



Newsletter

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Spring 2000

Steve Thomas, N6ST, Editor

XZØA

By Julio Volpe O'Neil, EA5XX

There are some experiences which, by their magnitude and quality, come along only once in a lifetime. For me, participating in the recent DXpedition to Thahtay Kyun island was one of these. An enormous and highly collaborative effort, I will always remember XZØA as unique as it was unforgettable.

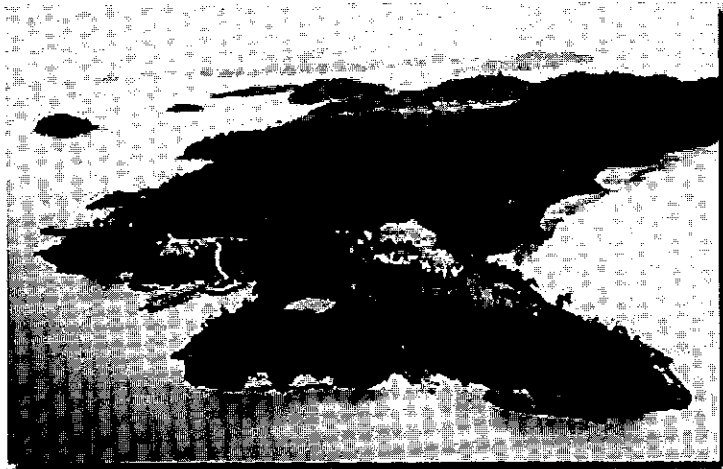
A New IOTA

Located in Southeast Asia, Thahtay Kyun island is situated off the southwestern tip of the Union of Myanmar at 09° 57.32' N and 98° 32.72' W. Being less than five miles from border with Thailand proved to be an unexpected advantage for transporting the enormous amount of equipment and antennas we needed.

Central to our success was the happy fact that Ray Gerrard HSØ/G3NOM and his wife Lawan

E21UHL, live near Bangkok.

This allowed useful "on the ground" advance planning and the ability to quickly solve countless logistical problems beforehand. And the fact that Lawan spoke the Thai language meant that we had few difficulties in a region where English is not widely spoken. More than once, Lawan's help would be a valuable asset.



XZ - The Union of Myanmar

The Union of Myanmar remains an uncommon DXCC location

with amateur radio is still not permitted for its citizens. And never before has an island operation been allowed by the military government. The result of previous successful efforts from the capital city of Yangon by OH2BH, G3NOM, JA1UT, K7WX, NA7DB, and many members of the Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA), permission was granted in 1999 by the State Peace and Development Council to mount an operation from one of the 800 islands in the Mergui Archipelago in the Andaman Sea. Thathay Kyun Island was chosen because of its ideal location and excellent support facilities.

Plans for such an undertaking were carried out with the encouragement of Roger Balister, G3KMA, Director of the RSGB IOTA program. In fact G3KMA was one of our first contacts and used this opportunity to relay to us over the air the good news that the Mergui archipelago had been assigned the new IOTA designation of AS-144.

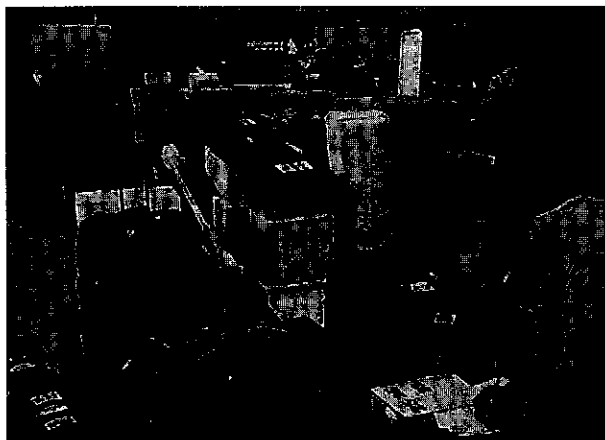
Given the high profile nature of this operation, it was decided early in planning to spread our efforts over four weeks and to divide the operators into three groups, each arriving in an overlapping, staggered schedule.

Northern California DX Foundation

Arrival

Upon our arrival, we discovered that our contact within the hotel management had unexpectedly taken sick and that the staff present that day had not been fully briefed as to just how much equipment we were bringing. It must be remembered that this is a country where owning a any type of radio transmitter is strictly forbidden and in certain circumstances may even be a capital offense. Here we were, arriving with hundreds of feet of tower section, 48 boxes of radio equipment and a small army of people! And when the hotel management began to see the towers being laid out, a small crisis needed to be addressed, and quickly!

Using a laptop, and portable printer, Warren, K7WX, and Lawan, E21UHL, were able to produce a "certificate of appreciation" for the hotel manager in the Thai language. A 45 minute conference, and the necessary reassurances that our activities were both legal, and would not interfere with the operation of the hotel, was enough to allow us to proceed.



From that moment on, we had the complete cooperation of the hotel staff, who were involved in the transport of all our equipment from the sea terminal to a grassy prominence just to the North of the hotel. We had been assigned three rooms (far away from the regular hotel guests) that were vertically aligned, allowing the coax from our many antennas to be shared between the eight operating positions.

Setting up

Literally tons of towers and masts, thousands of meters of coax and a large number of transmitters, linear amplifiers, computers, watt meters, filters, components, tools, etc. all came out of their boxes to the ongoing astonishment of the hotel staff. An additional help to our efforts was the fact that the government of Myanmar had the foresight to send U Hla Myint, Assistant Director of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to the island to assist us. Not only did the

Assistant Director lend his official support with the hotel management, but every day he helped assemble the tower sections and raise our many antennas! Perhaps he will be the first licensed radio amateur in the Union of Myanmar? This type of cooperation and hospitality is so very characteristic of the Myanmar people.

The Stations

Soon after our arrival, we began to assemble the operation positions. Much of the layout and planning of the stations and antennas fell to Robin, WA6CDR and Milt, N5IA, along with Rich, K7ZV and Darryl, AF7O. Ray, HSØ/G3NOM, and operators from the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (Winit HS1CKC, Champ E21EIC, Are HS6NDK and Cy HSØGBI) spent countless hours working in the hot tropical sun on the low band antennas and without their efforts, it would have been impossible to reach our objectives.

The organization of the stations followed with Warren K7WX and Dan NA7DB unpacking seven FT-1000MPs and an equal number of Alpha amplifiers. Each station was set up with two laptops so that both logging and gray line observations could be run simultaneously. Paul WF5T, Don K6KRE and Paul W8AEF, members of this first group to arrive, also worked to prepare everything until, finally all 7 stations were built. Once we went on the air, at least one station would be active both day and night for the full extent of the DXpedition. Later, an eighth station would be added to run 6-meters.

Antennas

Installing the antennas was a daunting task due to high temperatures and punishing tropical humidity. No amount of enthusiasm could overcome the physically draining nature of such heavy work under the relentless Southeast Asian sun.

Champ E21EIC, Winit HS1CKC, Are HS6NDK, Cy HSØGBI and Ray HSØ/G3NOM worked hard to give form to the overall low band antenna farm plan of Milt N5IA and Robin WA6CDR. This part of the operation took more than a week to complete, consisting of an 185-foot top band transmitting tower, a full-sized 80-meter four square and full sized 40-meter four square, in addition to more than a mile of receiving antennas.

Soon after our arrival, Rich K7ZV built and put up vertical monoband antennas for 12, 17, 30 and 40-meters. We quickly discovered that vertical antennas close to the water were much better performers than yagis, especially after sunset. By the second day we had installed on the hotel roof a Cushcraft R-7000, a monoband yagi for 6 meters, a yagi for the WARC bands and multiple triband antennas and two monoband yagis for 10-meters.

By far and away, the antennas that took the most effort were a series of 16 multiple wavelength 160 and 80-meter beverages that were run through the island jungle by Milt N5IA and Darryl AF7O. These two hard individuals are direct descendants of the brave pioneers of the American West and their efforts reflected this heritage. These receiving antennas were so selective that on the 0° 160-meter beverage we could only hear a weak broadcast station in the People's Republic of China, while on the 270° beverage a Thai broadcast station was 40 dB/S9. This kind of directivity made an enormous difference in low band operating and allowed us to selectively target specific areas.

Operating

Once the stations had been assembled, Steve G3VMW set up the logging system. It was his job to merge the CT .bin files for each of the operating positions on a daily basis and generate our QSO daily totals, a valuable tool to assess our performance.

By the second day, sleep patterns were starting to be established, allowing each operator to focus on his, or her, area of expertise. Some operators, like Darryl AF7O, seemed never to sleep at all, working all day on antennas and operating CW all night. His SSB counterpart Luis XE1L would operate with the same tireless enthusiasm.

Operating these stations was an experience that I will never forget. The pile-ups were often ferocious, with signals from almost every direction being very strong. A few quick lessons from the more experienced operators in our group allowed me to achieve QSO rates I never knew were possible. The thrill and high intensity of this experience made the many hours at my operating position pass by almost without notice.

It wasn't long before a pattern of operating became established. Prior to our arrival, Warren K7WX had worked out a detailed propagation plan for the DXpedition with the help of the well known propagation expert Carl Lutzelschwab K9LA. At a meeting each morning this information underwent additional fine tuning based on the prior day's operating.

Daily planning

Each morning at 8:00 AM, Warren K7WX would hold a meeting during which the prior day's operating was reviewed and plans for the new day were formulated.

Each operating position had a 60 page propagation book that laid out a band-by-band strategy for all 40 zones. It was amazing just how close our actual observations matched these predictions made many months before. Even the LF and HF long path openings had been correctly predicted.

Northern California DX Foundation

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G3VMW Operating

Each operator was responsible for a minimum of six hours of operating each day in three hour shifts. A chart indicated who would be on which band and at which time. Obligatory operating times were indicated, such as the sunrise and sunset terminators across North America and special long path openings, especially those on the low bands.

For me, it was a constant thrill to cover Europe on the higher frequencies of 28, 21 and 14-MHz. And on several occasions I was able to do long runs into South America in the Spanish language on 15-meters.

The most exciting moment of the DXpedition for me was when I worked EA4URE, the station of the Spanish Amateur Radio Union. This call was such a surprise that it made me jump out of my chair with excitement to the astonishment of my fellow operators. It was an unforgettable thrill to pass on the current events of the DXpedition to all my friends back in Spain.

There were two stated objectives of the DXpedition that Warren K7WX and Dan NA7DB would emphasize over and over. These were: To work the North American terminator paths, and to work as many of the weaker stations as possible. Although, at times, this was difficult with so many stronger stations calling, it was these stations that really needed this prefix and every attempt was made to accommodate them.

Our pilot stations

Each morning, after our sunrise, and at the end of low band activities, Robin WA6CDR would contact Dick N6FF our West coast pilot station. During these daily on-the-air meetings, Robin would pass the call signs of the 160-meter stations worked during the last 24 hours and Dick would give us feedback that came to him via e-mail through the DXpedition web site. This information was another important item for us to consider each day at our morning meetings when the goals for the next 24 hours would be decided.

Results

After each morning meeting, we would go over the daily feedback from our pilot stations and review the totals for each band and mode. It was inevitable that a friendly competitive spirit arose between the CW and the SSB operators.

The arrival of Luis XE1L from Mexico City was a huge boost for the SSB ops. His enthusiasm was contagious and all of the operators could not help but be inspired by his long hours on 40-meters, giving up both food and sleep to keep the pile-ups going.

Bob, K7TR, Van K7VS, George, V73GT and Cliff KD6HX, who all arrived with the second group were also very enthusiastic and began operating from the moment that they arrived.

Paul WF5T once went almost 48 hours without sleep to maintain a presence on RTTY. With the arrival of V73GT, he could finally have reinforcements for this mode.

Special skills

Each one of the XZØA operators brought with them a special skill, which was freely shared with the others. This was an opportunity for everyone to learn something new and to be enriched in the DX experience.

Rich K7ZV, is the most skillful operator on 75-meter SSB that I have ever seen. Paul WF5T was an outstanding CW operator and a dedicated RTTY enthusiast. Robin WA6CDR and Milt N5IA brought decades of experience on top band and a knowledge of low band antennas difficult to match. Dan NA7DB was an expert in organization and logistics. Warren K7WX, a serious student of propagation, made it his job to have us "appear" in each zone at the best possible time that propagation would allow. Warren also enjoyed handing out rapid exchange QSOs in languages as diverse as Finnish, Spanish, Chinese and Hindi. Luis XE1L, with experience from so many other DXpeditions seems to be able to make his own propagation by sheer force of will! Cliff KD6XH, would work stations for hours speaking a perfect Spanish. Darryl AF7O, would quietly run stations on 80-meter CW until sunrise removed all signals. And it was agreed by all that Steve G3VMW, was the single best CW operator that any of us had ever seen! Yoshi JA1UT, Setsuko JA1UPA and Tada JRØCGJ made 70 SSTV operators very happy. Millie WY7K, a seasoned veteran of many DXpeditions delighted the pile-ups on 20-meters. Although too numerous to mention, the skills of the rest of our operators were all highly appreciated by the "other side."

A special experience

To us, XZØA was so much more than almost 80,000 QSOs; it was being able to consistently appear in the right place and at the right time for each band. And no where was this more obvious than on 160-meters where all previous records were shattered. This was only possible due to the Herculean efforts of Robin WA6CDR, Milt N5IA, Ray HSØ/G3NOM and Steve G3VMW. Due to a combination of careful planning, adequate antennas and a keen sense of propagation possibilities, it was possible for stations in both Europe and North America to work us on top band using only a dipole. One station in WØ was able to work us via long path on 160-meters during a five minute sunrise opening with just an inverted V! This is a path length of more than 25,000 kms!

I was also pleased to see that the attitude of the operators was highly appreciated, and on a world-wide level. Each XZØA operator would doggedly stay with the station being worked until it was certain that the call had been correctly received. This was especially true for those stations who were very weak and at the "third level" with

only 100 watts and a dipole. To consistently be able to work such stations and over and over again hear "many thanks for the new one!" was one of the finest aspects of the operation.

It was also gratifying to see "special congratulations" for Van K7VS, Cliff KD6XH, Ray HSØ/G3NOM and myself EA5XX, posted to the DX Reflector for "excellent behavior in the pile-ups" and "operating with style and class." It goes without saying just how easy it is to lose patience in the "heat of battle" when trying to dig out a call sign from the whirling, swirling mass of surrounding stations.

The Return

When the time came for me to return to Spain, it was with a great feeling of satisfaction. To have spent more than 10 days running unbelievably large pile-ups, learning from highly accomplished DXers and just being with others who have the true DXpedition spirit of hard work, quick adaptability and humility, was a once in a lifetime experience.

Each part of this operation was the result of careful planning and so much more than just assembling stations and antennas. Every aspect of amateur radio was called into play: propagation, antennas, station design, problem solving and most important, the ability to adapt quickly to unknown surroundings.

As this was my very first DXpedition, it is hard to imagine that I will ever be part of something in the future as unique and unforgettable as XZØA. A longer version of this story will appear in an upcoming issue of DX Magazine.

XZØA - QSO Totals

	SSB	CW	TOTALS
160	81	2,304	2,385
80	2,347	3,207	5,554
40	3,697	4,442	8,139
30	---	4,872	4,872
20	8,553	6,350	14,903
17	3,469	3,531	7,000
15	8,545	5,107	13,652
12	4,410	3,809	8,219
10	7,777	4,712	12,489
10 FM			572
6	74	60	134
2 FM			17
RTTY			1,711
PSK31			67
SSTV			70
Totals	38,953	38,394	79,784

1999 "Heavy Hitters"

We sincerely thank all our contributors and especially these heavy hitters.

\$1000 and Up

N6TQS, Northern California DX Club, Southern California DX Club, W4ZV, W6EEN, and W6OSP.

\$500 and Up

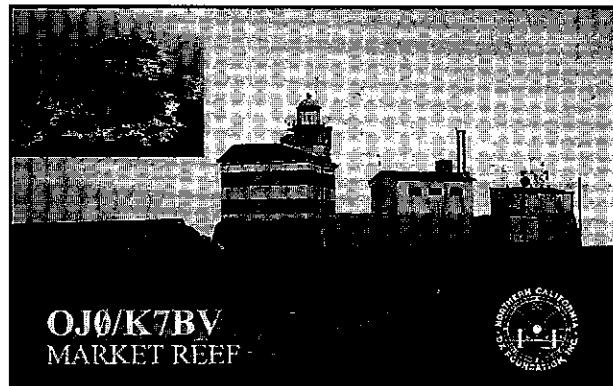
KØIR, K6FG, K6RIM, W6AQ, W6JZH, W6OAT, W6TX, W6ZH, and WB6ZUC.

\$250 and up

K6ANP, K6KR, KF7E, LA7XB, N6QI, NW6P, W5AE, W6KW, W9UOM, and WA6TJM.

\$100 and up

AA6IR, AA9KH, AB2CM, DL2VPO, DL8CM, GØWAZ, HB9BFG, HB9DHA, I4-1Ø11Ø, I4BNR, JA1EM, JA3APV, JA9NPS, JH6JTE, KØJUH, K2PLF, K5KR, K6DB, K6DC, K6LLK, K6MA, K6MD, K6RK, K6SQL, K6TMB, K6UM, K6XT, K7BV, K7EX, K8DD, K8MFO, KE6ZSN, KI6T, KI6WF, KQ6RH, LA DX Group (Norway), LU2AH, NØCQL, N1CYA, N4GN, N4LS, N6EK, N6FUP, N6HR, N7DV, N7MQ, N7NG, New Orleans International DX Convention, NI6T, NK6F, San Diego DX Club, South Florida DX Association, VK5WO, VP2ML, WØCD, W1CDC, W1HEO, W1PNR, W2JGR, W3ODJ, W4DK, W4DN, W4OAF, W4ZRZ, W5JO, W6EUF, W6FAH, W6FKD, W6ISQ, W6OOL, W6RQ, W6RR, W6RW, W6TEX, W6WKE, W7ACD, W7HUY, W7KNT, W8DA, W8UVZ, W9CEO, W9VA, WJ7R, and WK6E.

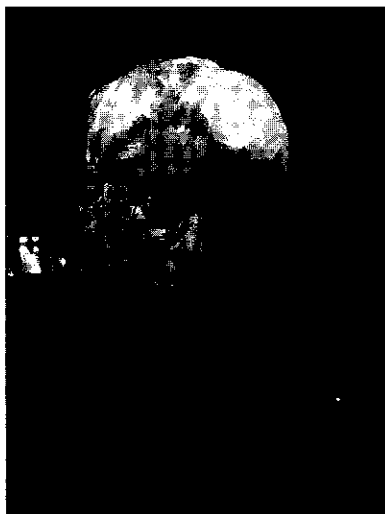


NCDXF Secretary Tom McShane, NW6P

by Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Tom McShane's cousin was my high school classmate, and introduced us in 1957. Tom lived in northern New Jersey, and held a General class ticket as W2TOD. I lived on Long Island, and also held a General, as K2RQC. We were both 15, into DX, dreaming of engineering school, and saving parts and pennies for construction projects. The tall, skinny kid with prematurely graying hair was a helluva CW operator, as I soon learned in 80m CW skeds. We liked to build, and built W9TO keyers together, which we still have. And we both passed our Extras, when one did so just for the hell of it..

Sometimes, as young men do, we spoke about the future. I wanted to design equipment for the space program; Tom



thought his talents were better suited to marketing. I was a year ahead in school, and went off to an EE program at RPI. Tom followed a year later. Our paths diverged at graduation: I went off to Stanford in 1963 pursuing an MSEE, and Tom moved to the University of Chicago to chase an MBA.

The solid engineering education he had obtained at RPI served him well at U of C, where he did very well. Graduation brought him numerous offers, and he selected a sales engineering position at a growing semiconductor company called Texas Instruments.

Tom enjoyed the bachelor life in Dallas during his training, but soon he was introduced to a Latvian-born blonde mathematician, and not long after that, his bachelor days were over. During their courtship, Tom had visited me in California, scouting out his next job assignment, and it did not take much to convince him that California was in his future.

Biruta had graduated at 19 from the University of Tulsa, and was—and is—a hard-working high-achiever. Tom recalls that, helping her pack for their trip west, he came across a statistics textbook he recognized. "This was the toughest course I ever took," he said, waving the book. Biruta smiled and told Tom to read the acknowledgments. In them, the author thanked Biruta for having solved all of the problems at the chapter ends!

The young couple settled on the Peninsula, with Tom toiling for TI and Biruta moving into a marketing career. Soon, Biruta had to take time-outs for the births of Laura, then Allison, and finally Steve. Meanwhile, Tom's self-confidence, product knowledge—and that prematurely gray hair—had impressed a group at one of his customer companies, a group planning a startup in the data communications business. He was invited to join the founders group as VP of Marketing. The other founders were subsequently stunned to learn that this gray-haired sales and marketing maven was only 26 years old.

The fledgling company, Vadic Corporation, took off, but soon bounced back to earth in the recession of 1970. Things were grim for a while, but the young entrepreneurs survived and eventually prospered. The product line, using newfangled op-amp technology, was modems. In those days, one spent a lot of time telling people what modems were, and what they were good for! And the speeds, by today's standards, were pretty low. Vadic's first products ran to Bell standards at 300 and 1200 bps, a far cry from today's minimum expectations.

For both Tom and me, the working life had put a hold on ham radio and DXing. Apartments, work and small children are not conducive to such a hobby—Na fact faced and dealt with by many of us who started as teenagers. Our equipment was gone—and so were our tickets, which had lapsed. But a request by a Vadic employee to use the company parking lot for Field Day induced Tom to come down and look around at the operation. That did it—soon there was a new TS-430S and a wire or two at the McShane home, and, eventually, another Extra class license, this time as NW6P.

Vadic was eventually sold to Racal, the British giant, and became Racal-Vadic. Tom, as a senior manager, stayed on and helped grow the company. But the time came to go on to new things, and Tom left. For a while, he enjoyed his time off, but eventually grew restless for new challenges. Biruta, meanwhile, had created and grown a marketing company, Bimark, to provide off-site meetings and associated travel for Valley corporations. Tom joined Biruta and expanded the company's services to provide graphics support and advertising specialties. The combination worked, and the two workaholics have since built Bimark into a substantial company in Cupertino.

Tom's commitment to Bimark has left little time for ham radio, but there is a tower and beams, an FT1000D and an old Alpha at the McShane manse, and Tom has worked them all—except P5. Despite the time crunch, he has also managed to participate in a major DXpedition (YK-A), and to serve the hobby by co-organizing the local Packet Cluster User's Group and by serving on the NCDXF Board of Directors. He also been touring many interesting spots in the world with son Steve, now a graduate student.

Most recently, daughter Laura bestowed grandfatherhood on my oldest friend by birthing a 10 pound-plus boy. Perhaps his grandson will get more use out of that FT1000D!

NCDXF Biography Bruce Butler, W6OSP, Director and Treasurer

Bruce Butler, W6OSP, spent much of his formative years in New Mexico. He was originally licensed as W5PXN in 1950 and attended high school in Albuquerque. After a stint in the Navy intercepting foreign code transmissions, Bruce returned to attend the University of New Mexico.

Inspired by his Dad, a ham who ran a small local BC station, Bruce passed his General while a teenager. Two years later, he took and passed his Advanced class exam.



Bruce's first equipment was a National NC-57 receiver and a homebrew 6L6 driving two 6L6's. Using a long wire, most of Bruce's early operating was on 40 CW.

While in the Navy, Bruce was assigned to

18 months on Guam. After arriving, he quickly searched out the ham station, KG6AAY, from which he operated and kept regular schedules with his father.

Bruce recalls that around 1989, he was going through some old QSL cards and came across a card from a station in Pittsburgh, Ca. It was Bob Ferrero's original call and confirmed a QSO with KG6AAY. (Bob, now W6RJ, is the owner of Ham Radio Outlet). Bruce mentioned the old QSO to Bob and shortly thereafter sent him the card. Bob said that this was his first DX contact!

Bruce's first recollection of DX from the U.S. was a contact with a VK on 40 meters and thereafter the DX operating he did from KG6AAY. Bruce was hooked from both ends and DX-related activities have been enjoyable to him ever since.

After being discharged from the Navy, Bruce returned to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico and graduated from its business college in 1956. He retained his membership in the ARRL, but dropped out of radio during this period. Upon graduation, Bruce accepted employment with Union Carbide, moving to Houston, Texas. He remained active in amateur radio during the early 60's, both DXing and contesting.

After about three years in Houston, Bruce was transferred to Chicago where he obtained the callsign W9RUK. This

callsign was never activated and it wasn't until 1985, some 20 years later, that he had the time and money to actively return to the hobby.

Upon moving to Southern California in the early 70's, Bruce changed his callsign to W6OSP and activated that callsign in Napa in the mid 80's. He sold his business, became a stockbroker with Prudential Securities and settled in with a new wife and family.

Since he returned to amateur radio, Bruce's ham radio activities have been primarily DX-oriented. Bruce is a 50 plus year member of the ARRL. He has served as the president of the Redwood Empire DX Club and is a member of the Northern California DX Club. Since 1990, Bruce has been on the board of the Northern California DX Foundation and served as its Treasurer.

Bruce has also put a new one on the air (H4ØAA). Also, he has operated as 3B9, AH8 and ZF.

Bruce observes that one of the real enjoyments of amateur radio and DXing is the friends and acquaintances we all make locally as well as around the world. "While we come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, we are all joined in the goodwill of DXing and it's many pleasures."

NCDXF Millennium Celebration

By Bob Fabry, N6EK

In early 1999 we discovered four signed and numbered copies of the incredible photo from the 3Y1EE Peter I Expedition of January 1987 by Einar Enderud, LA1EE, and Kare Pedersen, LA2GV. The photo is truly spectacular, showing a small tent, a three-element beam and a Norwegian flag in the foreground and a huge ice-covered mountain in the background. It was decided to end the old Millennium by giving these prints to the top dollar donors of 1999 who expressed an interest in them. We called this the NCDXF Millennium Celebration.

We are happy to thank the following four generous NCDXF supporters will soon be receiving their Peter I photos: Bill Tippet, W4ZV; Dave Bell, W6AQ; Dave Angel, WA6TJM; and Steve Lund, K6UM.

We would also like to again thank Custom Process, the photographic and digital imaging business of Howard Brainen, WZ6Z. In 1987, Custom Process donated one hundred and ten of these beautiful photos to the NCDXF to be used for fund raising.

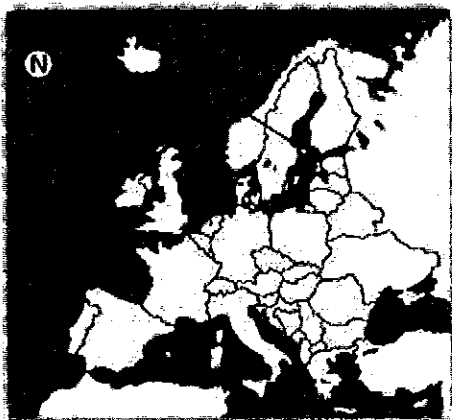
OHØ & OJØ/K7BV MAY/SEP 1999

by Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV

- A Study in Ham Radio Camaraderie

1999 provided me with the opportunity to operate from the Aland Islands OHØ and Market Reef OJØ – not just once but an unbelievable two times! Like so many other DXpeditions, the whole thing started as more a funny thought than a serious consideration.

In early 1998, Ari OH1EH, who helps me fill the pages of the *National Contest Journal* and his station partners Jukka OH2MAM and Juha OH1JT let me in on a secret – they were building a super station in the Aland Islands – OHØZ. Ari sent me an email asking if I would like to help debut the station into the world of contesting. I answered “Yes!” and put my bid in for the



May 1999
C Q W W
WPX CW.

I was moved by the fact that after all the hundreds if not thousands of manhours of labor put forth to build the station, these

fellows were willing to give up the station to a total stranger for such a fun contest. This initial act of generosity proved to be only the first of an endless string of unselfish things done for me by my new friends in Finland.

Being a dedicated DXpeditioner with a profound fondness for uninhabited islands and reefs (see *High Adventure on St. Paul's Island* – the CY9AA DXpedition *QST* August 1998), I soon found myself pondering the possibilities of getting out to Market Reef OJØ during my stay in the Aland Islands. As much as Ari would have liked to help me with this quest, he made it clear that he was in no position to do so. He did point me to Lars OHØRJ and Seppo OH1VR, a renowned contesteer and DXer.

I received an email from Seppo in response to a letter I sent to Lars indicating that it was possible the trip could be arranged and that he would like to go. Seppo and Lars

share a business arrangement that currently involves leasing the major structures on Market Reef.

I had never met or communicated with either one of these gentlemen so I was very pleased to find Seppo's words both friendly and encouraging. The thought of going on a DXpedition to a small pile of rocks with no place to escape an irritating personality with people one has never met can be a little disconcerting. I had no such reservations thanks to Seppo's efforts to right away make me feel like “one of the gang”.

Emails were sent to trusted friends to assemble a support team for the DXpedition. George K5KG of recent 3B7RF fame agreed to perform Pilot Station duties; Scott KA9FOX created a terrific website to keep the Deserving current with status of the trip; and a new friend, Steve KU9C immediately agreed to take on the thankless QSL Manager challenges. Yes, it *IS* rewarding to “share” the fun of a DXpedition with as many others as possible...

Ultimately, a second opportunity to operate from OHØ and OJØ would arise, thanks to the need for a September business trip to London. Unfortunately, a quick look into my ready cash reserves (whatever that means) made it clear I would have to forgo booking that helicopter ride back out to Market Reef. Top Band DXers came to the rescue, though.

OJØ is far from the top of the Need List, but it is a heavily sought after country on the low bands. Bud W6PBI organized an effort to get some private funding from low band enthusiast for the second trip after I made a commitment to focus on 80 and 160 operations. K6RK and K3SX gathered private donations from the Top Band gang and those dollars, combined with a grant from the NCDXF allowed me to make the second trip out to that low lying rock pile on the northern edge of the Baltic Sea.

Finnish Warmth

I had heard and read that the Finnish people were rather reserved – not standoffish – just a little hard to get close to and to get to know very well. Therefore, I did not have any expectations of meeting many of the OH gang. Wow – was that information incorrect! I have traveled all over the world and do not believe I have met a warmer, friendlier people.

I had the good fortune to meet the following contesters and DXers during the two action packed trips: OH1EH, OH1NOA, OH1MM, OH1VR, OH2BU, OH2KI, OH2MM (EA8EA), OH2MAM, OH6YF, OHØRJ, OHØAZZ. By the time the two trips were over, I would proudly list several of these gentlemen and, in some

cases their wife or significant other, as friends for life. The test of time has already proven that we will share those friendships born in the pursuit of DXpedition pile-up fun for many years to come.

The May Adventure

The May trip focused on just making as many Qs as possible. 22 hours of flying took me, my wife and two of her friends from Reno, Nevada to Helsinki for a late evening Saturday arrival. From that moment on, I was absolutely delighted to enjoy non-stop appearances of one well-known OH operator after another. The Helsinki guys took time away from their families, spent money out of their pockets and disappeared out of their offices to spend time with me or move me one step closer to Market Reef and the Aland Islands. I was passed



along in relay fashion until I was deposited in the hands of Seppo OH1VR – my Market Reef “host.”

Monday A.M. found me sharing

good-bye kisses with my wife while trying to endure the looks of concern on her face regarding my Market Reef quest. Although reluctantly tolerant of my obsession with uninhabited rock piles surrounded by oceans, Lieska, my sweet gentle Indonesian/Chinese wife suffers fears deep inside her each time I plunge off on one of these adventures. My knowledge of those fears keeps me from taking unnecessary risks though it is probably good that she does not know her definition of “unnecessary” and mine are significantly different!

Jukka OH2MAM drove me to the TV station Seppo owns in Tempere. We then adjourned to his lakeside cottage so I could finally get on the air sporting my new call OH3/K7BV. Four hundred quick QSOs later – an easy accomplishment from his fabulous station, Seppo announced that it was time to QRT and “go to the sauna.”

I had heard that the Finns have an obsession with saunas. I did not wish to appear ignorant of what to do to “sauna” so I strutted into the living room tossing my clothes off as I went. I waltzed past Jukka and Seppo just like I walk around stark naked in front of total strangers every day of my life. I felt pretty silly when I glanced over my shoulder and noticed my two new friends looking at each other with questioning looks as they modestly wrapped themselves in towels.

I spent the next 30 minutes trying to breath and carry on discussions about DXpeditions I had been on while breathing air heated to a temperature more suited for cooking meat. My friends didn’t seem bothered by it so I braced myself against the wood wall to keep from passing out and looking like a whimp – particularly after having flashed my mid-life waist line flab in such a distressful manner earlier.

All of a sudden they jumped up and ran for the door, indicating it was time to cool off. I was out of there in a flash running through the weeds and trees towards the nearby lake. They eased themselves in so I did the first thing that popped into my mind to show my hosts what a stud I was. I jumped in feet first off the dock.

Oh how I wish I had remembered that just weeks before that lake had been covered in ice... It felt like certain parts of my body instantly turned into ice cubes! Man, was I glad to get back into the meat cooker – I mean sauna – a few minutes later. I must admit that when we finally ended the telling of tales and went to sleep after midnight, I was out like a light.

Seppo had flavorful traditional Finnish coffee brewing to lessen the pain of his 5 A.M wake-up call the next morning. I had spent hours in the car with Jukka ‘MAM and felt like I had known him for years and now I had to say goodbye to this gentle soul. I reluctantly gave The Bear a hug that seemed more appropriate than a simple handshake. Seppo and I then sped off to the coastal town of Turku. We arriving in time to board a ferry leaving the mainland for Mariehamn, the capital (and only town) in the Aland Islands.

Pasi OH1MM met us at the port and we drove the car onboard the Viking Lines ferry. I was starting to feel the affects of a cold settling into my upper respiratory system but only a couple packages of symptom-masking medication could be found on board – a bad omen I was to discover later. That cold would get slowly worse and worse throughout the trip – only the rush of the piles would keep me going with a grin on my face the entire time.

After making the passage out to the Aland Islands and rushing to the nearby airport to board our chartered helicopter, we executed a quick take off to begin the Market Reef leg of this adventure. As we traveled our low level flight path northwestward towards the reef my mind was full of excitement when I pondered the fact that after making thousands of OJØ QSOs, I was going to do it all over again from this lovely place. The *Pile-up Piggy* had entering heaven for sure!

I looked back over my shoulder at Seppo, Lars and Pasi as we drew nearer. We all looked and behaved like children about to arrive at Disneyland. We knew the "E" ride was about to begin. The landing thankfully was uneventful—certainly less exciting than my boat landings on KP5 – Isla Desecheo and CY9 – St. Paul's Island. A flurry of activity followed as all the gear was rapidly tossed out of the chopper onto the rocks outside the Market Reef lighthouse.

The story of the remainder of this trip has been covered rather extensively elsewhere (see Pile-up Fun in the Midnight Sun - *QST* December 1999 and Midnight Sun Fun – *DX Magazine* November/December 1999). We had a ball logging 8,000 QSOs and discovering more about each other.

What I remember most (or least... as the case may be) was getting only about 12 hours sleep between early Monday morning and Friday evening – some 110 hours of travel, talk, and pile-up fun.

I suspect that the stories my OH friends could tell of trying to deal with and reason with me during those days would be humorous...and I am afraid terribly embarrassing. One such moment occurred when Katarina – OH1EH's wife – arrived on Market Reef.

Seppo had to take a hasty midday Thursday helicopter ride home via OHØ to take care of business challenges. Katarina, tousled curly Scandinavian blonde hair, rosy cheeks and beaming smile, showed up as a surprise OJØ guest when the chopper landed.



I do not know if the wild look in her eyes was from the ride out

or what she saw when she looked at me. I was unshaven and in the same, now wrinkled and soiled, clothes she last seen me in days before. By this point, I had lost most of my voice and spoke in harsh whispers. Surely, I looked rather surreal and gaunt after grabbing only a few fitful naps in the last 3 and ½ days.

Another memorable moment for my friends just has to be when our return chopper ride put us back at the Mariehamn airport. By that time, the adrenaline rush of Market Reef now drained out of me, I was beginning to wonder if maybe my mouth had written checks my body couldn't cash. My cold was so severe that I had completely

lost my voice, my body had the trembles, my breath would have shamed a water buffalo, my nerves were shot, I needed a cigarette *and my long johns itched in all the wrong places!* Sleep deprivation had totally blasted away my memory and I am sure I was incoherent when I tried to greet Ari and Katarina who were there to pick me up as promised.

That all changed in a flash when Ari immediately launched into a concerted effort to talk me out of operating the CQWW WPX CW contest, a mere 12 hours away. I rushed into my "I'm cool", "It doesn't really hurt", "I always smell like this" act to quickly change the subject. Katarina, a nurse at a psychiatric care facility, watched all this with quiet interest. I could tell from the look in her eyes that if I made one



false move, I would find myself horizontal on a cot wrapped in a straitjacket with tranquilizers sized to soothe elephants stuffed in my mouth. We

compromised with an agreement to stop by the local pharmacy for some serious cold medication (instructions in Finnish and Swedish, of course...); drop my gear off at the OHØZ station; and if I was unable to spell my last name three times without hurting myself, agree to sleep for 5 hours at the cottage before the 48 contest started at 3 A.M. local time.

I lay down on the bed to rest my eyes for a few minutes before taking a much needed shower. Right! 5 hours later, the alarm clock I fortunately set before passing out startled me awake. I had lost about 10 pounds on Market Reef and hunger pangs twisted my stomach into a knot so I wolfed down most of a BBQ chicken found in the refrigerator knowing that I would not eat any solid food until the WPX was over.

Next stop – the shower. One could have lubricated a standard family vehicle with what came off my hair, which had been hidden under a ski cap every minute I had been on the reef.

Ari knocked on the door – probably hoping I had died or at least slept through the wake-up. I met him with a big grin more regularly seen on a chimpanzee's face. After he looked me over, I received a questioning shake of his head in return. Smiles and an honest

show of eagerness to start the contest won him over and we were off down the road to OHØZ.

I had a wonderful time piloting that station in the WPX. The 48 hours of the test are pretty much a blur but I remember several visiting SM and OH0 folks sticking their heads in the shack to see how I was doing. After it was over I grabbed a few hours of sleep and then went to see Ari and Katarina off as they headed back to the mainland after "babysitting" me. I asked Ari if I had a good time. He had become accustomed to bizarre behavior from me by this time so he pretended not to note the significance of the inquiry. He simply informed me that my 3,045 QSOs and 802 multipliers set a new Scandinavian record, which, of course, pleased me. I only wish I had "been there" mentally to enjoy the fun!

With the original mission of the May trip now behind me, I spent my remaining five days on the island making another 3,000 contacts on all bands as OHØ/K7BV, including "forcing" some WARC band contacts through antennas not designed for use on those bands.

We spent our final evening in OHØ with Lars as a dinner guest and then visiting his ocean side home. Saturday June 5th, we boarded a FinnAir flight for Helsinki, the first leg on the long ride home back to Nevada. Unfortunately, our luggage and the radio gear did not make the same flight home, although all but one bag did eventually show up.

September Trip

The September trip was added onto a business trip to London. While in London, I had the pleasure of spending some time with Roger G3SXW and his lovely wife Victoria. I had not met Roger before this trip but he took my wife and me under his wing and made sure our time in England was pleasant. DXers and contesters are such a close group...

The second trip involved a great deal more antenna work out on Market Reef included erecting an inverted L for 160 and a vertical for 80. Unfortunately, the propagation gods didn't cooperate; instead challenging us with very disturbed conditions and K index readings as high as 6 – not a good thing when one is trying to complete contacts through the auroral zone into the United States.

12,000+ hard earned contacts were completed, including over 1,300 on 80 and 160 meters, in spite of the very difficult conditions. My spirits were pretty low during the helicopter ride back to Mariehamn because very few contacts were made with the North American gang that had made the whole trip possible. I knew that we

had done everything we could to make contacts on the low bands but wished I could have stayed another week since the disturbed conditions were clearing up.

Friends Made Forever

The two trips netted about 26,000 OJØ and OHØ QSOs for *The Deserving* on all bands from 6 to 160 meters, including some on the RS13 satellite. The OH lads made sure that this DXpeditioner understood the teachings of Martti OH2BH and Lars OHØRJ, Mr. Market Reef. Secret initiation ceremonies took place and *DX Soup* was consumed in vast quantities. Dark stories of missing WWII submarines in the nearby depths and souls lost building the now abandoned lighthouse were shared. Yes, I was now part of a very small lucky group of people - those fortunate enough to have operated from legendary Market Reef.

I am grateful to all my OH friends for giving me a memory and friendship that will be with me forever.

Aland Islands – OHØ

The DXCC country called the Aland Islands consists of 6,500 islands and skerries to the west of mainland Finland. These islands form an autonomous, demilitarized and unilingually Swedish province of Finland. About 25,000 people populate these islands with 90 percent of them residing on the largest island "Fasta Aland" (Main Island). 40 percent of these people live in the island's only city, Mariehamn – capital of the Aland Islands.

Fasta Aland is 50 km from north to south and 45 km from east to west with its 100m above sea level highest point of land serving as a major contributor to the huge signals emanating from Radio Sport Team (HF) - OHØZ (<http://www.qsl.net/oh0z/>) and Alandia Contest Team (VHF) - OHØAZ (<http://www.atc.aland.fi/~andper/members.html>).

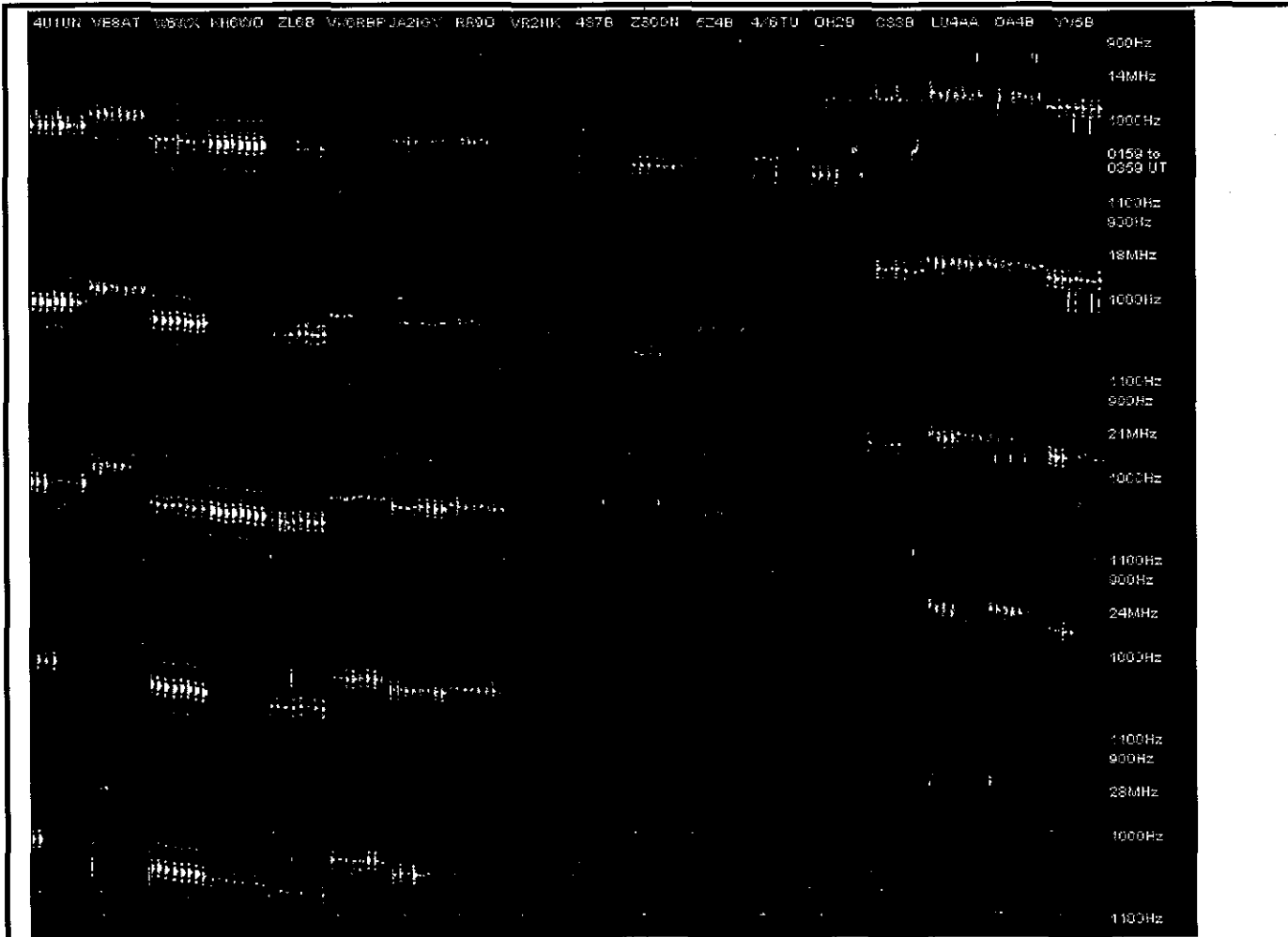
The islands are located on the map near the same northern latitude as Anchorage, Alaska, half way around the Earth. These islands are a playground for nearly a million tourists each year; naturally most from Finland and Sweden.

The origin of Aland's autonomy goes back hundreds if not thousands of years. As far back as is known, the Alanders have been Swedish-speaking; their culture resembling that of Sweden, with local variations.

The Aland Islands belonged to the Kingdom of Sweden right up until the 1808-1809 war when Sweden was forced to relinquish Finland and Aland to Russia. When the Russian Empire began disintegrating in the early 1900s, a meeting of the island residents was held in 1917 at the Aland Folk High School. These people resolved to work for reunion with the old mother country, Sweden. The overwhelming majority of the residences supported this action and their wishes were conveyed the King and Government of Sweden.

A few months later that year, Finland proclaimed itself an

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Beacon News

by Bob Fabry, N6EK

The sunspots are really cooking! The other day, within a two-hour period, sixteen of the seventeen NCDXF beacons that were on the air were audible at my QTH on 14 MHz. In addition, thirteen beacons were audible on 18 MHz, thirteen on 21 MHz, nine on 24 MHz and ten on 28 MHz.

You may be thinking that I was wasting a lot of time listening to the beacons when I should have been operating, but that wasn't the case! I use the BeaconSee program to monitor the bands so I can keep up with the variations in propagation from day to day and know exactly when the good band openings occur. The data for this period is shown above and covers two hours on March 4, 2000 ending at 0400 UTC, which is eight PM local time. I ask BeaconSee to save images like this for every two-hour time period on my hard disk so it is easy for me to review recent openings and identify optimum operating times for my QTH. What I actually see on my computer is in color, so it is more esthetic and easier to read than what you are looking at here.

Each beacon transmission is ten seconds. There are eighteen beacons. It takes three minutes to listen once for all the beacons on one band. The beacons operate on five bands. It takes fifteen minutes to listen once for all the beacons on all five bands. This image shows the results of listening for each beacon on each band eight times, which requires two hours of continuous

monitoring. The center of the image is a grid that is eighteen rectangles wide and five rectangles high. The eighteen columns correspond to the eighteen beacons. The columns are labeled at the top and start with 4U1UN at the left and end with YV5B on the right. The rows correspond to the five bands. The rows are labeled at the right and start with 14 MHz at the top and end with 28 MHz at the bottom.

Now look at the top left rectangle, which is for 4U1UN on 14 MHz. Within this rectangle, the vertical scale is audio frequency out of my receiver and covers a range of 200 Hz, specifically from 900 Hz to 1100 Hz as labeled on the right side of the image. The horizontal scale is time, most recent times being on the right. The time shown is the previous eight listening periods for 4U1UN on 14 MHz. This turns out to be a ten second period every fifteen minutes, the leftmost is ten seconds starting at 0200 UTC and the rightmost is ten seconds starting at 0345 UTC.

The footprint of a strong individual beacon transmission is triangular because the beacon transmission reduces in power over the course of the transmission. The triangle does not cover the whole ten-second period because there is a quiet time between transmissions. The dots above and below the triangle for a strong beacon reflect frequency components introduced by CW keying.

Looking at 14 MHz, one can see 4U1UN, VE8AT, W6WX, KH6WO, ZL6B, VK6RBP (weak), JA2IGY, RR9O, ZS6DN, 5Z4B (weak), 4X6TU, OH2B, CS3B, LU4AA, OA4B and YV5B. I hope you can see them all in the black and white

reproduction here, but if you cannot, trust me that they are clear in the original! On 18 MHz, one can see 4U1UN, VE8AT, W6WX, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, RR9O, ZS6DN, 5Z4B, CS3B, LU4AA, OA4B and YV5B.

On 21 MHz one can see 4U1UN, VE8AT, W6WX, KH6WO, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, RR9O, CS3B, LU4AA, OA4B and YV5B. On 24 MHz, one can find 4U1UN, W6WX, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, RR9O, LU4AA, OA4B and YV5B. On 28 MHz, there are 4U1UN, W6WX, KH6WO, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, CS3B (weak), LU4AA, and OA4B.

The BeaconSee program identifies the individual beacons by knowing what time they transmit. Since it uses my computer clock to tell what time it is, any error in my clock will show up in the data, and if you look carefully, you can see a few errors introduced by my clock in the data here. I use the Dimension 4 program to set my local clock from timeservers on the internet, and I occasionally observe as much as a one second error in my local clock. For example, if you look at the data for YV5B on 14 and 18 MHz, you see some extra vertical lines below the actual footprints of the YV5B beacon. These are at exactly the same audio frequency as the signals from the 4U1UN beacon, and I am sure these are part of the 4U1UN signals that are displayed in the wrong place due to clock error. You can see similar artifacts for 4X6TU on 14 MHz and ZL6B on 24 MHz.

For information on how you can download a free version of BeaconSee to use at your QTH, visit the NCDXF website at <http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconAutomated.htm>. Register it for a bargain \$29 to access the advanced features.

Notes on the Beacons

The seventeenth beacon in the NCDXF/IARU Beacon Network came on the air from Novosibirsk, Russia at 0945Z on November 26, 1999. The beacon operator, Yuri Zaruba, UA9OBA, reported that this was the first radio beacon to be placed on the air in Russia and both local and national TV covered the event. The Hong Kong beacon has not come on the air as I am writing this, but I expect it soon.

Beacon Schedule

Here is the minute and second of the first transmission in the hour for each beacon on each frequency. Transmissions are repeated every three minutes and consist of the callsign followed by four one-second dashes. The callsign and the first dash are sent at one hundred watts. The remaining dashes are sent at ten watts, one watt and a tenth watt.

MHz	14.10	18.11	21.15	24.93	28.20
4U1UN	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40
VE8AT	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50
W6WX	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00
KH6WO	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10
ZL6B	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20
VK6RBP	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30
JA2IGY	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40
RR9O	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50
VR2HK	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00
4S7B	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10
ZS6DN	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20
5Z4B	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30
4X6TU	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40
OH2B	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50
CS3B	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00
LU4AA	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10
OA4B	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20
YV5B	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30

independent republic – by virtue of the same principle of national self-determination that was being invoked by the Alanders. However, the Finns were not prepared to comply with the Alander’s demand for reunion with Sweden. Instead, they wanted to give them a certain form of internal self-government. The Parliament of Finland passed an autonomy act in 1920, but the Alanders were unwilling to accept it at that time.

Because of its international character, the Aland Islands question was referred to the newly formed League of Nations. In June 1921 the Council of the League of Nations decided that Finland should receive sovereignty over the Aland islands. Finland undertook, however, to guarantee the inhabitants of the Aland Islands their Swedish language, culture and customs.

Additional treaties between Sweden, Finland and Aland brought us the autonomous Finland province that ultimately qualified as a separate DXCC country.

Facts taken from “Aland In Brief” published by the Aland landskapsstyrelse and Aland laging.

Market Reef – OJØ

Market Reef (Market Fyr) is basically a collection of rocks in the northern reaches of the Baltic Sea rising several feet above mean sea level. It can be found on better maps and charts at 60 degrees, 18 minutes, 10 seconds north and 19



degrees, 8 minutes, 3 seconds east. During the frequent storms that plague the area, the lighthouse and support buildings, some originally constructed back in 1885, may appear to be floating in the roiling seas while waves completely submerge the rest of the reef. These waves have been known to break completely over some of the shorter structures. On a good day, one can find sufficient dry rock to stretch out an 80 meter dipole. On a “bad” day, one will be pleased to still find a vertical piece of structural steel to clamp a vertical antenna to!

The reef sits exactly astride the offshore Finnish-Swedish offshore border. During WWII mine laying operations, it was discovered that the lighthouse complex, owned by Finland, actually was several feet across the border over on the Swedish side of the reef. Seemingly endless negotiations followed between the countries. Finally an agreement was reached that deeded the rocks the complex sit on to the

Finns. The Finns, in turn, were obligated to award the Swedes equal square footage from their side of the reef. The area given up to the Swedes ended up putting foreign territory between the lighthouse complex and its mother country, Finland. Hence - an instant DXCC country was formed!

Today, the lighthouse and support buildings suffer from exposure to the elements and lack of repairs. The Finnish government has all but abandoned the structures since electronics have replaced the previous lifesaving rotating light that warded off unknowing vessels.

Reaching the reef generally involves a 2 1/2-hour boat ride from the westernmost island of the Aland Islands. Some recent expeditions have used helicopter transportation to take the uncertainty of unpredictable seas out of the equation.

NCDXF DXCC Rocks

By Jerry Griffin, K6MD

Do I have rocks, or what? On a beautiful sunny day late last spring, I journeyed to the mountaintop home of Jack Troster, W6ISQ. It was a great day, and I was on a mission of great delight—Jack had asked that I take over his duties as the Curator of Rocks for the NCDXF. He no longer had the time to devote to this remarkable collection, and wanted to pass this honor on to one of the deserving. I am not sure that I am one those, but I was delighted to take on this duty, and so we made an appointment to meet to do the anointed turnover. I have known Jack throughout the years, and was simply delighted that he would entrust this unique labor of love to me. I also want to serve the NCDXF in some capacity, and this seemed like an opportunity made for me, given my heavy time constraints. These too of course shall abate in a couple of years, and then even I can go on DXpeditions myself to collect the rocks, but that will have to wait for the moment.

It was a beautiful day, the sun shone, and I found Jack's home easily—he had given perfect directions. I saw his new Force 12 stack on the tower, and marveled at the hilltop location. With some trepidation I rang the doorbell, and Jack answered quickly. He was in a good mood, and quickly put me at ease. We went to his shack, and I absolutely loved sitting there, soaking up the atmosphere, and the conversation we were having. It seems that we have another thing in common—his son in law is also in the Army reserve, and we knew each other. I had recently been selected for promotion to BG, and his son in law was a brigade commander in the 91st Division

looking for a BG billet (he has since been promoted to BG also). We had a wonderful time talking DX and Army, both of which Jack knew plenty! He was also familiar with the area in Iraq where I went to war in 1991, and we bonded even further! What a brilliant, mysterious man! What else lurks in his extensive past? After a couple of hours, which seemed to pass too fast, we worked our way into another large room, and looked at THE Rock Collection. It was all placed in tool boxes, and there was an index. The last couple of years had not been catalogued because Jack was too busy. He told me that I would have to recheck the collection, and create a new index list, and catch it up to date. I promised him steadfastly that I would do this, and that I would 'do him proud'! We loaded the chests in the back of my car, and I left for home.

I was in a great mood on that trip to Pacific Grove, and promised myself that I would not let Jack down. Once home, the collection was quickly carried upstairs to my shack, and the inventory was perused. It turns out that Jack not only catalogued the rocks, but also identified them by geographical type, quite scientifically! Wow—I was beginning to admire this geographical - oil engineering type even more! I will have to use him as my consultant, I thought since I know less than nothing about rocks.....

The basic idea behind the rock collecting remains the same: to have a 'Rock Honor Roll- Top of the Honor Roll', in which all who go to visit or operate in DX locations can take part, and be a proud partner. The rules remain the same, with one exception: if you operate in the DX country from where you send us a 'rock' (some send dirt!), you need to send along a QSL card, which will be displayed with the rock. I will be looking for QSLs from all of you who have submitted rocks up to now. I would eventually like to match up all of the rocks with QSLs! The submission will be catalogued, and I shall prevail upon Jack, W6ISQ, to identify the rock geologically, since I can't tell one rock from another! (I'm the same way with plants & flowers.....). The rock will then be added to the collection and displayed along with the rest of the collection. I will try my level best to be where the NCDXF visits & enhances ham radio by being there... So, there you have it, gang! The NCDXF Rock Collection 'IS', and so is DX! -Please send your rock & QSLs to: Jerry Griffin, K6MD, Curator, NCDXF Rock Collection, 123 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA, 93950. And oh yes, by the way, when we find gold or oil in the rocks you submit, we will let you know. In a future issue of this newsletter will have the list, so you can see which ones we need.

Slide Shows and Videos

Clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The amount can be learned from the postage on the package when it comes to you, and is usually about \$3.20. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet, and more than one choice of programs in case there is great demand for the item you want. Please return all material promptly, so it will be available for others. Request should be mailed to: Ron Steiner, K6KEO, 3154 Dominic Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546

We have the following slide shows

1. Kingman Reef and Palmyra Is. Expedition of 1974. (148 slides).
2. K5YY Africa of 1978. (62 slides).
3. The Colvins on Easter, Galapagos, San Andreas, etc., 1984. (140 slides).
4. W6REC & ZL1AMO on Kermandec, 1984. (58 slides).
5. AH0C (Saipan), CQWW Contest Op, 1983, by WA6VEF & N6BT. (82 slides).
6. 1985, Clipperton Expedition. (191 slides).
7. Ponape Is., by N6HR, travelogue. (81 slides).
8. Pribilof Is. operation of 1982. (48 slides).
9. Midway, by NA6T & KD7P, 1985. (120 slides).
10. Antarctica, Arctowski, Palmer, Peter I, Macquarie stns.. (101 slides).
11. VR6, Pitcairn, Mar./Apr., 1979, by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI. (51 slides).
12. SM0AGD 1982 Pacific DXped, 1982. (150 slides).
13. 9U5JB, Burundi, by ON5NT, 1983. (57 slides).
14. TYA11, Benin, by ON5NT, 1981. (61 slides).
15. VK3DCU/2, Lord Howe Is., by K2UO, 1980. (52 slides).
16. 3A, Monaco, by F8EYS & F8HIX of 1984. (43 slides).
17. 5X5, Uganda, by DJ6SI of 1985. (115 slides).
18. Market Reef, July 1983, PA0GAM/OH0/OJ0. (100 slides).
19. KX6DS, Marshall Is., 1986. (34 slides).
20. Andorra, by DL1HBT, DL3HAH, DL5BAD, DL4BRO, DL4BAH, 1986. (50 slides).
21. 1986, Clipperton, by W6SZN, W6OAT, A16V, N7NG, W6RGG. (176 slides).
22. Peter I Is., 3Y by LA1EE & LA2GV, 1987. (127 slides).
23. KP2N, 1986, CQWW DX CW Contest. (55 slides).
24. OF0MA, Market Reef, 1987, SM5AQD, GM3YOR, OH0NA, G4EDG, G4JVG. (28 slides).
25. Abu Ali, A15AA, by DJ6SI, 1988. (65 slides).
26. XX9CW, by DK7PE, 1986. (16 slides).
27. 1988, Palmyra, by K9AJ, KP2A, WA2MOE, W0RLX, F6EXV, JA5DQH. (30 mins.).
28. 1988, Kingman Reef, by the above operators. (96 slides, 28 mins.).
29. 1988, 4U, KC4, VK9Y, VK9X, and 9VI, by W7SW. (73 slides).
30. Banaba Is., T33JS, T30 & T27, by KN6J/VK9NS. (80 slides, 80 mins.).
31. XF4L, by XE1L, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, OH2BU, JH4RHF, W6RGG & N7NG. (40 mins.).
32. Publishing The DX Bulletin, by Chod Harris (24 mins.).
33. Rotuma, 1988 slides, by W6SZN. (73 mins.).
34. 4J1FS, MV Is., 1989, with Finn, Soviet & American DXers, by K7JA. (16 mins.).
35. ZS8MI, Marion Is., by Peter Sykora, ZS6PT. (60 mins.).
36. V63-KC6-P29, Micronesia/Melanesia, 1989, by KQ1F & K1XM. (20 mins.).
37. YL DXped to Wallis Is., June 1989, by NM7N, N7HAT, N4DDK, KA0MX. (20 mins.).
38. A51JS, Bhutan, by VK9NS, Jim Smith. (60 mins.).
39. HC8X, Galapagos, by KQ1F. (34 mins.).
40. Faroe Is., May 1991, by N6HR. (28 mins.).
41. Palmyra Is., KP6AZ, 1963, by W6FAY. (c1 hour).
42. VK9WW-VK9NL/W, Willis Is., Oct 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (38 mins.).
43. S2-Bangladesh, 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (26 mins.).
44. Christmas Is., 1992, VK9XN-VK9XM, by W5KNE. (50 mins.).
45. Jarvis, KH5, 1992, by WA6AUE. (45 mins.).
46. Kingman Reef, 1993, by N9NS, VE5RA, N0AFW, OZ1LFG, PA3DZN, PA0ERA. (90 mins.).
47. Palmyra, 1993, by G0LXM, HB9AHL, NH6UY, HDB9AEE, W7KNT, G3KHZ. (32 mins.).
48. Mellish Reef, 1993, by VK4CRR, G3WGV, K5VT, V73C, WA4DAN, VK2BLL, VK2BEX & P29DX. (25 mins.).
49. Dominica, 1993 by N6EK & KB6VYX. (40 mins.).
50. 3D2CU - 3D2CT Conway Reef 1995, by N1GT (56 mins.).
51. H40AA narrated by Bruce Butler, W6OSP
52. 3B7RF, Saint Brandon 1998 (38 mins.).
53. 3Y DXpedition, 1987, copy of slides by Jim Hurt, West GA College & W4VWA. (40 mins.).
54. Peter I, 1987, video from JA7ARW.
55. 1979 Spratly Is. DXpedition, by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BLL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A.
56. 1988 Malyj Vysoiskij Is., OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX. (23 mins.).
57. 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988, Produced by W4BRE.
58. Aruba, P40V, CQWW Test 1988. (12 Mins.).
59. A Message From Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. (12 mins.).
60. Navassa of 1988, by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q & W3GH. (38 mins.).
61. Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SV0AA, April 1989. (40 mins.).
62. N0IZ/KH1, Howland Is., 1988, by N01Z, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL. (20 mins.).
63. Boeing ARC at the Electronic Convention and Great Wall Of China. (audio tape for VHS, 30 mins.).
64. K C Club DXpedition to Tonganoxie Is., a spoof. (30 mins.).
65. Tuvalu, 1989, by K6EDV & AL1AMO. (27 mins.).
66. Visalia Convention of 1990, recorded by W6NLG. (2 hours).
67. Rotuma, 1988, copy of the slide show by Jim Hurt, WGC & Henry Owen W4VWA. (73 mins.).
68. XW8CW & XW8DX, 1989, by HA5PP & HA5WA, Produced by W4BRE. (27 mins.).
69. XU8CW & XU8DX, 1990, by HA5PP & HA5WE, Produced by W4BRE. (25 mins.).
70. All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition, plus BY1PK. (32 mins.).
71. ZS8MI, by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show. (40 mins.).
72. Jim Smith, A51JS, visits the Bay Area, videotaped by WA6BXY. (80 mins.).
73. R9ZFN7A, NN7D & W7YS, August 1989, Lake Teletskoye, Siberia. (30 mins.).
74. VU7, Laccadive Is., 1984. (65 mins.).
75. VU4, Andaman Is., 1987, by Combalore Radio Club. (30 mins.).
76. 3Y5X Expedition, 1989, Video by JF11ST. (In Japanese, good photography, 35 mins.).
77. VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC, 1/8/91, VHS by K6IMN. (125 mins.).
78. 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle. (25 mins.).
79. ICOM's More Than Radios, The Legacy We Leave To The Young. (25 mins.).
80. T33R-T33T. Banaba, Nov. 1990, SM7PKK, TF3CW & OH1RY. (22 mins.).
81. This Is ATV, by Western Washington AT Society & Seeing Is Believing, by AEA. (47 mins.).
82. New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure, by AA6LF. (55 mins.).
83. YB3ASQ: Indonesian Stations and Sightseeing, by W7TSQ. (25 mins.).
84. XF4L of 1989, by JH4RHF, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, W6RGG, XE1L, OH2BU & N7NG. (25 mins.).
85. ET2A, by W4IBB, Jack Reeves, May 1991. (12 mins.).
86. IS0XV, by UW3R, et al, July 1990. (35 mins. or a 2 hour version, your choice).
87. Jarvis 1990, from K3NA & KN3T. (35 mins.).
88. 3C0CW, Annobon, 1991, by the Garrota Club of Spain. (20 mins.).
89. Araucaria DX Group, Brazil, Contest Station and Operators. (30 mins.).
90. 9L1US, by Dave Heil, K8MN, ed. by Jim Hurt, West GA. College & W4VWA. (45 mins.).
91. Dave Heil, K8MN visits Finland, edited by Jim Hurt & Henry Owen, W4VWA. (35 mins.).
92. Penguin Is., 1990, from a slide show by N7NG, Wayne Mills, produced by MoBre. (15 mins.).
93. P9JW, 1990, Spirit Of Victory, Radio Team Finland, produced by WA7LW. (48 mins.).
94. Empire Of The Air: The Men Who Made Radio, recorded by K16YB. (110 mins.).
95. Contest Night Live, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.).
96. DXing Kansas City, Style, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.).
97. VP8ANT/G3CWI, Adelaide Is., Antarctica. (45 mins.).
98. H44, May 1991, by G3WVG, G3IXT & G3SXW. (12 mins.).
99. VP2EOH, Anguilla Is., by Northern Ohio DXA, 1992. 29 mins.).
100. T32T, Christmas Is., WPX SSB Test, Mar. 1990, narrated by VP2ML & video by JH1LBR.
101. VP8SSI, South Sandwich, 1992. (26 mins.).
102. More About Radios, Zman Productions, (How To Get Started In Amateur Radio). (28 mins.).
103. Navassa Is., Jan. 1992, by WA4DAN, AA4VK, N0TO, KW2P & AA4NC. (25 mins.).
104. Getting Started In DXing, by CQ Communications, Inc.. (52 mins.).
105. The Radio Ham, starring Tony Hancock, English comedy. (26 mins.).
106. Project Irma: The DX Truth-O-Meter, Northern Cal. DX Convention, 1993. (25 mins.).
107. ZL9DX, Auckland Is., by ZL1OK, ZL1AVC, ZL2PTY, JH4RHF & JR4DUW. (28 mins.).
108. LY0DXX, Aug. 1989, Sable Island by the Breston DX Group. (18 mins.).
109. V63-KC6-P29, by KQ1F & K1XM, slide copy by Jim Hurt & Harry Owen, W4VWA. (25 mins.).
110. Desecheo, KP5, 1992/3, with KW2P, N0TG, WA4DAN, W0RJU & AA4VK. (28 mins.).
111. E35X, Eritrea, May 31 - June 10, 1993, by LA6VM, LA1EE, JF11ST, LA9DL & LA7XK. (17 mins.).
112. AH1A, Howland Is., 1993, by ON6TT, W0RLX, K9AJ, W0CP, K0EU, W9IXX, K4UEE, F6EXV & G4LJF. (45 mins.).
113. 9G1AA, Ghana, by PA3AWW, PA3FUE, PA3FUE, PA3ERA, PA3DEW & PA0TUK. (55 mins.).
114. 9M0S, Spratly Islands, 1993, N7NG, WA6AUE, OH6DO, JA5DQH, OH1NYP, 9VIYW, 9M2FK, OH2MAK and OH2BH. (30 mins.).
115. Journey to Peter I, 1994. (30 mins.).
116. ZD9SXW, Tristan da Cunha, 1994, by G3SXW. (18 mins.).
117. Last Voice From Kuwait, 9K2DZ. (25 mins.).
118. Malyj Vysoiskij Island, 4J1FM/4J1FW, October 1992, by AH0W ex 4J1FM. (43 mins.).
119. 3C0GD, Annobon, 1989 by LA8PV. (20 mins.).
120. IA0KM & HV4NAC. (30 mins.).
121. H44IO, South Pacific DX-pedition, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM. (46 mins.).
122. The Congo, TN4U & TN2M, 1995, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM (40 mins.).
123. 3V8BB, 1994 (17 mins.).
124. Mission to Jordan, The joint Israeli/Jordanian DX-pedition, JY74Z, in July '95. (43 mins.).
125. The Kermadecs DX Adventure, ZL8RI - DX AT ITS BEST (30 mins.).
126. World Radiosport Team Championship, 1996 (23 mins.).
127. VK0IR Heard Island 1997, by Peter Casler ON6TT (51 mins.).
128. Bell Lab's video. "Similarities in Wave Behavior" (27 mins.).
129. "Eric Eoberg, W6DU Memorial Pacific DXpedition" by WA4FFW
130. Legends of Amateur Radio - W6EA, W6HX & K6OJ - Southern California DX Club (42 mins.).
131. DXpedition to the Spratlys - 1996 - Slide show on video (30 mins.).
132. H40AA, The Temotu DXpedition - April 1998 - (10 mins.).
133. 3B9RF, Saint Brandon, 1998 by K5KG (38 mins.).
134. ZL9CI, Campbell Island, 1999 by 9VIYC (60 mins.).

We have the following VHS programs

1. XU1SS (plus BV0YL & BV0JA), (35 mins.).
2. 7J1RL, Expedition of 1976 & 1978, (includes ZK9ZR, Mellish Reef).
3. VK9ZR, Expedition of 1978, (plus Ogasawara, 1978).
4. Frankford Radio Club ARRL phone parody, (plus JH7YFL, WW CW).
5. JF11ST/7J1, Expedition to Okino Torishima of 1979. (25 mins.).
6. Australian travelogue, Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island. (55 mins.).
7. Ham Radio In The South Cook Is., by ZK1CA & ZK1CT. (70 mins.).
8. VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI, copy of above slides by Jim Hurt, W Geo College & W4VWA.
9. Looking Up In Rio Linda, 1986, by W6GO/K6HHD. (45 mins.).
10. Revilla Gigedo, XF4DX, of 1987, Produced by WA8MAZ. (15 mins.).
11. North Texas Contest Club, towers and contesters, by K5TCK. (45 mins.).
12. It Started With A Broken Fence - JH3DPB's Tall Tower Tale. (15 mins.).
13. Pile-Up Busters, by W8TN, AB01 & N0FVG. (10 mins. & usually sent with #12).
14. FG/W2QM/FS, French St. Martin, DXing Senior Style - Another wrinkle to DXing.
15. 1984 Laccadive Is. DXped, VU7WCY, plus 1983 VK0HI from TV. (about 60 mins.).
16. The K6UA contest station story. (25 mins.).
17. HK0TU DXped of 1983, Malpelo. (25 mins. with audio tape translation by KB6MZC).
18. The Ship That Shouldn't Have - VK0JS Heard Is. DXpedition. (90 mins.).
19. The New World Of Amateur Radio. (28 mins.).
20. S0RASD, The Western Sahara Story, 1987, by the Lynx Group. (37 mins.).

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