

NCDXC

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

THE DXer

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THE DX'ER

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB, INC.
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Published monthly for the benefit and interest of NCDXC members.

FOUNDED 1946

OFFICERS

President	Bill Johnson	W6MUR
Vice Pres.	Orm Meyer	K6QX
Secretary	Dave Palmer	W6PHF
Treasurer	E. Howard Hale	W6SC
Directors	Robert Smithwick	W6JZU
	Bob Thompson	K6SSJ

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Club Repeater - WR6ACZ

Input frequency	147.96 MHz
Output frequency	147.36 MHz
Suggested SIMPLEX freq.	147.54 MHz

The NCDXC NET meets on the repeater at 8:00 PM Thursdays for the purpose of exchanging DX and other information of interest for the mutual benefit of its members. WA6AHF is Net Control Station.

W6TI BULLETINS are sent Sundays at 1800 GMT or on Monday at 0200 GMT on a frequency of 14.002 MHz. The W6TI Trustee is Bob Vallio, W6RGG.

Please send all contributions for the DX'ER to :

Adam A. Mentes - VE3DXV/W6
P.O. Box 951
Mountain View, CA 94042

Deadline for contributions is the first day of the month.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 1975 MEETING OF THE NCDXC, INC.

The meeting was held at the Hyatt Cabana Hotel, Palo Alto.

Following a social hour and dinner, the meeting was called to order by president Bill Johnson, W6MUR with an eulogy and a minute of silence in honor of Gene Darlington, W6TTS who passed away Sunday, October 5th. His hourly reports of propagation predictions from WWV and ready wit over WR6ACZ are missed by all of us.

Guests were introduced, and included:

- K6OZI Don and XYL from Stockton
- ZFITW
- W6VCE
- W6LD and XYL
- W6SBD Dave Williams from Lake County

Reading of letter from Bob White regarding Rule 10 followed and was discussed by the members.

A short talk by Jo Jennings, W6EI concerning electric vehicles and vacuum capacitors and switches followed.

Efficiency of electric motors and methods of controlling speed are the major problems in the creation of practical electric powered vehicles. Compound wound motors and transistor speed control circuits have solved several of the problems, but much further research is necessary.

The first practical vacuum capacitor was produced in 1946 and required 3.5 years to patent, because there was no prior art upon which to base a claim.

Friday the 14th of November at Dinah's Shack will be held the next meeting, at which Dr. John Featherston, WA6KIS will speak on the "World HF propagation limits and ways around a few of them".

Ken Keeler, W6PAA spoke regarding the purpose and goal of the NCCC and mentioned the criteria for joining. Those interested in joining must have an interest in contesting and \$6 dues. Meetings are held at the American Savings and Loan office in Hayward and are devoted to business and not dinner. Various problems exist in combining NCDXC and NCCC scores for competition with the SCDXC. (cont)

(minutes of October meeting cont.)

Brad Wyatt, K6WR spoke concerning his operation as PA9WRR. He will operate as PA0SMK during the various contests and hopes that NCDXC club members will make an effort to work him.

The incumbent ARRL pacific division director and vice director, Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ and Al Gaetano, W6VZT spoke, regarding their accomplishments during their terms of office.

A first reading of application for membership of J. Barton, W6LD and the second reading of Robert Harris, K6VY were given at which, by acclamation K6VY was accepted as a member.

Old Business - No progress on new repeater.

New Business - None.

Meeting adjourned by President Johnson, W6MUR.

Respectfully submitted,
David Palmer, W6PHF
Secretary

ROSTER ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

- WA6EYK Billy W. Putnam
643 E. Deodar Lane,
Lemoore, CA 93245
- K6IXS Henry F. Davis
1945 Jefferson Ave.,
San Francisco, CA 94123
- K6LM James F. Golden
1155 London Ave.,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
- W6NLZ Peter J. Dalton
53 Mt. Hamilton Rd.,
San Jose, CA 95114
- W6PM Rolf Lindehayn
236 Lomas Cantadas
Orinda, CA 94563
- OH5VT/W6 Heimo J. Kinnari
4133 De Mille Drive,
San Jose, CA 95117
- K6VY Robert C. Harris
12 Shelly Place
Danville, CA 94526
- K6AHV Bob Ferrero
53 Tappan Lane
Orinda, CA 94563
- W6LPM Vern W. Anderson
271 N. San Tomas Aquino Rd.,
Campbell, CA 95008

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I was interested to learn of a recent experiment in repeater linking in which communication was excellent between a mobile in the SF Bay area and another in Tucson. This was done with 420/450 links on the intermediate path and according to my informant the feasibility was demonstrated. Once amendments to Rule 97.111 (c) have been formalized and announced and our repeater committee has completed its labors to build an all-solid-state station for WR6ACZ, I think it would be a desirable goal to link DXers here with those in Los Angeles - what do you think ?

By now all paid-up voting members should have received the proposed new by-laws. Elsewhere in this issue you should find a letter from Dr. Smithwick, the elected director-at-large, going into some of the reasons behind the by-laws. At the November meeting there will be an opportunity to discuss and debate them, and in the remote event of a quorum as required (82 paid-up voting members) we can vote on them. If a quorum does not attend, the mail ballots will be counted by the board of directors and tallied at their December board meeting.

If the by-laws are adopted, the board will proceed toward establishment of the Policy and Procedure Manual referred to there and will bring this before the membership in due time, probably in the spring, for comment and suggestion.

The November meeting will feature Dr. Featherston on HF Propagation and will be at Dinah's with a served dinner. In Dec. our Christmas Party meeting will be at the Airport Hilton and we hope to have some special entertainment being arranged by Ken Keeler, W6PAA. The only business at that meeting will be the election of two directors-at-large; please give some thought to those who you would like to see as responsible board members who have the time to devote to the tasks ahead.

Also at the Nov. meeting will be Lloyd & Iris Colvin to discuss their forthcoming trip to Tuvalu and other places. Should we have some secret frequencies for NCDXC members where Lloyd can and will listen? Let's hear from you at the meeting on this.

Bill, W6MUR

ON THE PROPOSED NEW BY-LAWS

It has been many years since the by-laws of the NCDXC have been seriously modified or revised. Nearly everyone agrees that some aspects of the by-laws should be changed or supplemented. There are various opinions of course on what these changes and additions should be. Several presidents in the past have tried to bring about constructive change, but many times the presidential or board terms were up before the process of revision progressed very far and it then became too easy to put it off.

The current proposal, rather than making numerous changes in the current by-laws, makes its biggest contribution by proposing additions to the by-laws and by filling in very significant gaps in the operating by-laws. The present by-laws do not cover such major areas as provision for removal from office of an officer or board member or for filling vacancies that may occur on the board. They do not cover the duties of the board or speak to the responsibilities of the membership.

The present proposal represents a distillation of the ideas submitted by many club members. They are not the pet ideas of the president or the board of directors. The majority of the suggested changes came from outside the board.

In revising or writing any set of organizational by-laws, it is always a temptation, difficult to overcome, to include too much detail, detail that because of its nature may require frequent changes. Specific days and times of meetings, dollar amounts dues, meeting procedures, etc., are examples of this type of detail. The board felt that the by-laws should consist only of broad policy and all details relating to the administration of these policies should instead be incorporated into a "Policy and Procedure" manual. Therefore the new proposal makes provision for the development of a P and P manual. This should provide for flexibility and efficiency in developing the regulations based on the policies of the by-laws. But at the same time the policies themselves cannot be changed, except by vote of the membership (Art VII) Meeting days and places, procedures for pro-rating dues, the mechanics of applying

ing for Life membership and all such detail may be spelled out in the P and P manual. When this manual is developed, it will be broadly discussed and members will be encouraged to submit ideas and comments on the proposals before they are finally adapted. Further, the new by-laws provide for the annual revision and update of the P and P manual.

There is no question but that the new proposal gives the board more responsibility. The state Corporation Act requires that any corporation must have a responsible and responsive governing body to manage it. The present proposal provides this, and further provides that the board has only those powers and duties "conferred by law" and no more. The club has grown in numbers and geographical distribution in recent years. The natural consequence is that fewer percentages of the members find it possible to attend meetings on any regular basis. At one time most club business could be conducted at regular meetings with direct participation of those present. Now, however, more and more of the decisions must be left to the board. This board, elected by the membership has much greater opportunity to research a particular problem, discuss the alternatives and act upon it in open meetings with intelligent, well-thought out deliberation. Few of us I'm certain, wish to go back to the days of the long, often rancorous meetings wherein even inconsequential items were discussed at the monthly dinner meetings. Often the questions raised were acted upon without factual information at hand. Under these conditions, the remote members who could not regularly attend, had little opportunity to participate in club affairs. The new proposal provides in addition, adequate safeguards to the membership in that (1) terms are short - one year - and board members can easily be voted out of office (2) the proposed By-laws provide for the removal of a board member or officer for stated reasons, and (3) major decisions of the Board must be ratified by the membership (examples: By-laws amendments, filling of vacancies, dues, etc.).

The current proposal has been criticized because it deals with a variety of additions and changes. This is True. But at

ON THE PROPOSED NEW BY-LAWS (Continued).

least the Board was willing to "bite the bullet" and open up for full club discussion, many proposals, issues, and ideas that the club members have proposed, issues that need discussion and decision. I am certain that the membership in its collective wisdom will give the proposal thoughtful and deliberate consideration. In this spirit whatever changes or additions eventually are adapted can only benefit the NCDXC.

Smitty
R.C. Smithwick, W6JZU

EDITORIAL OPINION

During the past few weeks there has been much discussion and spirited debate, both on and off the repeater, on the subject of the proposed new by-laws, as well as the proposed club Code of Ethics. The latter was distributed at the October meeting and those of you unable to attend may not be familiar with it.

It was during one of these discussions on the repeater that I listened to a member of our board of directors outlining his objections to several points in the proposed Code of Ethics. I asked him if he would vote in favor of adapting the proposed Code in its present form, in spite of his objections, provided that there was an opportunity later to make changes and amendments to it. He replied "no", and - quite logically, I thought - suggested that the proposal be revised to be acceptable to him before he would cast an affirmative vote on it.

And yet, the same director, along with others, strongly urge us to vote in favor of the proposed by-laws even if we do disagree with certain portions or sections of it. One cannot help but be amazed by the inconsistency, especially if one considers the possible consequences of adopting the proposed by-laws relying on changes to be applied at a later date.

Let us for a moment consider a possible course of events if the "Argument for Adoption" (adopt now, change later) is accepted. Two major changes in the proposed by-laws would open up membership

to DXers in new geographical area (portions of Nevada, the state of Hawaii) as well as to those who have only 25 countries confirmed. Now if you object to these changes but persuaded by the "Argument for Adoption" still vote for the proposed by-laws, a very embarrassing (at the least) situation may develop. Consider: under these new provisions a number of new members are accepted. In some months time the particular sections of the by-laws come up for vote, and you express your initial sentiment by a negative vote. If yours is representative of the majority sentiment and those particular sections are rejected, the action will result in ejecting those members, who in the intervening time have joined under the temporarily accepted provisions. I, for one, hate to even consider such an eventuality. At this point we are no longer dealing with paper rules and laws, but with people, fellow hams and DXers.

I am afraid, my friend's logic is quite correct. One should vote in favor of a proposal only if one is in agreement with it. This - in a democratic system - still seems the only way to ensure majority responsibility for majority action.

Adam, VE3DXV/W6

At the September meeting, the membership, by vote directed the editor to publish minutes of the board of directors meeting in the DX'ER.

The minutes of the board of directors meeting held in October has not been received, hence not published in this issue.

A newly formatted (or is it reformatted) member's report form is enclosed with this issue. Please do yourself and the rest of us a favor. Before something else (like that new one on 20) steals your attention take a few minutes, check your records or QSL file, fill out the card and lick a stamp to it. The walk to the mailbox will provide a wonderful opportunity to contemplate your accomplishments. Who knows, you may be rewarded by some new cards in tomorrow's mail, rendering the scores out of date even before received by....

....your editor.

NCDXC CALLING FREQUENCY

There are a lot of DX stations that want to contact NCDXC stations from time to time for many different stations. They have difficulty in doing this, because of the problems involved in establishing the QSO. A calling frequency will minimize this problem.

Keeping in mind that in order to establish a QSO there are certain conditions that must be met: they must be on the same frequency - at the same time - and they must be able to copy each other. The DX station has to either spend a lot of time listening to find a NCDXC station that he knows about and suspects is on the band in order to get in a call. If he is successful in locating one he then has to wait for the NCDXC to finish a QSO and then call or try to break in. Or, possibly get another station to call him on the air or on the land lines. If you think about all of the problems involved in establishing a QSO with a NCDXC station you can well realize that there is room for improvement.

One way to improve on the situation is to establish calling frequencies for the NCDXC which will be monitored at certain times. This can easily be done by the club as there are a great many stations cruising the bands at almost any hour of the day or night. Any contact for a club station that is wanted can be made to any other club station who can alert the wanted station over the repeater net.

No one knows at this time if there is enough traffic to justify such a system or if it will work satisfactorily, but there is one way to find out and that is to try it. So in that vein of thought I suggest 14225 from 00 to 05 minutes at each hour. CW ops monitor 14025 at the same times.

If this scheme is agreeable to club members, we should start passing the word around and if any overseas or other stations want to QSO the club or its members tell them to call in at these times. They can call NCDXC or W6TI - whichever is easiest - or the call of some other club station they want to QSO.

Ray, K6FD

ARRL DX ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

The DX Advisory Committee has voted to recommend that the words 'cross-mode or' be eliminated from the second sentence of the 5 Band DXCC Rule 4.

The Committee is currently voting on including the DXCC Country Criteria as a printed section on the DXCC Countries List. I have voted for the proposal.

The Sub-Committee on Rule 9 (how far you can move and keep DXCC credits) has submitted their report and were unable to reach any conclusion. It is now proposed to take a Committee vote in December (so that a recommendation can be made at the January ARRL Board meeting) on the basis of being able to keep DXCC credits if you move anywhere within a Country. This would mean that anyone moving within the United States would retain DXCC credits. I feel, this too could be an unfair rule due to the varying sizes of countries. I would like the opinions on W6's immediately as to how they feel on this matter.

The independence of Papua took place on Sept. 16, 1975. There will be a new country listing of Papua New Guinea (effective 9-16-75) and the deletion of both Papua and Territory of New Guinea (effective 9-15-75). Official announcement will be in the December issue of QST.

On January 1, 1976, Tuvalu (presently the Ellice Islands) will have the status of a British Crown Colony and will be separated completely from the Gilbert & Ellice Colony, so effective January 1, 1976, Tuvalu will be a new country. Announcement will also be made in the December issue of QST.

At the September club meeting it was brought up that the ARRL had changed its policy of advising whether a country will be a new country if requested in advance. This idea was brought about due to a club member requesting information and supposedly not receiving an answer. I can state that the ARRL has not changed policy. They will let you know if a country will qualify as a new one. You do have to submit supporting information and allow some time for an answer. In the club case, a letter from Mr. Colvin was received by ARRL on September 8th, and an answer was sent on the 8th that the matter was being

(Advisory Committee News cont.)

investigated. Mr. Colvin was advised on September 24 that Tuvalu would count as that announcement is carried as above. The ARRL has not changed policy and you will be informed if you make a request.

Gary Stilwell, W6NJU

DITS, DAHS, BITS AND TIDBITS

*Only one comment: Where in the hell were all the NCDXC'ers when the NCDXC Contest was going on? Dave, W6PHF said he had only received four entries for the three trophies. Maybe we should offer free Martinis at a club meeting...

Rubin, WA6AHF

* Phooey on you! Sam, W6TSQ

* Been inactive but did work the new P29 country for a new one. Stan, WA6WXP

* Please change my licence class to Advanced as of May 2, '75. Have 11 ele. at 30 feet and still can't hit the club repeater from here. Guess I'll have to put that "turkey" on my tower. As you can tell, I can hear the repeater..Hi. Mike, WB6ZHD

* I am now the oldest licensed club member, with TTS's demise. I thought my date was 1920 also, but I could not prove it. However, I am listed in the Dept. of Commerce's 1921 call book! My examiner in Boston was KOLSTER of Decimeter design fame! I am also a recent alumni (May '75) of Stanford's Coronary Intensive care unit. John, W6AOI

* Does anyone have a QSL from MP4TAA for a QSO in early 1956 from which I can get a current address to renew my efforts to get a card for a CW QSO on Feb. 22, 1956? I also need one from FR7AM/G (along with lots more, I'm told). Any ideas on how to get this one? Bill, W6MUR

* The WORLD QSL BUREAU, 111 Farm Hill Way, Los Gatos, CA 95030, offers a special rate to NCDXC members: alphabetically arranged cards go out at 5¢ per card, 4¢ per in batches of 20 or more, or 3.5¢ per in batches of 100 or more. Orm, K6QX

* For members without repeater capability if you have an item for the Net Swap-Shop drop me a card and I'll run the item on the NET a couple of times. Orm, K6QX

TUNING THE BANDS

* As this issue is going to press, Bill, W7KW is in Iraq, YI-land. In a conversation prior to his departure Bill indicated a probability of success in his quest for permission to operate at a low 10% or so. However, he suggested, not to lose hope, as he is scheduled to make several return trips, when he felt the chances of success would be much greater. On this first trip he has a Tempo bare-foot, but if permission is obtained, on subsequent trips will have a linear also. Frequencies of operation will be as follow SSB - 14195, 7095, 3770. CW - 5 kHz from bottom edge of band. Listening frequencies as instructed, generally up the band. The nature of Bill's visits is business, highly beneficial to the people and government of Iraq, so let us keep our fingers crossed and ears glued to the bands. Adam, VE3DXV/W6

* Bill, K6LQA has made a phone call to the ARRL DXCC Desk, and reports the word "from the horse's mouth": Both the VX9A and VYØA operations are approved for new country status, provided the required proofs are submitted to ARRL. Incidentally, the QSL Manager for both operations is VE3GMT, as soon as the Canadian postal strike is over.

* ZD8TM and ZD8BD both active around evening hours at around 14025/35. Barry, ZD8BD tells he will put ZD7 on CW around first of the year. CARASCOPE

* SVØWKK, CRETE has regular skeds on 14210 around 1600 Z. He will be on Crete until December 15. Veron DX-PRESS

* NIUE. Plans for dx-pedition by Arch, VK5XK are definite, will be on from Nov 7 to Dec. 5., primarily low power CW. on 80, 40 and 20 xtal control. QSL manager is WØJRN.

* PJ8YFQ, SInt MAARTEN had been very active during phone CQWW. Operation was by K4YFQ, QSL via WA4BTC.

* MELLILA. Frequent activity on 20 m SSB and CW reported by EA9FE, EA9FA, EA9AQ, EA9FC and EA9EA. Veron DX-PRESS

* CEUTA. Stations logged were EA9CR on 14236, EA9EW 14050. CARASCOPE

* Rumor has it, Eva, PY2PE has no rumors to spread this month.

CONTEST CALENDAR

- Nov. 8- 9 ARRL CW Sweepstakes
- Nov.22-23 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes
- Nov.29-30 CQ WW DX CW Contest
- Dec. 6- 7 ARRL 160 meter Contest
- Dec.13-14 ARRL 10 meter Contest

This is it ! The contest season is in full bloom, with many "biggies" in the next five weeks. A special award will be offered to any station who enters them all and survives with antennas, rig, nerves and family all intact.

CQ WW DX CW Contest

Complete rules are in September '75 CQ. This, a perennial favorite of DXers with agile digits promises to be a rewarding one. Last month's Phone version enjoyed good conditions on all bands with lots of activity even on 10 meters, and some phenomenal european openings on 15 and 20. "Oh what fun it is to run JAs on an open band" (You furnish the music..) Or to quote Orm, K6QX ; "gotta learn how to work JAs. Could only run them at 120 per hour...". Would you believe, the CW section should be even better. Propagation conditions should improve as winter arrives, 40 is a joy when one does not have to compete with all the foreign broad-casters and the high bands full of choice ones during the daylight hours. Still time to get that memory keyer or 80 Hz audio filter project completed. Then 48 hours of excitement, followed by another 48 hours of cleaning logs, computing scores, sending logs to CQ and scores to Secretary W6PHF.

ARRL 160 m & 10 m Contests

Complete rules for both contests in the November '75 issue of QST.

Wonderful opportunities to get new states/countries on these "tough" bands. Both of these contests are lots of fun and since everybody can work everybody else, the pace is exhilarating with CW only on 160 and both CW and Phone on 10. (Just in case you get hoarse on SSB a little finger exercise will bring back the voice and the spirit.

DXITUS APATHICUS

The Northern California field office of the U.S. Public DX Health Service today issued a field alert regarding a once almost unknown disease that recently has reached almost epidemic proportions. Dr. Ben Change of the PDXHS said in an interview today, that unless immediate precautions are taken, the disease will spread beyond control, leaving a mutant race of HASBEENS.

"The disease, medically known as DXitus Apathicus, is popularly known by the acronym AWE (Already Worked Everything). Early diagnosis is difficult, since patients held in AWE actually seem to desire it. Anyone, experiencing a feeling of smugness, often coupled with diarrhea of the mouth, should be on the alert. Another early symptom is patients idly tuning the bands looking for 'the last one' while passing up garden variety DX. The resulting vitamin deficiency often causes agonized cries of 'so who needs it'. Patients with an advanced case of Apathicus have been observed helplessly rolling in their honor."

Although there is medical disagreement as to the carrier of the disease, the doctor feels it may be contracted through the anus. "I have observed hundreds of patients who were in the habit of sitting on their laurels".

Once diagnosed, cure for the disease is quite easy and pleasant. Even 'tho Apathicus is a disease of the mind, proper physical therapy will affect rapid recovery. Dr. Change recommended the following exercises:

Rapid movements of the index finger and thumb on a paddle, alternated with a full-fisted squeeze of the PTT button.

Multiple daily rotation of the hand, while maintaining a firm grip on the band switch.

Frequent running or jogging in contests.

Participation in group exercises, both at monthly club meetings and weekly repeater Nets.

Exercise of the leg muscles, evidenced by frequently updated standings.

(Condensed from Healer's Digest by VE3DXV/W6)
