for more info). The entire log has been loaded to LoTW and ClubLog. At this time, we do not plan to do OQRS.

Thanks to the Curacao Bureau of Telecommunications for speeding up the process of getting the PJ2Y call. A big thanks goes to NCDXF for supporting our 2018 team with a donation. 🌐

### Contacts by band & mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	21	31	0	52	1
40	451	848	15	1,314	21
30	0	0	145	145	2
20	1,061	2,372	0	3,433	55
17	0	265	265	530	8
15	67	494	184	745	12
12	0	8	0	8	0
10	0	34	0	34	1
Total	1,600	4,052	609	6,261	100

**Contacts by operator:** Mason Matrazzo, KM4SII, 1,895 (30%); David Samu, VE7DZO, 1,581 (25%); Violetta Latham, KM4ATT, 1,237 (20%), and Dhruv Rebba, KC9ZJX, 1,213 (19%). All but one CW was made by David Samu; all Dig were FT8.

# NCDXF Director Profile

**NAME & CALL SIGN** Ross Forbes, K6GFJ

**PAST CALLS** WB6GFJ, KL7FFT, KH6GJW, FOØFB, ZK1XE, ZLØAKO, VK3BZZ, 3D2FB, XE0GFJ, C2/WB6GFJ

**CURRENT LOCATION** San Jose, CA

**WHAT ARE YOUR PREVIOUS QTH's?** Los Altos Hills, CA; Honolulu, HI; Cleveland, OH.

**IF YOU'RE WORKING, WHAT IS YOUR CAREER? IF NOT, WHAT WAS YOUR CAREER?** 14 years in commercial broadcasting (programming and operations), 10 years self-employed import/export business, 30-year IT management (legal and venture capital firms).

**NCDXF LEADERSHIP OR SUPPORT POSITIONS?** NCDXF Historian, NCDXF director, NCDXF Benefactor

**OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS?** Formerly, I held the following positions: ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator (Sac Valley); ARRL Section Manager (Santa Clara Valley); ARRL Vice-Director (Pacific Division); AMSAT Area Coordinator; President Project OSCAR; Manager W6 QSL Bureau; Director, Northern California DX Club, and President Northern California DX Club.

**CURRENT DXCC STATUS?** Mixed: 357/358; CW: 272/277; Phone: 348/350

**DXPEDITION EXPERIENCE?** Worked with members of CORA (Tahitian Amateur Radio organization) to help coordinate the DXpedition to Clipperton Island, FOØXX. Spent many years operating from French Polynesia, South Cook Islands, Fiji and Nauru on single operator DXpeditions. Operated with the group that went to Chesterfield Island, TX3X. Helped raise funds, provided staging area and coordinated shipping of the equipment to Fiji for the Baker Island DXpedition, KH1/KH7Z.

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT CONTRIBUTING TO NCDXF?** I've been following the NCDXF since its first beginning and know (or have known) all of the founders and appreciate that it has always been a well-managed organization. You will be supporting the best organization dedicated to helping DXpeditions to rare countries get on the air, as well as provide support to activities related to furthering DX and goodwill.

**AS AN AVID DXER WHAT SORTS OF TRENDS DO YOU SEE?** Amateurs no longer spend time monitoring the bands; instead they watch DX clusters and get on the air only when the cluster indicates conditions might be good. DXers need to help those just starting their interest in DX, especially when it means helping the station with

lower power or antennas. FT8 has been a tremendous boost to the DXer in areas with restricted antennas.

**ANY TIPS FOR DXERS?** Listen, Listen, Listen! Don't watch the DX clusters! Turn your radios on and listen to the bands and learn! Off the air, read up on everything about DX, and listen to other DXers. Get the best receiver and antenna you can afford. Last but not least, listen and then listen some more.

**DESCRIBE YOUR SHACK AND ANTENNA SYSTEM** Elecraft K3, P3 and KPA500; Steppir 3-element Yagi covers 40-6 Meters, inverted V for 80 Meters. Software: DXLab suite of programs, N1MM+

**MARRIED? KIDS? GRANDKIDS?** Married to my wife, Mary. Children? No, but we have four cats.

**ANY OTHER HOBBIES BESIDES AMATEUR RADIO?** I used to do my physics homework on the floor of the University of Hawaii library with all the books about the South Pacific. As a result, when I completed my homework, I studied books about and developed a keen interest in all of the islands of the Polynesian triangle. I also enjoy all types of music and history.

**WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?** For a number of years, I spent months at a time living in French Polynesia with local friends. Also, I was on dialysis for seven years, but in June 2011 I received a successful kidney transplant.



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

# Cycle 25 Fund & Cycle 25 Society



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

NCDXF Director Craig Thompson, K9CT, who oversees the Cycle 25 Fund, has established a Cycle 25 Society for those who participate. Thompson said, "The Cycle 25 Society is for honoring those special individuals who commit

to estate giving before the next sunspot maximum. When you let us know your plans, we will honor you on our website and send you a special Cycle 25 Society pin as a memento of your thoughtfulness."

Craig invites DXers interested in the Cycle 25 Society to visit the NCDXF website [www.ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html) for more information. You can also contact Craig to discuss Cycle 25 Fund funding options, including specific bequests, designation of IRA beneficiaries and purchase of an annuity or life insurance. 

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

Ned Stearns, AA7A	Rich Seifert, KE1B	Dan White, W5DNT
Al Burnham, K6RIM	Tom Berson, ND2T	Charles Spetnagel, W6KK
Craig Thompson, K9CT	Glenn Johnson, WØGJ	Rusty Epps, W6OAT
Alan Rovner, K7AR	Rich Haendel, W3ACO	Tim Totten, N4GN

## DXPEDITION LENDING LIBRARY

NCDXF has a number of VHS/DVD videos and Microsoft® Power Point presentations on CD-ROM available for loan to organizations wishing to show them at their meetings. There is no charge to use the programs in the FOUNDATION'S library, but clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. To view the complete listing of programs available for your club's use, visit our website, [www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org), and click on "Videos."



## Show your support for NCDXF

NCDXF offers several ways for you to show your love for DXing! Impress your friends with a gold lapel pin (\$7), show up at your next hamfest sporting the NCDXF hat (\$12) or don a NCDXF T-shirt (\$15) to set up your Yagi on Field Day. Send out your QSLs with an NCDXF label (roll of 500, \$7). Mail in the attached form or visit [www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org) to order today.



## Contribution & Order Form

**YES! I want to contribute to NCDXF!**

Contribution ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I want to show my support for NCDXF. Send me the following supplies (shipping included):

\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt(s) @ \$15 each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(indicate size M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL)

\_\_\_\_ Hats @ \$12 each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Lapel pin @ \$7 each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Roll(s) of labels @ \$7 each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total contribution & supplies ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed or Charge to Visa / MC / AmEx

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to NCDXF, PO Box 2012  
Cupertino, CA 95015-2012