

The Northern California DX Club, Inc.



The DXer

DECEMBER 1979

VOLUME XXXIII

NUMBER 12

MEETING NOTICE

PLACE: Belmont Holiday Inn
DATE: FRIDAY, 21 December 1979
TIME: 6:30 P.M. --- Cocktails 7:30 P.M. --- DIG IN GANG!!!
MENU: Veal Scallopini
PRICE: \$9.50 Including tax and tip
PROGRAM: Annual Christmas Party. The only business to be transacted will be the election of two new NCDXC directors. Those attending are asked to bring a small gift, approximately \$2 to \$5 in value. Mark them for OM or XYL. And do bring the XYL!!!

WHATCHA MISSED

The November meeting was held at Dinah's Shack on November 9, 1979.

The following members have advanced to Full member status: KB6Q, W6CFK, and KB6BW. Congratulations!

There were two first readings. They were for W6OA, Don McDougall, and WB6JXU, Roger Melen.

There were six second readings. Our new members are WA6OEC, Denny Stewart, WB6PCF, Joe Graves, N6QP, Lauren Tudor, W6SZN, Kip Edwards, K6UJG, Ronald Nepote, and WB6SMG, Victor Rose, who has been reinstated. Welcome!

Those in attendance were treated to some free wine, in honor of Merle, K6DC, having confirmed his last country for all 319 --- a clean sweep! Good going!

Bob, K6SSJ, presented a petition to change the by-laws so that the requirements for Associate membership would be 100 countries, and 200 countries for Full membership. The Associate initiation fee would be \$5. All those members already in the club would continue at their present status. (The full text is elsewhere in this issue. The Board of Directors reviewed the petition, but no consensus was reached. It will be voted on at the January meeting.)

K6DC was presented with a \$300 check from Eimac for the Northern DX Foundation.

A request for support for the Indian Ocean DXpedition upcoming was made to the membership. There was a motion that the NCDXC contribute an amount to be determined by the BoD to the DXpedition, but there was no second. A good deal of debate followed, and W6GO made a motion that the club contribute \$500 to the NCDXF. This was modified to say that the Foundation could use the funds as they saw fit, ie., not necessarily for this particular DXpedition. The motion was seconded and passed, 27 to 17.

There was some discussion on the jamming noticed lately on WR6ACZ. It was noted that the SCDXC has had some success working with the FCC in getting jammers prosecuted. Ted, W6BJH reported progress in getting the parts for the DF equipment project.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS continued ---

The repeater itself came in for some discussion. There was a motion to change the timer to 30 seconds from the present 60 seconds. It failed, 13 to 14. Another motion for 40 seconds also failed.

The guest speaker was Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, of West Coast DX Bulletin fame. Those not in attendance missed a very lively time, for great tales were told about the Old Timer and the squirrel and the history of the WCDXB. K6SSJ presented Cass with an award for his outstanding contribution to DXing.

THANKS CASS, from the NCDXC

Here I sit, broken hearted. Tried to work the '8Z4 before he departed. Long path, short path there is no chance . . . I keep on doing the DX dance.

Then at last I heard my call. I thought I was ten feet tall. Now I wonder if it's true . . . did I do it? . . . is he true blue?

Now I wait for that card for which I worked so very hard. Five green stamps through the bureau . . . I still wonder if I'm the hero. Then the envelope arrives, the truth is told . . . "This guys' a slim as all were told."

Don Gilbeau/N6OZ

FRESNO 1980

The 1980 Fresno DX Convention will be held on April 18, 19, and 20, 1980, at the Fresno Airport Holiday Inn. Formal notification of the Convention will be made early next year. Better start planning now. Start the decade right!!!

CLEANING UP THE SHACK

WARC is history now. No longer do we have to worry what all those foreign hams, and their governments, think of us, right? NO!!! Now is the time to prove that we said what we really meant. I'm sure a lot of you will be visited by a generous Santa Claus this month. New rigs, new callbooks, all kinds of new gadgets to replace the old gadgets we've tired of. And where will all that old stuff go? Into the garbage can, into the garage or attic to collect dust. Why not put it to excellent use, and send it to someone who could use it? Your "old" 1979 callbook may not be worth much to you, but some ham in India or Africa would be very happy to have any callbook at all. If you have something that you think might be of use to a ham in another country, ask around for an appropriate recipient. WA6AHF, W6KNH, and others can probably make some good suggestions. Yeah, it might cost you a couple bucks to send overseas, but if it weren't for those fellow hams over there you wouldn't have any DX to work in the first place. Consider it a good investment in your future DXing.

-WB6RIU-

December 26, 1979

PETITION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB, INC.

We have carefully considered the petition published in the December 1979 DXer and hereby propose the following alternate amendment. We request the Board of Directors either adopt this amendment or refer the matter to the membership at the next regular meeting, scheduled for January 1980, pursuant to article VII of the By-laws.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 3 Election of Members

The election of members shall be by a procedure specified by the Board of Directors in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

CHANGE TO READ:

The election of members shall be by a procedure specified by the Board of Directors in the Policy and Procedure Manual, **except that no new Associate Members may be elected after January 31, 1980.**

Submitted by:

Voting Member: Jay O'Brien Call W6GO
Voting Member: Norman Brooks Call K6FO
Voting Member: Jan O'Brien Call K6HHD
Voting Member: Don M Bates Call AF6S
Voting Member: Steven S. Thomas Call N6ST

To my fellow DXers,

During the November meeting, we have been informed of the motion to change the rules for membership in the NCDXC. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my own feelings and observations in regard to this subject.

I am one of the "newest" members, however my association with the club goes back to 1948, when I made my first QSO with one of the founders of the NCDXC. Since that time, I have had twelve call signs in seventeen different countries. My contact with the W6 and especially with the members of the NCDXC was always a wonderful experience. Throughout all those years, I have observed the overwhelming enthusiasm of hams around the world toward the NCDXC. They look at the NCDXC as a symbol of superb radio amateurism, which is manifested by aggressiveness and technological advancement. W6's are known as hams of the highest level of integrity and spirit. Their proficiency is without comparison. They are always friendly and willing to help, cooperate, and challenge the hardest DX.

The reputation of the NCDXC is a direct reflection of the contribution of each member. The image of the club is as good as the reputation of the members and no rules or number of DXCC is going to make it better.

For a number of years, we have neglected the value of sponsorship. Being a sponsor is not only an honor, but also a responsibility toward the club. The candidate is bound to some moral obligation to his sponsor. Sponsorship should be taken seriously as a vehicle for an introduction of prospective members.

Our meetings are open to guests, who are most welcome. We should encourage potential candidates to come to those meetings and in this way, he/she will have ample opportunity to learn about the club and its members, and we can get to know the candidate before he/she is voted in. By the way, I was treated better during my association with the club as a guest-now I have to pay for my own drinks.

Instead of introducing new rules and forms for the membership, let's go back to the basics. The wisdom of the founding fathers has proven itself during all those years.

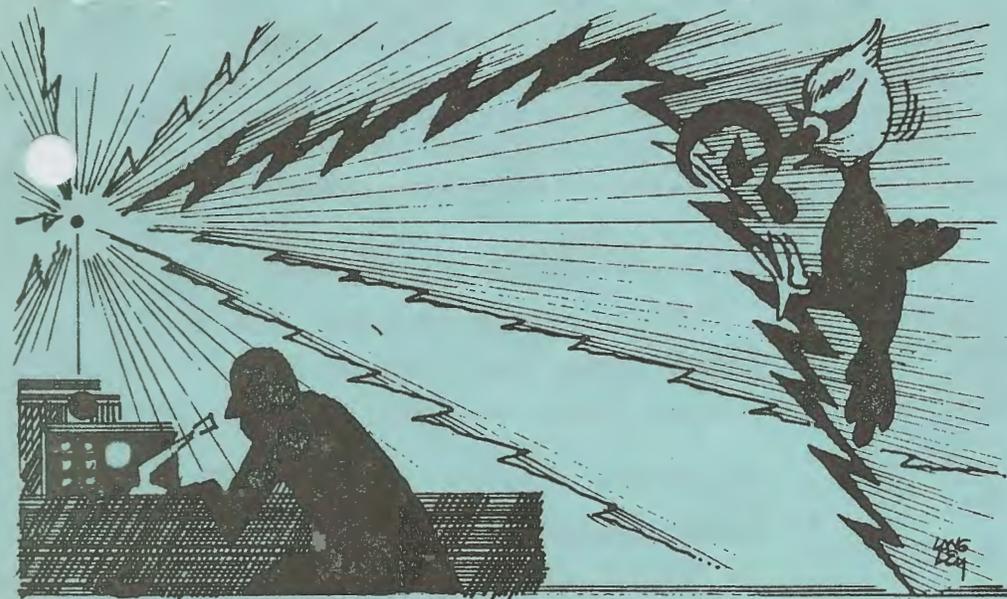
My recommendation to the club is to reinstate the original rules for membership, as it was written in the original charter of the NCDXC. Membership into the NCDXC should be earned and not given.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bruno

AA6AD

(Editor's note --- What Bruno is advocating is a move back to the old Club policy where prospective members were sponsored by one or more club members. Whether this was purely ceremonial or in the club by-laws, I don't know.)



Ham W6CFK calling Moscow: please silence woodpecker

By Richard F. Barrett

Members of the World Administrative Radio Conference are meeting in Geneva for 10 weeks to parcel out the radio spectrum for the next 20 years, and thousands of users of the shortwaves — notably the radio “hams” — hope it can do something about the “Russian woodpecker.”

This bizarre radio signal actually sounds like a woodpecker tapping on a barn wall, or perhaps a lath being pulled across a picket fence. It ranges up and down the shortwaves, dodging possible efforts to jam it and tearing up the air to infuriate those who must contend with the interference. Some of the amateurs wondered why their brother, Sen. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, a past president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, didn't raise the woodpecker issue during SALT II negotiations as another example of Soviet lack of respect for international agreements — this time the one which prevents chaos on the airwaves. The woodpecker may not rank with combat troops in Cuba as an issue, but it causes a lot of annoyance.

Ray Vincent of Los Altos, California, is an electronics detective who sleuths out sources of radio interference with a sophisticated device called a spectrum analyzer. He says the woodpecker has been ripping up the shortwaves for four years now, cutting a swath 200 kilohertz wide. The power involved runs into millions of watts. Electronics people believe the backscatter is used to detect submarine periscopes or the antennas of low-flying missiles. The hams encounter it on their 15-, 20-, and 40-meter bands and it is also heard on other wavelengths as it moves about to avoid jamming. No matter to the Russians that this interferes with other services and breaches international regulations, for which they seem to have about the same amount of respect as for the Helsinki agreement on human rights.

Angry protests about the woodpecker have been raised in Western Europe, the Scandinavian countries, and the United States, which has made representations through the State Department. According to Mr. Vincent, the Russians' defiant reply has been that the woodpecker is a high priority transmission of high national interest and will continue. Other sources quote them as saying that “necessary measures are being taken to reduce interference.” But, after four years and the addition of another station to scan the Pacific basin, the situation has grown worse. Mr. Vincent says the situation is particularly bad in Alaska, where the air is saturated by energy from the woodpecker, probably from an installation on Sakhalin Island or the coast of Siberia.

The International Frequency Registration Board of the International Telecommunications Union has also tried to get the Soviets to abide by the rules to no avail. One ham tried direct action and rigged up his transmitter to send a string of dots on the same frequency. The woodpecker moved within a minute and did so again when he repeated the experiment.

Whether the Geneva meeting can shoot down the woodpecker seems doubtful. International regulation of radio has a long history for a young technology. It is rooted in formation of the International Telegraph Union in 1865. In 1903, seven years after Marconi's historic demonstration, the first radiotelegraph conference was called by the Germans to facilitate communications between ships and coastal stations of different types and nationalities. It produced the first draft of an international convention which was considered, revised, and signed by 27 nations in 1906. There was further revision at the London conference of 1912.

As radio stations proliferated, there was the specter of chaos on the air. At one stage the amateurs were assigned the wavelengths below 200 meters on the supposition these were worthless. This belief was shattered when the hams began making contacts all over the world. The need for sorting out signals and separating them arose from safety requirements on the sea and later in the air. The problem was recognized at the International Radiotelegraphy Convention at Washington in 1927. At Madrid in 1932 the International Telecommunications Union was created by merging the old telegraph union with the 1927 convention.

Worldwide use of the radio spectrum was agreed upon then and at later conferences in Cairo in 1938, Atlantic City in 1947, and the last one in Geneva in 1959. (Many of the radio hams were pessimistic as to how they would fare in 1938 and were heard saying, “Cameras after Cairo.”)

Ray Vincent says the Russians hang their argument on behalf of the woodpecker on a fine-print footnote in the ITU rules which says each signatory reserves the right to use the spectrum as it wishes within its own boundaries. Political boundary lines, however, will not contain megawatts of radio energy on international frequencies. Clearly, if other nations follow the Russian initiative in flouting the intent and spirit of the law, chaos will result.

Richard Barrett, a retired columnist on the San Jose News in California, has been an amateur radio operator (W6CFK) since 1932.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 5-6	QSL Exchange Contest
Jan. 5-7	ZERO District QSO Party
Jan. 11-13	Int. Island DX Contest
Jan. 12-13	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
Jan. 12-13	“Hunting Lions” Party
† Jan. 12-13	YU 80 Meter CW Contest
Jan. 19-20	AGCW-DL QRP Contest
Jan. 25-27	WW 160 Meter Contest
Jan. 26-27	French CW Contest
Jan. 27-28	Classic Radio Exchange
Feb. 2-3	So. Carolina QSO Party
Feb. 9-10	Dutch “PACC” Contest
Feb. 9-10	TWO Land QSO Party
Feb. 9-10	QCWA CW QSO Party
Feb. 9-10	RSGB 7 MHz Phone
Feb. 16-17	ARRL DX CW Contest
Feb. 16-17	YL-OM Phone Contest
Feb. 23-24	French Phone Contest
Feb. 23-24	RSGB 7 MHz CW Contest
Mar. 1-2	ARRL DX Phone Contest
Mar. 8-9	QCWA Phone QSO Party
Mar. 8-9	YL-OM CW Contest
Mar. 29-30	CQ WW WPX SSB
Mar. 29-30	ISSB CW QSO Party
Apr. 8-9	DX to N. Amer. YL Phone
Apr. 15-16	DX to N. Amer. YL CW
Apr. 19-20	ISSB Phone QSO Party
May 24-25	CQ WW WPX CW Contest
Jan. 19-20 N. + S. AMERICA RTTY	
†	Not Official

