



# NCDXF newsletter

www.ncdxf.org

Summer 2022

## The NCDXF DXCC Rock Collection (DXCCRC)

Glenn Johnson, WØGJ

JACK TROSTER, A GEOLOGIST, WAS THE first secretary of the Northern California DX Foundation. He started collecting rocks from a few places he had been. By word of mouth, a few DXing friends brought him small rocks they had collected while on a DXpedition or on trips to foreign countries.

### Rock recognition

In the Summer 1991 NCDXF Newsletter, Jack listed and described a total of 19 rocks from 19 entities he and friends had visited. In response to this short two-page article, many DXpeditioners sent him rocks from many entities. Soon his collection “made DXCC” with over 100 different entities represented!

Jack was NCDXF’s secretary for 26 years. He became a Silent Key in January 2014 at the age of 93. (*Read more about Jack at the end of this article, at the bottom of page 3.*)

Several years before he passed away, he gave the NCDXF rock collection to his good friend Jerry Griffin, K6MD. Jerry put the collection in his attic. In the spring of 2022, Jerry was cleaning out his attic and found the rock collection pretty much intact. He made contact with me, and we made arrangements to have it safely packed and shipped to me.

When it arrived, the rocks were in random order, numbered in order of receipt. There were about 152 entities



190 entities of the NCDXF DXCC Rock Collection.

represented. The rocks were in three old parts bin drawers. There was a faded label on each little drawer. Inside each drawer were one or two entities, most having a little story or description of the rock and by whom it had been collected.

There was only one unidentified rock, but there was a call sign attached to it. I contacted the German call sign owner and he remembered giving the rock of the same description to Jack. It was from Iran. After telling the NCDXF Board of Directors of the “gold mine” we had inherited, more rocks were sent to me. We now have 190 entities represented in the collection.

### Rocks on display

I spent most of May carefully recataloging each and every rock. They were then sorted by call sign prefix order. I found some nice “hot wheels” display cases with a mirrored bottom to show off the rocks. Each case has room for 108 entities. The display is now very impressive, very visible and

arranged by entity prefix. Any collection data or stories about the rock are in each little cubbyhole with the rock.

### Notable rocks

From Italy we have a small stone  
*continued on page 3*

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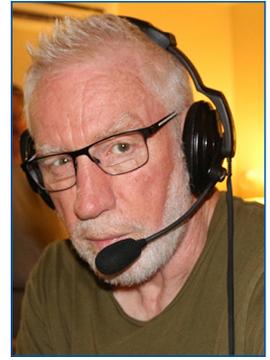


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# From the President's desk

We are all anxious to hear and work DXpeditions, and an often-discussed question is “When will DXpeditions return to normal or pre-pandemic levels?” The short answer is “We don’t know.”



Looking into what we hear, read and indicators, I’d say the world is changed, probably forever. Many countries are still on intermittent lockdown, and many sources of transportation have disappeared (e.g., MV *Braveheart*). Various DXpedition teams are in the planning stage. A large one has already executed (TX5N), and another large one is well on the way (3YØJ), while another has been delayed again (CYØS), and yet another good-sized one was planned to VU4 (YL2GM). In the end, Juris was the only one who made it to VU4, and what an excellent job he did.

Lots of DX has become available to work on FT8, and on the higher HF bands — 15M, 12M and even 10M, with the rising sunspot and solar flux numbers. We are also starting to hear more and more CW and even some SSB on the bands.

Many DXpeditions get started from conversations at conventions – Visalia, Dayton, Friedrichshafen. Eyeball QSOs over a glass of wine or beer are essential to forming and planning a DXpedition. Two such conventions did occur this year (Dayton and Friedrichshafen).

The premier DX convention in Visalia, California, the International DX Convention (IDXC), will happen again in 2023. Please follow the link [www.dxconvention.com](http://www.dxconvention.com) and make plans to attend — the dates are April 21-23, 2023. Attending will help DX happen.

In this newsletter, we have articles covering the coveted NCDXF Rock Collection, curated by our Treasurer and well-travelled WØGJ; photo showing our support for WRTC; how to change your estate plan to support NCDXF (K6GSJ); NCDXF’s VP, K9CT, getting elected to the *CQ Magazine* Contest Hall of Fame; profile of NCDXF co-Founder Vince Chin (W6EE); and an excellent story of the TX5N DXpedition detailed by K5GS.

The major upcoming DXpedition to much-needed Bouvet Island, 3YØJ, continues to make good progress ([www.3y0j.no](http://www.3y0j.no)). However, they need your financial support. Please help as you can either directly, through your club, or with a directed donation to NCDXF (if the amount by check to NCDXF is over \$250).

As far as when I think DXpeditions will return to the quantity and rate we saw before the pandemic, my best guess is it may take as long as 10 years. Each year improves the factors needed to make DXpeditions happen. You can be part of that. Encourage those considering or planning DXpeditions to attend conventions and work what you hear.

Please consider joining our Cycle 25 Fund to support DXpeditions in the future. And check out our new banner ad on [www.DX-World.net](http://www.DX-World.net).

*Kevin J. Rowett*

**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)



*I finally “made contact” with Bouvet!*

from inside the Coliseum and a stone from Marconi’s lab area. There is a stone from the top of Masada in Israel. From Hawaii, there is a piece of lava “one hour old” (at least at the time it was collected). There is a piece of the Berlin wall, a stone from the roof of 4U1ITU in Geneva, and a piece of marble from a destroyed statue of Lenin in the center of Kiev.

Romeo donated a stone from his P5RS7 operation. We even have a P5 stone picked up when an Army major reached over the North/South Korean wall to pick up a pebble. Guns were immediately pointed at him, but the DPRK snipers started laughing when they saw what he was doing.

I was on the aborted 3YØZ Bouvet DXpedition a couple years ago and never got a chance to set foot on Bouvet and pick up a rock. However, we have a rock from the 1990 3Y5X DXpedition ... so I’ve finally “made contact” with Bouvet!

We have rocks from Omaha Beach in France and from the shores of Loch Ness in Scotland. There are pieces of petrified wood from at least three continents. We have a stone from Bounty Bay on Pitcairn Island where the mutineers burned the HMS *Bounty*.

Some entities don’t have rocks, but only coral, shells, or sand. We have these in the collection, too. (The sand is in nice little labeled vials.) We have rocks from eight deleted entities, too.

We even have rocks from MO-ROCK-o and E-STONE-ya, but rest assured, we have no stones, as Jack was always pointing out that the geological definition of a stone is something one throws.

I will be displaying our collection at W9DXCC and then W4DXCC in September and hopefully at Visalia’s International DX Convention in 2023.

## Missing rocks

Surprisingly, we are missing rocks from some very common entities. On the other hand, we have a number of rocks from some extremely rare entities.

The list of rocks still needed to complete the collection can be found here: [NCDXF-Needed-Rocks](#)

If you or your friends have a rock, shell, or sand from one of our needed entities, or could spare a piece of it, even a tiny piece, you can be assured that it will be proudly displayed in our DXCC Rock Collection showcases! (Anything larger than 1" x 2" will not fit in the display cases.)

Please contact me ([w0gj@arrl.net](mailto:w0gj@arrl.net)) before sending to be sure we still need it. Mail, do not throw, your rock to me.

Any bets on when we can make DXCC Rock Collection Honor Roll? 



*P5 rock collected at gunpoint.*



*Jack Troster, W6ISQ. Photo: Bob Wilson, N6TV*

## Milestones: QST Contributing Editor Jack Troster, W6ISQ, SK

QST Contributing Editor and ham radio humorist John G. “Jack” Troster, W6ISQ, of Atherton, California, died January 11, 2014; he was 93.

“While his contributions to QST were not limited to fiction, Jack will always be remembered for some of the most humorous pieces ever to be written about Amateur Radio,» said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Licensed in 1935, Troster was among the founders of the Northern California DX Foundation in 1972. He served as its third president and, for 26 years, as an NCDXF Board member. He also was president of the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California Contest Club. An ARRL Charter Life Member, he held DXCC #1 Honor Roll (Mixed, CW, and SSB) and other operating awards, and was a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

“He was warm and welcoming to everyone he met, and many Amateur Radio operators today enjoy the hobby as a direct result of his nurturing, encouragement and enthusiasm,» said Rusty Epps, W6OAT. “Jack was known for his quick wit and encyclopedic knowledge of Amateur Radio history. His passing leaves a huge void.”

*~ reprinted from The ARRL Letter, January 16, 2014*

# TX5N DXpedition to the Austral Islands

By Gene Spinelli, K5GS

DISCOVERED BY EUROPEANS IN THE 18th century, the Austral Islands are located 373 miles (600 km) south of Tahiti's capital city Papeete. The islands are administered by France and fly the flag of French Polynesia. The archipelago is made of seven islands, five of which are inhabited and four of which are accessible by air. The islands have an area of 152 km (59 square miles). An untouched and mysterious land where white sand beaches clash with the intense blue of the lagoons, the Austral Islands are off the beaten track, offering a memorable and unique experience in French Polynesia.

The distance, not so large on an immense scale, is enough to project you into another universe. A world of Polynesian wonders, with superb, preserved scenery, a true South Seas experience, but also a world of encounters with the inhabitants who offered us an authentic and warm welcome.

## Raivavae Island

We operated from Raivavae, 17 km (6.9 sq miles), population of about 900 people. Languages spoken on the island include French, Tahitian, Rapa, Austral and Polynesian. Raivavae is a "paradise" at the ends of the world, a word that in no way is an exaggeration in this context. It is a timeless place that nothing seems to perturb, spoil or tarnish. The incredible tranquility, so characteristic of the Austral Islands as well as the abundant natural and cultural riches, have slowly been getting the recognition they deserve, with the development of a growing yet measured tourism.

The island has a small airport which receives several Air Tahiti flights a week. There's a seaport which provides the residents with cargo services several times a month and also some

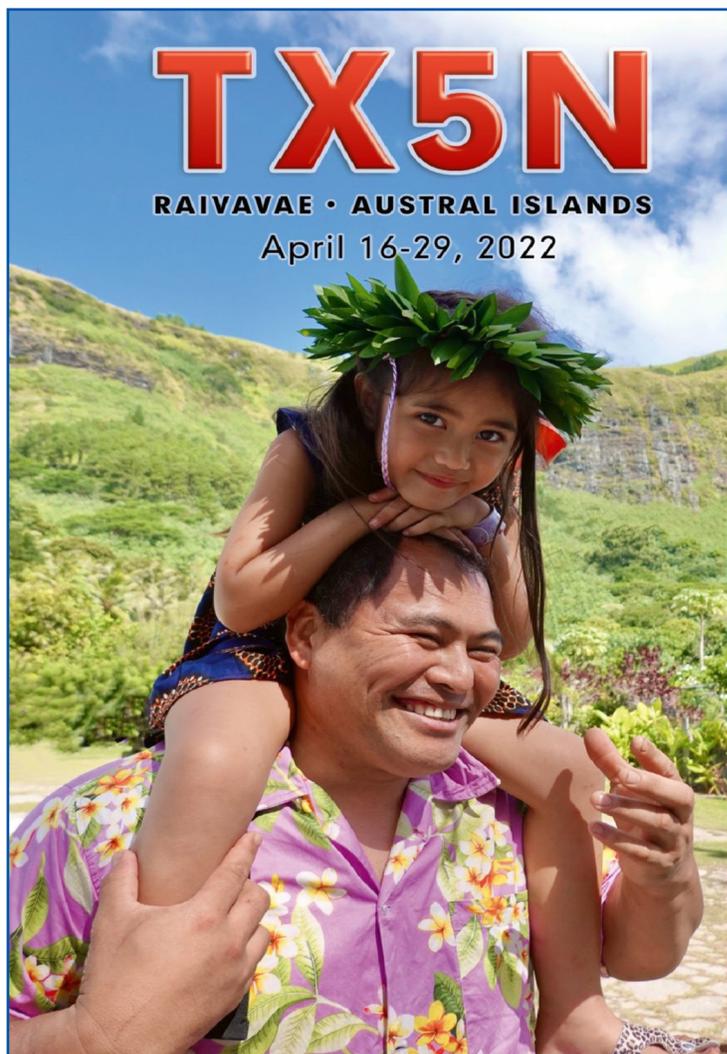
tourism opportunities for people visiting each of the islands called on by the supply ship *Tuhaa Pae IV*.

There are no restaurants on Raivavae, although enterprising individuals may offer occasional restaurant service at their home. There is little shopping, just a few general stores which sell the basic food items and necessities. The residents grow their own fruits and vegetables, and fish are plentiful. There are no doctors, dentists or eye care professionals on the island, though a nurse with tele-med access to Papeete is available for consultations and, if required, air evacuation to Papeete is available. The only school has just over 100 students, kindergarten through about age 11. For their secondary education the children can go to boarding school in Tahiti.

The residents of this island live a spartan lifestyle, without the conveniences many of us enjoy. There are no petrol stations, nor automobile repair

shops. Petrol and diesel can be obtained at one of the few general stores, and there's a retired mechanic on the island who can help with some repairs, but he does not have the technology to work on newer vehicles. We did see current model vehicles — KIA, Toyota, Ford, Citron to name a few — as well as many older vehicles. Motor, electric and push bikes are plentiful, and there is a bus service that runs between the island's four villages. Outrigger canoes dot the landscape and are used for transportation, fishing and recreation.

There are no motels or hotels; visitors to Raivavae stay at one of several pensions located around the island. We used Tama Raivavae Inn, which is on the north side of the island and has beach access from three of its five bungalows. There is also a small apartment located across the road from the beach and the other two bungalows. Adjacent to Tama Raivavae is a general store on one side and a church on the other.





*At the Easter services, locals came dressed in brightly-colored clothing with flowers adorned upon their heads. Photo: K6AOL*

Aside from what the locals grow and catch for themselves, everything is imported, making most items very expensive. There is a barter economy where locals trade amongst themselves for labor, fish or other commodities. Houses are generally small and there is no air conditioning, as mains power is sold by the kilowatt hour and the user prepays at the “cash power” meter located on their property. Mains power is very reliable, albeit expensive.

### **Planning and preparation**

Returning home from VP8PJ (South Orkney Islands) in March 2020, we entered the new world of Coronavirus travel restrictions and country closures. Trying to plan a future DXpedition proved to be a frustrating experience. With most countries closed to international travel, the landing permit processes stopped and, more importantly, with the loss of *Braveheart*, we saw no opportunities in 2020 and well into 2021.

When several EU countries announced they would reopen in mid-2021 we started searching the web for possible DXpedition locations. Hoping to find an available entity, we formed the core team of Rob Fanfant, N7QT; Gene Spinelli, K5GS; Walt Wilson, N6XG, and Steve Dyer, W1SRD, each a member of the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG). Rob, N7QT, and

Melanie Bishop, N7BX, had been to the Austral Islands on two previous visits. Rob contacted Tama Raivavae and asked about doing a DXpedition in early 2022.

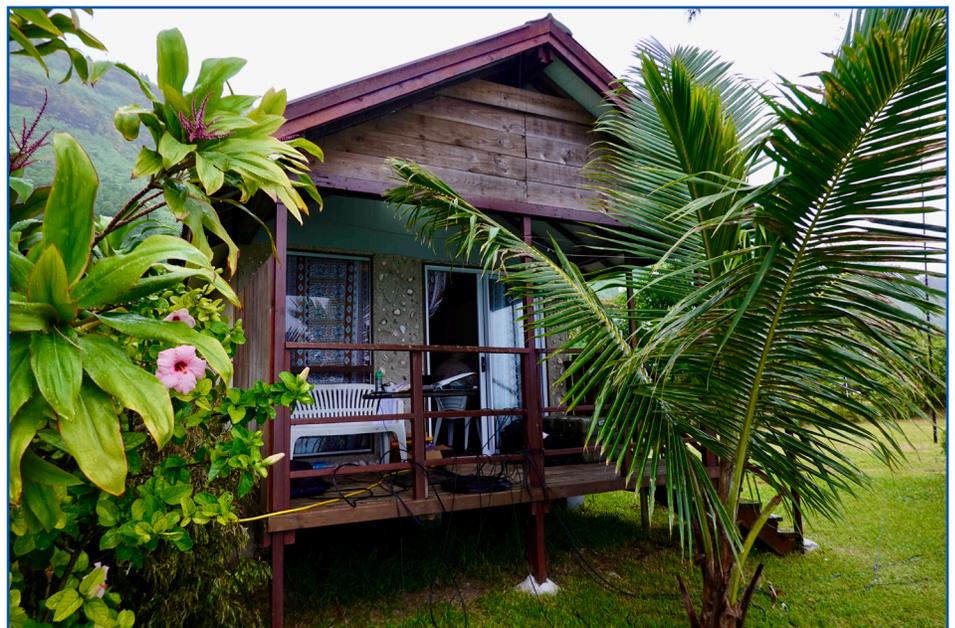
With it possible to make guesthouse reservations and French Polynesia being open (with reasonable Coronavirus restrictions) we began the process of applying for a call sign and government authorization to import/export the radio equipment. When the final authorization arrived on December 23, 2021, we booked nonrefundable airline tickets to Tahiti and onward to Raivavae. Fellow

PDXG teammate Heye Harms, DJ9RR, joined the team in January 2022. Tama Raivavae had enough sleeping facilities and a pricing structure that made it possible for us to bring along our wives and/or partners. Three of the five ladies are licensed amateurs: Melanie, N7BX; Doris Wong, KØBEE, and Liz Wilson, K6AOL.

An equipment and sourcing plan was established and, in January 2022, several of us met in California to consolidate and pack the equipment. We had more equipment than reasonable to check as excess baggage, so we contacted our San Francisco-based Customs broker and started the process to ship about 500 kg (1,100 pounds) of equipment by air to Papeete and, later, by cargo ship to Raivavae.

The equipment lineup included four Elecraft K3 transceivers, three Elecraft KPA500 amplifiers, one Flex Power Genius (PGXL) amplifier and one Gemini DX-1200 amplifier. The antenna inventory included the NA4RR hex beam, monoband VDAs for 10M-20M, two SteppIR BigIR w/80M verticals, and an inverted-L for 160M.

With Coronavirus cancellation always a possibility and less than three months to prepare for the project, we decided that the team would pay for this project themselves. There wasn't enough time to do a proper fundraising campaign and if we had to cancel, all donations would have to be refunded.



*This bungalow served as our radio shack. Photo: K6AOL*



*The hex beam assembly team. Photo: N7BX*

Instead, we posted a Donate link on the website offering free confirmations to donors and used the income to help pay for shipping with the team members paying the difference. 585 DXers took advantage of the offer.

### Arrival

Most of the team traveled from San Francisco to Papeete, Tahiti, adhering to Covid requirements in place at the time: proof of full vaccination and a negative Antigen test. We departed San Francisco on 12 April and flew on to Raivavae on 15 April, arriving on the island after dark on Good Friday and the beginning of a 4-day Easter holiday weekend.

Throughout the weekend the church next to our guest house was very busy with rehearsals and Easter services. Several of the team members attended church services and we watched the rehearsals when not on the radio. The locals were dressed in brightly colored Polynesian clothing and adorned with flowers. The services were accompanied by live music and singing. We were welcomed by the locals who were all very friendly and cordial.

### Sleeping and eating

Each team member had a bungalow with an ensuite, and one team member had the apartment. While small, they were comfortable and met our requirements. Tama Raivavae offered meal plans with either two or three meals a day. Initially we selected the breakfast/dinner option, noting that the general

store was so close we assumed we could grab lunch there. However, with it being the Easter holiday, the store was only open a few hours a day and was never open at night. As a result, we changed to the breakfast/lunch/dinner plan for the duration of our stay.

A full breakfast was served at 7 a.m.

consisting of freshly picked fruit, pancakes and/or eggs and various breads. Lunch was served at 1 p.m. and a sandwich was my usual fare, although there were other choices. Dinner at 7 p.m. varied between fresh fish, steak, pork and Italian. Usually there were two main courses from which to choose, accompanied by fruit and dessert selection that consisted of cakes, cookies, ice cream, etc. All meals included bottled water, various fruit juices, tea and coffee. Mango, banana and grapefruit were grown right on the property.

The general store sold beer, canned sodas, fruit drinks and snacks, as well as other foodstuffs. Being of French culture, there were baguettes both at the store and at Tama Raivavae. Beer and wine were available for purchase. Fresh water on the island is provided by capturing rainwater in large tanks. For showers and washing we used piped in rainwater and we drank bottled water. Each bungalow had a western toilet, small sink, and a shower.



*Working together to get the hex beam assembled. Photo: N7BX*



*Who wouldn't want to wake up to this view every day? Photo: N7BX*

## Operating setup

Tama Raivavae has three small bungalows on the beach. Two were used for sleeping and the third was the radio shack. Since we were using kilowatt (plus) amplifiers for the low bands, we were concerned about the mains power having enough capacity in a single bungalow. As a precaution we brought a 15-meter-long heavy duty extension cord and ran it from the adjacent bungalow to power the second station.

On the morning of Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> we began setting up the radios and antennas. During the setup several team members reported receiving electrical shocks when touching or connecting coax connectors, as well as when touching pieces of equipment. After a brief discussion we concluded that there was a grounding (earthing) deficiency with the mains power distribution system.

That evening we mentioned the problem to Dennis, the guest house owner, and asked about hiring an electrician, but being the holiday, there was little chance of that happening. We then suggested that a ground rod be installed. Dennis recalled the same problem with a Ham radio team years earlier. He said they installed a ground rod near the front of bungalow #2. After dinner, with flashlights, we searched through years of undergrowth and mature plants for the elusive ground rod. Steve, W1SRD, had a bright headlamp and spotted a very tarnished ground rod sticking out

of the earth. Walt, N6XG, cleaned the corrosion, ran cables to the two radio positions in bungalow #1, and the electrical problem was resolved. Several thousand feet of coax was run to the antennas and radio operations began.

## On the Air

We began operating on April 17<sup>th</sup> with Robin, WA7CPA, making the first contact. Over the next few days, the remaining antennas were installed, including the 160M inverted-L.

We were met by excellent propagation, with the Solar Flux Index approaching 170 during our stay. The HF bands were alive with callers. Not unexpected, the most popular bands were 20 and 17 Meters. However, as the days went on the high Solar Flux brought 15, 12, and 10 Meters to life with unbelievable worldwide pileups. K6TU's propagation tools were available free of charge from our website.

The 160M band proved to be disappointing with only 333 contacts. After the initial installation testing, we didn't hear many signals on 160. We swapped out the radio, no change. We then removed the 160M band pass filter, still nothing on the amateur band. We heard some faint signals on the broadcast band which was an indicator of what was to come. As the SFI rose productivity on 160M diminished. We eventually decommissioned the 160M antenna and converted it to an 80M antenna where

we made 1,595 contacts. During our stay the A index hovered around 10 which isn't optimal for the low bands.

The SteppIR BigIR was the work-horse for 40M and 60M. We had a limited amount of available antenna space but were able to extend our antenna space by using beachfront property owned by the church. The furthest antenna was the SteppIR at about 60 meters from the operating building with the hex beam a close second. We used RG-8 and RG-8X coax cable and connectors that were donated by DX Engineering.

With all parts being premeasured and pre-cut, the NA4RR hex beam, a newcomer to our projects, was amazingly easy and fast to assemble. After inspecting each band with a Rig Expert no adjustments from the factory specifications were required. The antenna performed admirably.

The Flex Power Genius (PGXL) and Gemini DX-1200 amplifiers were also newcomers to our projects. Several of the team members owned a PGXL so we were comfortable that it would perform well and it did just that. A DXpedition is about the best test bed for any piece of radio equipment. Two weeks of near continuous operation, occasional operator errors such as wrong filter or no antenna connected to the amp, mains power fluctuation or dropouts will quickly uncover equipment shortfalls.

Mode/Band	160M	80M	60M	40M	30M	20M	17M	15M	12M	10M	Total QSO	Total%
CW	0	281	0	1742	1,586	2,951	1,737	1,722	3,417	3,270	16,706	30.82%
FT8	333	1,251	421	2,564	3,568	4,332	5,574	2,538	3,036	2,929	26,556	49%
SSB	0	53	0	872	0	1,699	1,359	2,798	1,905	2,252	10,938	20.18%
Total QSO	333	1,595	421	5,178	5,157	8,982	8,670	7,058	8,358	8,451	54,200	100%
Total %	.61%	2.94%	.78%	9.55%	9.51%	16.57%	16%	13.02%	15.42%	15.59%	100%	

The numbers speak for themselves. FT8 dominated the bands.

Continent/Band	160M	80M	60M	40M	30M	20M	17M	15M	12M	10M	Total QSO	Total%
Africa	2	4	2	16	14	40	27	25	47	46	223	.41%
Asia	175	567	1	2,235	1,535	2,526	2,051	2,232	1,981	1,945	15,248	28.13%
Europe	3	207	211	709	1,852	3,802	3,157	1,069	1,274	860	13,144	24.25%
North America	143	749	195	1,999	1,613	2,342	3140	3,354	4,739	5,289	23,563	46.47%
Oceania	9	62	10	149	97	204	137	190	135	121	1,114	2.06%
South America	1	6	2	70	43	68	158	188	181	190	907	1.67%
Not Determined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0%
Total QSO	333	1,595	421	5,178	5,154	8,982	8,670	7,058	8,358	8,451	54,200	100%

Europe did well on 30M, 20M and 17M, but fell behind on 15M, 12M and 10M.

The Gemini DX-1200 arrived just before we left home, so it came to the island as excess baggage with only minimal testing before leaving home. We did have one problem with the Gemini that impacted HF operation. But since the amp was brought along for Low Band operation it wasn't a serious problem. Its performance was as expected: consistent full output with the heat and fan noise we have come to know with all solid state kilowatt amplifiers.

The DX-1200 was returned to the factory where the problem was quickly identified and repaired. Since this writing, it's been back in the USA and performing perfectly. We purchased an additional DX-1200 for future projects. Its weight, size and performance make it a good DXpedition amplifier. As usual, the Elecraft K3 transceivers and KPA500 amplifiers performed flawlessly.

The HF VDA antennas were home-built using Spiderbeam fiberglass poles as was the 160M inverted-L. The hex beam was at an elevation of about 7 meters using a Spiderbeam aluminum push-up mast. The radial system for the vertical antennas was designed by Heye, DJ9RR.

Antenna setup was routine. We experienced three days of high winds

which damaged the hex beam when a tree stump, used as a guy anchor, pulled out of the ground. One spreader tube was broken but quickly replaced with an exact replacement spare part.

During the same wind storm, the high surf floated a log onto the beach, possibly striking an in-water VDA guy anchor. With the combination of wind and surf (and maybe log) the antenna fell over. It was restored to service after the storm subsided.

Radio operators worked in 4-hour shifts, 4 on/8 off, rotating every few days through the 24-hour period. Three Lenovo X-230 (i7) laptops were networked together running *N1MM Logger+* and *WSJT-X*. While most of the FT8 callers understood the Fox/Hound concept, many did not. During each FT8 operating period there were a number of people calling below 1,000 Hz (not in F/H mode). We transmitted general messages indicating Fox/Hound was required. But still, too many callers didn't understand the F/H protocol.

Similar to our experiences on previous DXpeditions, as SSB and CW faded, FT8 would remain active for more hours, sometimes many more hours. It seemed as if there was a constant demand for FT8. We received several emails from Europe that indicated people were making FT8 contacts

with a wire antenna and low power.

Speaking of emails, we did not have a pilot team for this project. We did read emails on the island, which is unusual for our team. Most of the emails offered advice and many boosted morale. Several weren't welcomed and indicated the sender was unaware of how DXpeditions actually operate.

## Statistics

The numbers speak for themselves. With two stations operating 7x24 and excellent HF propagation, we made 54,200 contacts with 152 DXCC entities. Our dupe rate was a reasonable 2.98%. While Europe did well on 30M, 20M and 17M, they fell behind on 15M, 12M and 10M. To the surprise of many, Asia and Europe were only a few percentage points from one another's total. Clearly, 15M, 12M and 10M were Europe's shortfall.

Not unexpected, FT8 continues to dominate the bands, with SSB losing the most ground. Typically, CW is usable long after SSB fades, but FT8 continues on long after CW fades. Coupled with the fact that even the most minimally equipped stations can now get in the FT8 log, it's no surprise that FT8 continues to dominate.

HF propagation to North America was spectacular, the pileups were wide

and deep but productivity was always excellent. Asia pileups were equally strong and disciplined. The European pileups were somewhat challenging.

## Back to Papeete

After 14 days on the island it was time to leave. We began dismantling the stations on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Progress was good and by sundown we had most of the equipment packed away. Our flight the next day was at 1 p.m. and with the airport only 20 minutes away, we kept one station on the air through the night.

But all good things must come to an end. At sunrise on the 29<sup>th</sup> with the last QSO in the log with Jim, N2ZZ, we took down the remaining antenna, backed up the logs, and finished packing equipment for shipment. After a wonderful breakfast we left for the airport, and looked forward to our layover in Papeete.

With time to relax and now in a more traditional setting we did some shopping and had a look around Tahiti. The team discussed the previous two weeks and concluded we met our objectives and had some fun. We hope it was a good experience for those of you chasing us in the pileups. We enjoyed hearing from people who contacted us, be they a mega-station competing to work us on every band and mode, or a new DXer confirming their first Austral Island contact. A consistent theme from the many who wrote was that they had “fun” chasing TX5N, and we had fun working you.

## The DX Code of Conduct

With the HF bands being as hot as they were, the pileups were energetic and seemed never ending. Most callers followed the DX Code of Conduct by calling at the right time and following the operator’s instructions. However, the usual suspects disrupted the operator’s cadence and rhythm by their continual calling, calling over the station the operator was trying to work, and calling blind.

This lack of discipline caused even our best SSB operator, who typically runs 200-225 Qs per hour, to achieve only about 75 Qs an hour. It’s been said many of these troublesome callers don’t speak English and therefore can’t be expected to follow instructions. We have a different opinion.

Those operators lack the discipline and operating skills to be calling a DXpedition. Everyone understands “QRX” and when the DXpedition operator announces in a commanding voice “I will not work another station until I get XYZ in the log,” mysteriously the frequency goes quiet. Caller XYZ is a real 5X9 and the Q is logged. A second later, the usual suspects are at it again with their nonstop calling and chaotic behavior.

Conservatively, we think that if these callers followed the basic principles of the DX Code of Conduct, they would get in the log and their geography would easily log many more QSOs. I have experienced this behavior on five previous DXpeditions. Unfortunately, if something doesn’t

change the problem will continue to repeat itself.

## Wrap up

As mentioned earlier, for this project there was no fundraising campaign. Three USA DX clubs sent unsolicited donations: Spokane DX Association, Mile High DX Association, and the Northeast Wisconsin DX Association. Corporate sponsors included DX Engineering, SteppIR, K6TU Propagation Tools, and NA4RR Hexagonal Beam Antenna.

Through our website, 585 DXers made a donation to help pay for our shipping costs, which cost several thousand dollars more than the donations received.

Managing the QSL and LoTW program is Tim, MØURX. Tim has processed over 2,500 OQRS transactions, some included a donation. Since many people only want an LoTW confirmation, by popular request we reinstated the Express LoTW option from TX3X. This option returns the LoTW confirmation within 48 hours of processing the request. Using this option, the DXer may also request a free bureau card. This option has proven to be a very popular choice.

We were happy to provide DXers an ATNO and/or band fills, and logging thousands of FT8 contacts for those seeking a contact. Until the next time, thank you for your interest in TX5N Austral Islands 2022.

Where are we going next? 



At the Dayton Hamvention® Contest Dinner in May, NCDXF presented a check for \$5,000 to support the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2022, now rescheduled to take place in Bologna, Italy, in July 2023. Pictured, from left are NCDXF Director Lee Finkel, KY7M; WRTC Organizer Claudio Veroli, I4VEQ; NCDXF Vice President Craig Thompson, K9CT, and NCDXF Organizer Fabio Schettino, I4UFH.

# K9CT elected to the CQ Magazine Contest Hall of Fame

Our NCDXF Vice President, Craig Thompson, K9CT, was elected to the CQ Magazine Contest Hall of Fame and received his plaque at the Hamvention® Contest Dinner in May. Here is the press release that accompanied his selection:

Craig Thompson, K9CT, is a world-class contester and promoter of youth in contesting. He developed the North American Collegiate Championship (NACC) program, in which college Amateur Radio clubs compete against each other in the context of the larger competition of the North American QSO Party. Craig also worked closely with Tim Duffy, K3LR, to develop a version of the Contest University (CTU) program specifically designed to integrate with each year's W9DXCC Convention. He is also involved in several Amateur Radio organizations, serving as treasurer of CWops, a board member of the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF), past president of the Society of Midwest Contesters and is currently chairman of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee.

Congratulations, Craig!



## 3YØJ says 'Thank You!'

The 3YØJ team met in Norway for testing and packing of the equipment going to Bouvet Island in January 2023. Our testing went great and the team members had the chance to meet and work together on different tasks.

We took a couple of minutes to take some pictures with the NCDXF flag to show appreciation for your extensive support!

The whole 3YØJ team says "THANK YOU"!

*(Editor's note: NCDXF donated \$100,000 to the 3YØJ DXpedition.)*

## 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).





# IDXC

74th International DX Convention  
April 21-23, 2023  
Visalia, CA



Join us in April for

# IDXC 2023

# The **LARGEST** Ham Radio DX Convention!

Visalia Convention Center • 303 E Acequia Ave • Visalia, CA 93291

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, April 21

- The DX & Contest Academy is a full-day event with topics ranging from the basics to more complex contesting & DXing concepts.
- Full day of training & presentations by recent DXpeditioners. Hear their stories first hand.
- Dinner options: TopBand, IOTA, Contesting

### Saturday, April 22

- Two Seminar Tracks
- Contest Forum, DX Forum, YL Forum, ARRL Forum, QSL Card Checking
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars
- Large Exhibit Hall - where you can comfortably talk to the people who design and sell ham radio equipment.
- Visalia area tour.
- Great Raffle Prizes
- Dinner banquet with keynote speaker.

### Sunday, April 23 (half day)

- Breakfast featuring a keynote speaker.

## Book your

## IDXC Hotel now!

Hotel reservations are available now at the special convention rate. There is no risk to booking early as you can cancel without penalty up to two days prior to the event.

Visit our website at [www.dxconvention.com](http://www.dxconvention.com) and click on the link for "Hotels" to see the options available and how to contact them to receive the special IDXC Convention rate.

For more information, visit the  
DX Convention website  
([www.dxconvention.com](http://www.dxconvention.com)), or  
contact your 2023 IDXC  
Co-Chairs: Clay Cougar,  
N5YJZ; Ned Stearns, AA7A, and  
Paul Ewing, N6PSE, or email  
[info@dxconvention.com](mailto:info@dxconvention.com)

# NCDXF Director Profile

It's 1972 in San Francisco. Four avid DXers met in the kitchen of Vince Chinn, then K6KQN and now W6EE, to discuss Vince's idea for a foundation that would qualify as a tax-exempt entity based upon its educational and technical contributions. Vince's idea was that a foundation could be established to encourage tax-deductible contributions from DXers that would be used to support DXpeditions to new and rare countries, help with the QSL chores, and perhaps help with radios and other equipment that would bring new ones on the air. The rest of the story is 50 years and over 500 DXpeditions supported, often with NCDXF as the "anchor" sponsor.

Vince is the last surviving Founder of NCDXF and we wanted his Profile in one of our 50th anniversary year newsletters. We want to thank Vince for his foresight 50 years ago and for his continuous support of the NCDXF mission throughout the years.



**NAME & CALL SIGN:** Vince Chinn, W6EE

**PAST CALLS:** K6KQN (I also had calls in Thailand and Vietnam in the 1970's)

**CURRENT (AND ONLY) QTH LOCATION:** San Francisco, CA

**WHAT IS (WAS) YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER?** Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

**WHAT COLLEGE DEGREE(S) DID YOU EARN AND WHERE DID YOU EARN THEM?** Business Administration at University of Notre Dame

**NCDXF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS?** Founder and Treasurer at the inception of NCDXF

**CURRENT DXCC STATUS?** Not Active

**DXPEDITION EXPERIENCE?** Vietnam and Mongolia

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT CONTRIBUTING TO NCDXF?** Donate!

**ANY TIPS FOR DXERS?** The bigger the antenna, the easier it is to work DX

**ANY ADVICE FOR NCDXF?** Keep up the good work! I give credit to the volunteers and donors!

**MARRIED? KIDS? GRANDKIDS?** Married with three children and two grandchildren.

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS?** Again, I want to give thanks to the volunteers who have kept the Foundation going!

## NCDXF Founders



From left: Ross Forbes, K6GFJ; Don Schliesser, K6RV (SK); Jack Troster, W6ISQ (SK), and Vince Chinn, W6EE

Think this is just a bunch of grumpy "old men?" Not really! At a December 2011 luncheon held in Palo Alto, CA, Ross Forbes, K6GFJ, NCDXF Director, presented Jack Troster, W6ISQ, with his "Founders" Polo shirt on behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Two of the other original four NCDXF founders — Donald Schliesser, K6RV, and Vincent Chinn, W6EE — also attended the luncheon. The 4th founder, Lee Shaklee, W6BH, was unable to attend.

# 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 Vice President, 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."

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

Tom Berson, ND2T	Alan Rovner, K7AR
Al Burnham, K6RIM	Bob Schmieder, KK6EK
Bruce Butler, W6OSP (sk)	Rich Seifert, KE1B
Rusty Epps, W6OAT	Charles Spetnagel, W6KK
John Grimm, KØYQ	Ned Stearns, AA7A
Rich Haendel, W3ACO	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR
Glenn Johnson, WØGJ	Craig Thompson, K9CT
Hardy Landskov, N7RT (sk)	Dan White, W5DNT
Ed Muns, WØYK	

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

## 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."



options, including specific bequests, designation of IRA beneficiaries and purchase of an annuity or life insurance. 

## It's Easy to Be a Cycle 25 Supporter

*Ross Forbes, K6GFJ*

MY WIFE AND I SET UP OUR WILLS AND trust over 20 years ago. Like many, we had not updated anything since then. Our original estate attorney retired about 10 years ago, and we met with his recommended replacement. After that meeting, we received a letter with recommended changes based on adjustments in tax laws. The letter of recommendations sat in a file all this time and we still never made any updates. It was a case of "out of sight, out of mind."

After some health issues during the past couple of years, we kept thinking we should update our wills. Thanks to Covid-19 lockdowns, we finally found time to discuss updates. We decided now was a good time to review how our estate would be distributed once we are gone. Besides, there must have been more changes to the tax codes, so

it was a good time to bring everything current. We talked about the changes we wanted to make as well as how our estate should be distributed. This was a good time to consider not only our family, but organizations, such as hospitals, educational groups, etc., that meant something to each of us so they could be included in the distribution list.

We made an appointment with our estate attorney and arrived with the list of changes. It took about an hour to go over everything. In addition to the names of family members to be included, we added a couple of organization names to the distribution list. Our attorney was careful to get the name and address of the Northern California DX Foundation so it could be included. I also included a section

on how to handle all of the "ham radio stuff" (radios, assorted test equipment, files, books etc.).

About two days later, the updated wills and trust were ready for review. A couple of minor changes (typos) were fixed. Finally, we met to sign the updated papers and have them notarized.

In summary, all we did was meet with our attorney to update our wills and trust and added the NCDXF to the distribution list. Next, we signed the updated forms so they could be properly recorded. That's all that was needed to become an NCDXF Cycle 25 Supporter. After you include the NCDXF in your will/trust distribution, please let the NCDXF know so we can add you to our list and send you a pin to show our appreciation. 

# Show your support for NCDXF

NCDXF offers several ways for you to show your love for DXing! Impress your friends with a gold-toned lapel pin at a DX convention. Show up at your next hamfest sporting a NCDXF ball cap, don a NCDXF T-shirt or keep warm wearing the new NCDXF 50th Anniversary hooded sweatshirt to set up your Yagi on Field Day. We've also added wicking long-sleeved tech shirts to keep you looking *and* feeling cool on your tropical DXpedition. And when you return from that rare DX entity, you can send out your QSLs affixed with an NCDXF label. To place your order, fill out and mail in the form below or visit [www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org) to place your order online through our secure website. *Please note, due to drastic increases in mailing costs, shipping (included) is only available to US addresses.*



*Navy blue long-sleeve hooded sweatshirt with full-length front zipper and pockets, available in Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large, 2X & 3X*



*White, long-sleeve tech shirt, available in Medium, Large, Extra Large, 2X & 3X*



*Gold-toned lapel pin*



*Navy blue ball cap (one size, fits most)*



*Navy blue short-sleeve t-shirt, available in Medium, Large, Extra Large, 2X & 3X*



*Roll of 500 labels*

Send me the following supplies (shipping included):

ITEM	UNIT COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Join NCDXF with your Contribution / Renewal (circle one)			\$
50th Anniversary Sweatshirt (circle size S / M / L / XL / 2X / 3X)	\$60		\$
Short sleeve T-shirt (circle size M / L / XL / 2X / 3X)	\$20		\$
Long sleeve tech shirt (circle size M / L / XL / 2X / 3X)	\$25		\$
Ball cap	\$12		\$
Lapel pin	\$10		\$
Roll of 500 labels	\$10		\$
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>			\$

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Check enclosed or Charge to Visa / MC / AmEx (circle one)

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*Mail your completed order form to NCDXF, PO Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012*