

tude toward DXing which took some of us decades to cultivate. Oh, the newcomers still listen to their elders on the bands; witness the KA1 "calling CQ ten and carefully tuning for any possible call." No matter he has a locked-in transceiver and his "any possible callers" are fully aware that he is on 10 meters without being told! He/she is sure to wish us best of best regards (best 73s) and he/she will learn. If we do the teaching.

So the bands are sounding different: newcomers, hippies, lists, hams who don't know the code, operators tied into computers or playing chess, outcasts from the amateur radio establishment. Not everyone on the bands voted for Nixon, has short hair, holds a job, is male, has freedom of choice, and is married with 2.3 children, a dog, and a station wagon. Talk to a ham in San Francisco and odds are one in three he/she isn't even heterosexual. But who cares? Let's talk!

An important person in amateur radio passed away in April

and we should record his passing. Jim Fisk W1HR, Editor-in-Chief of *Ham Radio* and *Ham Radio Horizons* magazines, succumbed to a heart attack on April 18, 1980, at age 45. Jim was a true ham: technically knowledgeable, devoted to amateur radio, and active on more frequency bands than most of us know exist. Jim was a founding father of *Ham Radio* magazine twelve years ago, and he was known for his ability to convince reluctant basement experimenters to publish their findings in the amateur press. Jim's last goal was DXCC Honor Roll, and he had worked four new countries in the last week of his life. People like this are hard to find, and W1HR's void will be difficult to fill.

We ran a photo last month of Nao Akiyama JH1VRQ, one of Japan's most active and avid hams. Nao's home was destroyed by fire early in April, and he lost most of his valued radio records. Nao was overseas liaison officer for the Japan DX Radio Club, and he correspond-

ed with most of us who are into DXing. Please. You may remember working JH1VRQ in the past few years, in contests especially. Look him up in your log and get some QSLs off to him c/o the JARL bureau in Tokyo. Think where you would be if your collection of DX cards was wiped out by a personal disaster. Thanks.

There was plenty of good news on the DX front in April, 1980. Herewith a rundown.

You read our report on the Heard Island VK0RM operation last month. The good news is that Jim Smith P29JS and Dave Gardner K6LPL are both interested in planning a full-blown operation from this remote island late this year or early next. The accompanying box has the letter from P29JS regarding this. P29JS has thus far expended considerable effort on behalf of DXers and he seems likely to be in a position where he could pull off a full-bore expedition. How badly you want to work Heard depends on how close you are to the Honor

Roll and how much you might want to be on the Honor Roll a couple of years from now.

Speaking of K6LPL, Dave operated from Johnston Island /KH3 in April and did an exemplary job. We listened to Dave for a long period of time, and no matter who he worked, chit-chat was at an absolute minimum. It was always rush, rush, rush. Dave started his expedition by firing up 26 hours after he departed the infamous Fresno DX Convention and operated SSB despite a cold of what sounded to be monumental proportions. Dave was all business, which is what counts in an operation of this kind. It is great to know that Dave's injuries while on Palmyra as K6LPL/KH5 last January have apparently healed enough to enable his Johnston operation. QSLs for this one to Joe Merdler N6AHU, who is, by the way, associated with the Personal Communications Foundation. Those of you not familiar with the PCF

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Heard Island DX Association
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73 DX Column

Dear OM,

Anybody who has followed the recent activation of Heard Island will be disappointed in the misfortune suffered by the people involved. Even if all had gone well, the size and duration of the operation (interspersed as it was with the requirements of a scientific expedition) meant that the total of anticipated contacts would not exceed around 1000 QSOs.

Prior to VK0RM, Heard Island had not been activated for 8-10 years and has never been the subject of a full-blown DXpedition. It is intended to try to change this situation within the next 10 months.

The Heard Island DX Association has been formed for the purpose of activating Heard Island.

A considerable amount of research has already been done in conjunction with the scientific expedition which took place in March this year. During the coming months, further work involving the necessary logistics to support a serious amateur DXpedition to Heard Island will continue.

The Australian authorities concerned have indicated that there would be no serious objection to a well-planned, well-founded, and good-intentioned amateur DXpedition. It is intended that the association will offer a place in the team to a professional scientist to carry out research on Heard Island over the duration of the DXpedition.

It is anticipated that the team will consist of a number of experienced "contest-type" operators who, while capable of dealing with the tremendous demand that exists for Heard Island, will have the capability of offering other skills which will contribute to a successful operation.

The financing of any major operation invariably creates

problems; the costs of mounting this DXpedition will be considerable. Many people and DX groups have indicated a tremendous interest in the activation of Heard Island and offers of assistance have been numerous.

Funding of the 1980-81 DXpedition will be based on the following criteria:

- (a) Each member of the amateur team will be required to contribute to the expedition fund.
- (b) Individual donations will be accepted.
- (c) Offers of financial assistance from the various amateur radio societies, radio clubs, and DX groups will be accepted.
- (d) Residue of funds accrued after completion of QSL commitments.

A trust account has been established by the founder members of the Heard Island DX Association to account for the funds received, and receipts will be issued for all contributions.

In the unlikely event of the DXpedition not taking place as scheduled, all donations will be either refunded or allocated to another DXpedition or worthy charity. In either event, all donors will be notified personally.

Firm offers of radio equipment have already been received, but no offers of ancillary equipment, antennas or power supplies, etc., have as yet been solicited.

Owing to weather conditions, the time slot available is mid-December to mid-February. As you can see, the time factor to allow an operation to take place in 1980 is very limited.

We thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping us to activate one of the most difficult and rare DX countries in the world today.

73,
Jim Smith P29JS
President
Heard Island DX Association