



NCDXF newsletter

www.ncdxf.org

Winter 2022

São Tomé DXpedition 2021

by the S9OK team

SÃO TOMÉ IS THE CAPITAL ISLAND of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe. It is oval in shape (45km long, 30km wide) and lies in the Atlantic Ocean, almost on the equator, about 300km off the coast of Gabon. It is quite mountainous, with the highest mountain rising more than 2,000 meters above sea level. The island has a population of just under 200,000 and Portuguese is the main language that is spoken there.

Where to next?

The Czech DXpedition Group (CDXP) first started talking about going to São Tomé before we left for our previous successful DXpedition to San Andrés (5KØK, 2019). We chose a QTH on the northern tip of the island (LOC JJ3ØHJ). This was one of the few places that could accommodate eight operators and promised reasonable space for antennas. The QTH was unblocked toward NA, EU and AS, and to SA over a slight climb. The situation was the worst to VK/ZL due to a steep climb in that direction. Since the island is mountainous, some directions will always be blocked to some degree.

COVID thwarted our plans for 2020, so we postponed the trip to 2021. During the summer, all of our operators got vaccinated. We divided the tasks for rig and antenna preparations among us. We planned to build eight stations; five equipped with 1KW amplifiers. Our team consisted of Petr Bohacek, OK1BOA; Palo Halek, OK1CRM; Petr Spacil, OK1FCJ; Pavel Novak, OK1GK; Ruda Sedlak, OK2ZA; Luděk

Odehnal, OK2ZC; Karel Odehnal, OK2ZI, and David Beran, OK6DJ.

Following complete double COVID testing of the whole team, we met on Friday, October 1st at the Václav Havel airport in Prague. We aimed to arrive on the island with the tests being less than 72 hours old, as commanded by the local legislation. After a flight delay, we flew to Lisbon and stayed overnight in an airport hotel. On Saturday morning we flew to São Tomé, with a stopover in Ghana, and upon arrival we went through Customs, passport and health control. After checking our suspicious baggage (we were carrying 500kg of material that we didn't have to unpack), we got into hired cars and drove to the QTH, about 20km away in the village of Morro Peixe.

Getting started

Arriving in darkness, we met

Claudio, the local chef and a sort of "night manager" at Residencial Tam-

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From the President's desk

THIS YEAR STARTS THE FOUNDATION'S 50TH YEAR OF operating. NCDXF started in 1972 (I was still in high school licensed for only two years), when getting DXCC was a huge challenge, and working a new DX country was to be celebrated. I didn't know anyone who had made the DXCC Honor Roll, but it was the dream to pursue, one country at a time.

Since then, many ops have achieved DXCC, gone on to achieve Honor Roll, and then, Top of the Honor Roll. Some of the other pursuits are 5BDXCC and the DXCC Challenge Award where the basic award is 1,000 band-points, with the ultimate goal of 3,000. With only 140 DXers achieving 3,000, DX chasing can be a lifelong endeavor.

In 1998, the ARRL issued new DXCC List criteria. This update changed the name for List items from "countries" to "entities." A section of those new rules described "Island Areas" — where, to qualify as a new entity, the island had to be separated from its "Parent" by 350 kilometers or more. (Read the current DXCC Rules for more detail at www.arrl.org/dxcc-rules.)

Several of the DXCC entities are "rarer" than others and, in recent years, some have become "rare" due to one of two reasons: 1) can't operate due to political restrictions (i.e., P5 [North Korea], or 2) very difficult to reach and may be hard to operate from, even if reached (i.e., 3Y/B [Bouvet Island]).

The Foundation's basic mission is to help well-organized and needy DXpeditions operate from these rare places, mostly in the form of financial aid. Since 1997, NCDXF has funded 265 DXpeditions, totaling \$1.4 million in grants. Prior to 1997, DXpeditions weren't large, hugely-organized efforts and, often, consisted of one or two people. We still funded those activities. Since our inception, we've funded and helped over 500 activities.

The Foundation operation is funded by donations from its members. If you wish to donate directly, please visit our website (www.ncdxf.org/pages/join_renew.html). Our past President, ND2T, started the Cycle 25 fund (www.ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html), now managed by K9CT. Tom and Craig recognized the need to increase the fund's size for Cycle 25 grant requests. Please consider making NCDXF part of your estate planning. The Foundation expects to continue for another 50 years, well past Cycle 27.

Our board members, past and present, have always been active DXpeditioners, and we've all gained knowledge about what it takes to "put on" an event. That knowledge is also part of the help we provide to DXpeditions. Beyond advising, the Foundation has also taken on infrastructure projects, such as the Beacons and Radio in a Box (RiB).

Please join us, or continue to support us, in our 50th year. Thanks to K6MM, we have a logo for our golden anniversary, and, on our website, we have a commemorative hooded sweatshirt for sale. We had planned a celebration at the International DX Convention (IDX, aka "Visalia"), but that event was cancelled for 2022.

We like to fill our newsletter with stories about the DXpeditions we have sponsored, but those stories are sparse due to the pandemic; though we do hear of plans being made for 2023. Of special interest is planning for Bouvet by Ken, LA7GIA. We've followed his plans, and see his prep is coming along well (www.3y0j.no). Current members (a contribution to NCDXF within the last 12 months) can make a directed donation via NCDXF. These donations must be done by check payable to NCDXF and mailed to our PO Box. The minimum directed donation is \$250 and may qualify as a tax deductible donation (please check with your tax accountant).

73 and GUD DX,

Kevin J. Rowett





The S9OK Team, from left: Ruda Sedlak, OK2ZA; Petr Spacil, OK1FCJ; Pavel Novak, OK1GK; Karel Odehnal, OK2ZI; David Beran, OK6DJ; Luděk Odehnal, OK2ZC; Petr Bohacek, OK1BOA, and Palo Halek, OK1CRM.

arindos, our home for the next two weeks. In the morning, the property manager showed us to our future Ham shack and we immediately began unpacking our baggage. It was clear that we wouldn't build the antennas that day, nor would we survey the terrain, but we were able to set up the stations on the tables. Two stations were equipped with K3+JUMA, two with IC-705+JUMA, and the fifth was equipped with a SUNSDR2DX+JUMA. Our three TS-480S without amplifiers were to be used on 60M/6M and also for FT4/FT8.

In addition to the Ham shack, we had rented an apartment house with four modest little bedrooms, each with a narrow double bed and a bathroom. Everything looked exactly as it did in the photos and as promised by the manager, except for the Internet — that was very slow and had major outages. We postponed finding a solution for later, as we were very tired.

After breakfast the following morning, we quickly toured the terrain and identified antenna placements. The build went quickly as we had already practiced everything from previous DXpeditions. By that afternoon S9OK was on the air, activated by David, OK6DJ, as is our tradition. We worked simultaneously all evening on five

bands and gradually we found out when each band started opening. At night only some of us slept while the others took their turn at the stations. The pile-ups were unexpectedly big. After a long period without DXpeditions because of COVID, our DXpedition excited the Ham radio community around the world.

On Monday, we continued working on the antennas, erecting a vertical for 160M, one for 60M, and a trio of 2el. Yagis to complement three five-band Spiderbeams©. Verticals for 30M, 40M and 80M were already in place. During this time, the rest of the team took turns at the rigs on all bands. They made almost 10,000 new QSOs. It was excellent, considering the amount of time we spent on the antennas. There were also several power outages. As it turned out later, these outages would be the order of the day. At night we tried 160M. Although the vertical can normally be used for RX only to a limited extent, a lot of big-gun stations were calling so the absence of receiving antennas didn't matter. The first 197 contacts on 160M included a couple from the USA.

Resolving issues

The upper bands were open until midnight, then the lower bands until morning. We tried to “keep the air full”

as much as possible, so there were always at least five stations on the air. Operators slept only three to four hours in rotation to accommodate the pile-ups of callers. The facility manager arranged for fiber-optic Internet to be set up; an unprecedented thing by local standards. No one believed it, but in the afternoon the technicians actually arrived and started to work. Hats off, it couldn't have been done this fast even in OK.

There were two “pure” SSB operators on our team, Petr, OK1BOA, and Ruda, OK2ZA. Although they tried their best, they could not compete with six CW operators. We noticed remarks on the Internet that the number of SSB QSOs compared to other modes was relatively low. So, we decided to make an “SSB day” on Thursday, and assigned more people to this mode. After lunch, through the evening and night, five stations worked on SSB. The number of QSOs was increasing nicely, but the pile-ups were interrupted by power outages. We couldn't continue this way. We knew there was a back-up generator at the QTH.

The next evening, we hit the 40,000 QSO mark. We logged — mainly due to brisk SSB traffic — more than 10,000 QSOs in one day. Again, there were several power outages. Running

out of patience, we insisted on starting up the generator and used it all day Friday and all night Saturday. Yes, it was very noisy, but we needed the power, and using it would make the DXpedition more expensive. It had been seven days since we had been on the island, so we set one station aside to operate mainly on RTTY. There is not so much activity with this mode nowadays with FT8 and FT4 being much more prevalent.

Early Saturday evening there was a moment when we were exactly halfway through our DXpedition, and at that point there were 54,000 QSOs in the log. It became clear that the previous CDXP “record” of HKØ/A was about to be broken and the optimists among us started to dream about 100,000 QSOs. We knew that the packing of the antennas would go much faster than the construction, and that what took two days to build could be taken down in four hours. If everything went well, it might work to continue operating until the last possible minute.

Unfortunately, Sunday was disappointing. We expected the bands to be full of stations on the weekend, but it didn’t happen, and after a poor Saturday, came an even poorer Sunday. It seemed that propagation conditions were not bad, but fewer stations were calling. It was probably because two new DXpeditions — 3DAØRU and

J5T/J5HKT — went on the air spreading the pile-ups among all three of us.

Giving to the community

Monday was a special day for us. We completed our efforts in the non-radio area, namely giving gifts to a local school and kindergarten. It started a few weeks before the DXpedition when we were approached by Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, a patron of the Foundation for Global Children (FGC). We agreed that he would provide money to purchase items for the local schools. Upon our arrival on the island, we explained the matter to the manager, who then arranged the exact lists of what the schools might need and where we could buy everything. One part went to the local primary school and the other to the kindergarten. In addition to computers and their accessories, there were plates, cutlery, light bulbs, balls, papers, pots, scoops, a TV with antenna and one large freezer. Visiting both facilities was an incredible experience for us. We could see the joy and happiness on the faces of the children. We were very happy that this goal of our DXpedition was also successful. Many thanks to Zorro, JH1AJT, and the FGC.

Later that afternoon, the whole team returned to the QTH and resumed operations. In the evening, another benchmark was reached: 70,000 QSOs. We were very encouraged by this. The propaga-

tion conditions were exceptionally good on all the upper bands, including 10M being open until midnight. We made the most of it with two stations working on 15M CW and SSB continuously for many hours. When the bands were closing, we activated the FT4 mode. The great thing was that even on the lower bands the propagation was good and we logged more JA stations on 80M and 160M that evening.

Hitting a goal

On Wednesday, it rained heavily all day with streams of water running down the garden. We monitored the A and K indices. The A was 45, which bode ill for propagation, and conditions were really bad. We tried CW and SSB regularly, but it didn’t work. After many futile CQs we switched to FT8 or FT4. However, closer to noon there was a reversal, even though the rain was still intense, and propagation improved dramatically. We started working on all of the upper bands, some with two stations — EU and NA were coming in surprisingly strong. Five of our stations were running SSB and two FT8. The rate climbed to 30 QSOs/minute and 900 QSOs/hour. We started dreaming again of reaching 100,000 QSOs. The upper bands faded after midnight, but the lower bands still worked decently.

With Friday came the gradual end of our DXpedition, but 100,000 QSOs

50 Years Ago A Blast From the Past

West Coast DX Bulletin published every week by the Marin County DX Group February 22, 1972

One of the local QRPers came by last week, some notes clutched in his hand and a puzzled look on his face. “Say,” he said with his usual original opening, “I heard that the ARRL will do nothing one way or another on Maria Theresa until someone goes there and verifies how deep the ocean is at that point.”

The QRPer paused, deep in thought and a furrowed brow, and then continued. “Wouldn’t that be a DXpedition to prove a country is not there?”

Son of a Gun, what could we say? We furrowed our own brow on this one. The negative approach is astounding. All those working this DXpedition could have a sticker for their DXCC Certificate ... “Minus One Country.” The only problem might be Rule 8, which says all stations contacted must be “land stations.”

We ran this one up on our third-of-a-century house bureaucrat and he smiled: “Perfectly simple,” he said. “A clear and lucid situation.”

Let’s face it ... this one needs thought ... meanwhile be confused every week ... \$9.00 by surface and \$10.50 airmail.

were in the log! We opened a bottle of gin and toasted our success. After breakfast, we had a 3-hour drive to a hospital in the capital for COVID tests. Departure from the QTH was scheduled for Saturday at 1630 and everything had to be packed perfectly by then. After dinner we gave our full attention to the lower bands to make the most of the last night. Conditions were great on 160M; starting with an opening to JA, followed by strong EU stations and then a number of NA stations including several W6/W7. On our last night, 277 CW QSOs were made on 160M out of a total of 2,167 contacts. How glad we were that we kept the 160M antennas up for the last night.

The following morning we were supposed to start packing right away, but we just couldn't do it. The morning shift sat, just as they did every day on CW on 10M, 12M and 15M at dawn, and we made contact with everyone who called, only with a slight preference for JA. The pile-ups were not as big as before, but there were still a lot of stations calling. The final QRT came at 1344Z, with a sensational 107,505 QSOs in the log.

The next one

We are thinking about the next destination we would like to go to, but

wherever it will be, it will not be easy to surpass this mark. Currently, our QSO total puts us in 21st place on the official Mega DXpeditions Honor Roll ranking (gdx.de/megadxpeditions/honorroll.php). With only eight people and a modest budget at our disposal, this is an extraordinary achievement. After the DXpedition ended, we received many compliments on our operation. We were active on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, FT4 and FT8, plus we gave many stations a band point or an all-time new DXCC country.

If the world health situation is favorable, you can look forward to more DXpeditions by us in the future. *(Editor's note: This team activated Ivory Coast, TU5PCT, in February 2022.)*

Following our return home, QSL cards were sent out by David, OK6DJ, and all OQRS direct requests were confirmed on LOTW.

We would like to thank all the stations that made a QSO with us and we would thank the many associations and individuals who supported our DXpedition, including NCDXF. A complete listing is on our S9OK website (www.cdxp.cz/?page_id=2285).

For detailed statistics see <https://clublog.org/charts/?c=S9OK#r>

NCDXF sponsors WRTC 2022/23

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that NCDXF will be a principal sponsor of the WRTC held next year in Italy. Postponed from 2022 to 2023 as a result of COVID, this is the signature contest competition for the world. NCDXF has long held that we must encourage Amateurs to the highest levels of skills in both contesting and DXpeditioning.

Over the years, contesters have brought their top skills to the DXpedition team. These DXpedition teams work at an extraordinary rate to get the deserving DXer into their log. The more QSOs without error is a huge cost benefit to the entire worldwide Ham Radio population.

WRTC Italy is hosted by the Associazione di Promozione Sociale "Olimpiadi della Radio 2022 APS" (wrtc2022.it).

NCDXF encourages you to support the WRTC competition. Every area of the world is represented by two-person teams. Get to know your team and give them your support and then keep them in mind for your next DXpedition.



SILENT KEY

AN ACTIVE AND STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE NCDXF/IARU DX Beacon program, Steve Lund, K6UM, of Newberg, Oregon, became a SK on 4 February 2022, after an extended battle with cancer. He served many years as an appointed position for the Northern California DX Foundation on the IARU Beacon technical support staff.

Steve had a strong sense of ownership for the beacon program and worked closely with K6AW, Steve Merchant, to keep the program alive. In addition, his activities for the Beacon program included:

- Carefully obtaining and curating a wonderful collection of spare radios and other parts for the V1 system, while V2 was in development. This work extended by many years, the life of the V1 beacon installations.

Steve Lund, K6UM



- Providing technical assistance to the beacon operators to diagnose and keep beacons on the air. He often repaired and refurbished radios and controllers, from 2004 until V2 began deployment in 2016.
- Engaging in antenna field testing to provide performance information back to the Beacon operators to improve the local Beacon performance.

An ex-HP engineer, Steve contributed significantly to keeping the V1 setup functioning, and the design base for the V2 product.

His interests, observations and contributions will be missed. RIP OM.



The operating team of KH1/KH7Z on Baker Island stands near the island sign (left) they repaired during their visit in 2018.

USFWS seeks input on new management plan for PRIMNM

Don Greenbaum, N1DG

AMATEUR RADIO DXERS HAVE much to thank the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for: six DXCC entities — Baker & Howland, Johnston, Palmyra & Jarvis, Wake, Navassa, Desecheo — are managed or co-managed by the USFWS. (Johnston is co-managed with the US Air Force, which is currently blocking any visitors.) Kure and Midway are part of Hawaii FWS Papahānaumokuākea Reserve. I have had the pleasure of operating from Wake, Midway and Baker islands in 1996, 2009 and 2018 respectively.

After the Baker Island Special Use Permit was granted and the successful DXpedition, I was invited to join a community group formed to advise the USFWS and NOAA on a new management plan covering the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM). This includes the DXCC entities Baker & Howland, Johnston, Palmyra & Jarvis, and Wake. It also includes Rose and Kingman reefs.

For the past three years we have had both in-person and online meetings to discuss important issues that would be included in the upcoming management plan. There are various constituents represented, including marine biologists, ecologists, conservationists, educators, divers, fishermen and recreational users (this is my constituency).

The USFWS website (www.fws.gov/refuge/pacific_remote_islands_national_marine_monument/PRIMNM-Community.html) describes the group as follows, “The PRIMNM Community Group will provide input to the agencies on the management, proper care, and effective stewardship of the Monument. This Community Group will also provide a forum to discuss ideas and opportunities regarding PRIMNM management, for consideration in the draft Monument Management Plan that’s under development.”

It is important that Hams get involved with their national wildlife organizations. We keep seeing more

and more nature reserves being put off-limits to recreational users. In the past few months all RF devices were removed from ZS8 (Marion Island) because of radio telescope operations. This was done without any consultation with Ham Radio societies in South Africa.

At our September 2019 Hawaii meeting I played several videos (K4M and KH1/KH7Z) for the NOAA and USFWS personnel showing the care we took visiting the reserves. And I distributed the USFWS after-trip report from Baker 2018 giving us exceptional marks for not only leaving Baker Island as we found it, but for repairing the island sign and cleaning the beaches!

In January 2022, the USFWS requested input from the general public. I was pleased to see the ARRL and major DX foundations like NCDXF publicize this request. Both organizations submitted thoughtful comments on the long and close relationship between Amateur Radio (Hams operated from

both Baker and Howland islands in the 1938 colonization projects) and the USFWS. In fact, over 50 of the 60 comments submitted were from DXers. I am confident Amateur Radio will continue to be an allowed use of the rare and precious islands in the

PRIMNM. In fact, I have submitted wording that I'm told will be in the final plan that specifically mentions Amateur Radio as one of the uses (current plans do NOT mention it specifically).

When the national wildlife organizations allow Amateur Radio access, we

should not only operate from there but also find ways to help them manage the parks and reserves. After all, these belong to us and in addition to visiting them we need to help care for them.

Kevin Rowlett's response on behalf of NCDXF follows.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the new Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument management plan. The Northern California DX Foundation is the oldest and largest of the Foundations that support amateur radio DXpeditions around the world. On our Board we have had DXpeditioners who have been to Midway, Kure, Palmyra, Kingman Reef, Jarvis, Johnston, Wake, Navassa, Desecheo and Baker Island as well as non-USFWS entities.

Our membership is worldwide and represents the hobby of over 150,000 amateurs who participate in the American Relay League's Logbook of the World repository of confirmations that tracks contacts to these and other entities that make up the DXCC awards. This is what creates the interest to visit your Monuments. When each activation occurs there are websites devoted those endeavors and it is not uncommon for hundreds of thousands of worldwide visitors to learn more about these Monuments and the importance of keeping these resources pristine.

Ham radio was used by the early colonizers of Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands in the mid 1930s. It is a tradition that extends to today with the 2018 Baker Island radio expedition. Then, like today, these activities publicized the islands and the importance of them in both geopolitical and ecological circles.

When we vet expeditions for grants to these remote and environmentally sensitive locations, the stewardship of these islands is paramount to our decision making process. We often ask to see the Special Use Permits and hold our grantees to following the rules and regulations set out in the SUP. We are glad to see over the years that USFWS has been so accommodating to our ham radio access to the islands and trust that the new rules are going to reflect the close cooperation and good experience of the past.

NCDXF, on behalf our members, support and encourage the USFWS to continue to provide access to this group.

On behalf of NCDXF members and the Board of Directors,

Kevin J. Rowlett

Kevin Rowlett, President, NCDXF

NCDXF Director Profile

NAME & CALL SIGN: Tom Berson, ND2T

PAST CALLS: WV2ASJ, WA2ASJ, K1EQT

WHAT WERE YOUR PREVIOUS QTHs? Bronx, NY; Boston, MA; Ossining, NY; London, England

WHAT IS (WAS) YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER? I am a cryptographer with expertise in computer and communications security. I first worked at IBM Research and then began a consulting career that eventually took me to London for 7 years. While in the UK, I earned a PhD in Computer Science at the University of London. After moving to Palo Alto, California, I worked for a defense contractor and then started a company with friends to design and manufacture local area networks. We built frequency-agile radios and ran them over CATV transmission lines. After selling that company, I resumed my cybersecurity consultancy to commercial and government clients. That work keeps me in touch with evolving technologies and young people. I have no plans to retire.

NCDXF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS: Director and Past President (2014-16)

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS? Past President, Northern California Contest Club (2003-04); President, Director and Fellow of the International Association for Cryptologic Research (30 years)

CURRENT DXCC STATUS: 310 current DXCC confirmed

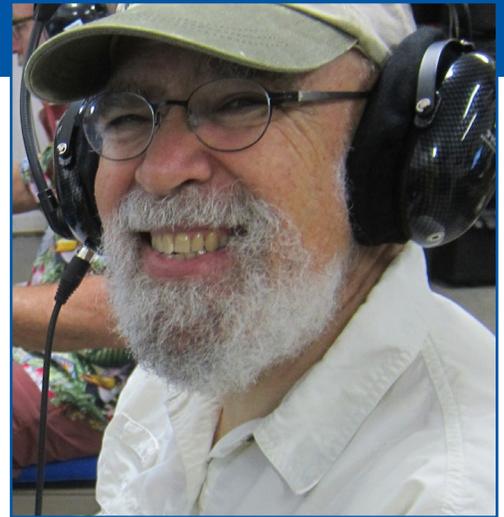
DXPEDITION EXPERIENCE: Scarborough Reef (BS7H, 2007); Midway Island (K4M, 2009); South Orkney Islands (VP8ORK, 2011); Swains Island (NH8S, 2012); Chesterfield Island (TX3X, 2015), and Palmyra Atoll (K5P, 2016).

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

Do it now, also put it into your estate plan. NCDXF at 50 years old is an experienced steward of financial grants to DXpeditions. NCDXF works hard to promote DXing, high quality DXpeditions and DX infrastructure. The costs of DXpeditioning to many of the rarest entities are increasing, especially those in the Southern Ocean. That is why I started the NCDXF Cycle 25 Fund, which is meeting its goals with help from many contributors. I especially encourage young Hams to become DXpeditioners and contributors to NCDXF so that our work can continue to support DXpeditions well into Cycles 26 and 27.

AS AN AVID DXER WHAT SORT OF TRENDS DO YOU SEE?

Environmental regulations are having a chilling impact on the ability of DXpeditions to go to many islands. The growth of FT8 allows DXers to contact more DX entities in less time. The Radio in a Box (RiB) project funded by NCDXF will ease the entry of DXpeditions onto biologically sensitive entities.



WHAT ARE YOUR TIPS FOR DXERS? LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN!!! Take the time to learn a DX station's operating pattern before calling on CW or SSB, especially when they are operating "split." On RTTY, call at the pile-up edges. On FT8, watch the screen long enough to find a hole.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO HAM RADIO? I was a nerdy kid, into science and mathematics. My father had a friend who worked at Bell Telephone Labs who knew I was interested in electronics and he brought things to me from their junk box. I started building logic circuits using relays and switches. I met some older kids in the neighborhood who already had their Ham licenses. I bought a used Hallicrafters S-40 receiver for \$50 supplied by a generous uncle. I passed my Novice test when I was 11 and built a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter to get on the air.

DESCRIBE YOUR SHACK AND ANTENNA SYSTEM: I live on a small lot in downtown Palo Alto, California. My current radios are the Elecraft K4D and K3. Amplifiers are the Elecraft KPA500 and ACOM 2000A. I have a low roof tower with a 3-element SteppIR, a trap dipole for 40M/80M, and an HF-2V vertical that I use on 160M. I am part of the group that operates the K6MTU remote station on Mount Umunhum. I like operating that station because it is quiet on receive and loud on transmit, just the opposite of my home station.

MARRIED? KIDS? GRANDKIDS? I have been married to my wife, Dorothy, for 56 years. We have two children, one a microbiologist, the other a winemaker. Each of them has a daughter.

ANY OTHER HOBBIES BESIDES HAM RADIO? Are there any other hobbies?

WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

1) As a cryptographer, I do not own or ever plan to own any crypto currency. 2) I often dream in CW!

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS? I value Amateur Radio because it enables me to make and maintain friendships across the world and across all socio-economic boundaries.

Cycle 25 Fund & Cycle 25 Society



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

NCDXF Director, Craig Thomp-

son, 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 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, and click on "Videos."



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

Options for supporting NCDXF financially

Donate your RMD using a QCD for potential tax savings

That title is a mouthful! What does it mean? If you have an IRA or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan and you have reached the age (raised in 2022 from 70½ to 72) where you must take an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from that plan, there is a charitable strategy that may save you from having to pay taxes on that RMD as ordinary income. In consultation with your tax accountant, you may be able to have that RMD money paid directly to a qualified charitable organization like NCDXF using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 per year. A QCD does not count as a normal donation to a charity like you might otherwise list in your itemized deductions. Or, if you are taking the standard deduction on your

tax return, a QCD will give you a tax break over and above that standard deduction amount. (Note: You can still make a QCD in 2022 if you have reached age 70½.)

This can be complicated, so please consult a tax accountant regarding your specific situation!

Here are websites that discuss this strategy in more detail: www.fidelity.com/learning-center/personal-finance/retirement/qcds-the-basics

www.forbes.com/sites/kristinmckenna/2021/08/23/how-to-donate-your-rmd-using-qualified-charitable-distributions/?sh=6a3cf0623b5e

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, PO Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via our secure server, visit www.ncdxf.org/donate.

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 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		\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$

Name & callsign _____

Mailing address _____

Email _____

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

Card number _____ Expiry _____ Signature _____

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