

The Northern California DX Club, Inc.



The DXer

JULY 1980

VOL. XXXIV

NR. 7

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- PLACE:** DINAH'S SHACK on El Camino Real in Palo Alto
- DATE:** FRIDAY, 11 July 1980
- TIME:** Cocktails --- 6:30 P.M. 7:30 P.M. --- GRUB!!!
- MENU:** The usual Dinah's smorgasbord --- all you can possibly eat!
Price is \$8.50, including tax and tip
- PROGRAM:**
1. Repeater Appreciation Nite, by W6ZYC
 2. Jack (WA6MSZ) and Nancy Smallhouse, representing Travel Network and Princess Cruises will present a film entitled "Cruise to the Sun," which is about a cruise through the Panama Canal. Bring the XYL's and YL's for this one!
 3. Installation of new club officers.

WHATCHA MISSED

The June meeting was held at the Blue Dolphin in San Leandro on Friday, June 13. Ted, W6BJH opened the meeting with an announcement of the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, to be held on August 29 - September 1. In the past the NCDXC has sponsored a DX Forum at the convention, and K6DC, N6ST, W6FQF, and W6UD volunteered to help.

Smitty, W6JZU, Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division, presented Lloyd, W6KG, with a fifty year continuous membership award. This was greeted with a standing ovation for Lloyd's many outstanding contributions to DXing.

K6SSJ reported on the new application forms and requested that the BoD review the final draft for approval.

Our contest chariman, W6FQF, described the club Marathon Contest and urged all to join in.

N6AUS has begun work on the needed countries list that was distributed with the June issue of the DXer. He had received 47 replies as of the meeting, and was supplying a list of countries needed by others to each who sent one in. Dave says 94% of those responding needed VS9K and the average country total was 257. Many thanks to Dave as this is quite an undertaking.

Elections were held and the new officers for 1980-81 are:

President	Bruno Bienenfeld	AA6AD
Vice President	Ted Park	K6XN
Secretary	Ron Panton	W6VG
Treasurer	Gene Spinelli	WD6DLK

There were four second readings. Our new members are Bill Zachman, W6TPH, Sakae Muto, KI6P?JA1MZM, Gordon Girton, W6NLG, and Lars Berg, SMØCCM. Also, Charles McHenry, W6BSY was reinstated. Congratulations to all!

LAST MEETING continued

first readings were given for Arthur Johnson, WB6OKX, Marcus Mossholder, KB6ST, and Gary Guckel, WA6DJO.

Paul Letsinger, W6SYL, has upgraded to full member status. Congratulations!

The program for the evening was a slide presentation by Lloyd and Iris Colvin on the massive damage done by hurricane David to the island of Dominica last fall. Highlights of the talk centered around the role played by Amateur Radio in providing emergency communications for the island.

GEAR DONATIONS

Got any extra ham radio gear lying about gathering dust that will never make the "swap shop?" If so, and you wouldn't mind donating it to a worthy cause, the Muar, Johore (Malaysia) Boy Scout Troup would be vitally interested, especially if it's something like a transceiver such as an FT-101 (not to exceed 150W DC per the Ministry of Communications), so that they could set up a club station in 9M2-land.

If you have any gear such as this available for donation, please contact AG6Q, Ralph Hunt at (408) 745-3209 (days) or (415) 967-8467 (evenings). Thank you.

VQ9 ACTIVITY LIST

The following are currently active VQ9 stations: VQ9CI, VQ9DM, VQ9JP, VQ9JW, VQ9TT, and VQ9WE. Also possible during brief visits are VQ9DH, VQ9JC, VQ9PC, and VQ9TC. ~~Currently inactive calls include: VQ9DS, VQ9JJ, VQ9KJ, VQ9KK, VQ9PR, VQ9RF, VQ9RL, VQ9RM, VQ9TR, VQ9WJ, and K4GMH/VQ9.~~ This list is by Doug, VQ9DM, and has been relayed by AG6Q. For those needing a specific QSL information on any of the above stations, contact Ralph. The list is being sent to Jay, W6GO, for inclusion in his QSL directory so you might look there also. ---Ed.

DX-PEDITION FIND NEW PHENOMENON

In a recent report in last year's DXpedition to Antarctica, the League of Radio Relaying American's Technical Committee on Propagation has disclosed an unusual cold weather effect on radio transmission.

According to Committee Chairman Dr. E. Flux Norgate, the DXpedition experienced temperatures below -100 degrees on three occasions, and each time the temperature fell, QSOs would be interrupted for up to 30 minutes because CW characters either froze or stuck together as they left the antenna, making communications impossible.

On one occasion, a complete transmission's worth of CW froze solid to a radio hut trapping the occupants for 18 hours. On another occasion, the Morse code was transmitted all right but stuck together so badly that the receiving station could not copy it. Thus far, the LRRR has no explanation for the phenomenon.

--From the Amateur Radio News Service Bulletin, June 1980

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- TNX to W6GO -

CW SIGNAL FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT

by AF6S

Digital readout amateur receivers and transceivers have suddenly brought easy and accurate frequency measurement capability to many amateurs. This is particularly useful for the reporting of DX stations on a net such as the NCDXC 2- meter repeater since the amount of time needed for another operator to find the reported station is directly proportional to the bandwidth he or she must search. The accuracy of modern equipment is sufficient to eliminate the search even when the searcher is listening through a 250 Hz Cw filter, as has been demonstrated many times.

Few problems have occurred in the measurement and interpretation of SSB signals. Here a universal standard seems to exist among equipment manufacturers of showing the (suppressed) carrier frequency, both on receive and on transmit. Thus readings will agree limited only by the equipment accuracy, which is typically within 100 Hz on many popular models.

It is on CW that problems appear. There seem to be several points of confusion, and also some variation among manufacturers in the meaning of the readout, particularly on receive.

First, one fact should be made very clear: a (clean) Cw signal has only one carrier frequency (we're not talking about spurs or harmonics). That frequency is the same as the reading of a (accurate) frequency counter measuring a sample of the transmitter output when the key is down. There is no such thing as, for example, 'zero- beat frequency', 'TS820- frequency', etc. 'zero- beating' is a frequency measurement procedure, not a frequency specification. The distinction is more than academic, since the phrases falsely imply that more than one interpretation of a carrier frequency is possible.

To measure or find a CW frequency accurately, one must learn and understand the meaning of the digital frequency readout on the particular rig being used. This can be deduced simply enough by tuning a carrier of known frequency to the same pitch normally used when copying a signal and then noticing the difference, if any, between the readout and the actual frequency being measured. If the operator always tunes for about the same pitch then the same correction will always be correct. One could also zero-beat the

signal, being careful to swing the IF-SHIFT so that the zero beat can be heard. This method is a little cumbersome but can be very accurate. However, this method must also be tried first on a known frequency, and a correction may be needed to be remembered, depending again on how the readout works.

Knowing (for sure) how the receiver works can sometimes eliminate the need for the experiment but a trial run for practice and to check calibration is a good idea anyway. Some rigs, for example the Kenwood TS820S, TS120S and TS180S all use the same system (the TS520S does not). In these rigs, the readout, on receive, shows the 'effective receiver carrier frequency'. In other words the output audio frequency produced when a carrier is in the passband is simply the difference between the signal's frequency and the frequency shown on the readout. This is true on all receive modes. Also, on CW these rigs all operating like USB mode receive with the filter passband above the receiver carrier (assuming the IF-shift is in the normal area). This means that one should add the audio frequency heard to the frequency shown on the readout to find the frequency of the signal.

Even so, 'TS820- frequency' has no meaning, since the difference between what the readout shows and the correct frequency depends not only on the way the rig works but on the operator's pitch preference. Because of the way they work, the readout on these Kenwood rigs will show the correct frequency if a signal is zero-beat. The need, on any receiver having a good IF filter, to move the IF-shift (if any) to hear the zero beat well makes 'zero-beating' more difficult than on older gear, but done properly the method is capable of good accuracy. Using a counter to measure the audio frequency, or using a calibrated audio oscillator (or musical instrument) as a reference can help establish one's pitch preference. An audio filter setting can be used to maintain the audio frequency, since its narrow passband will restrict signals heard through it to a narrow range.

So, if you haven't done it already, learn to exploit the precision built in to your own rig. Your DX reports will be more useful, and your difficulty in finding a reported station will be limited only by the other guy's accuracy. Lets hope his gear and operating procedure is as competent as yours.



SEANARC '80

1980 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 25-27

Seattle, Washington



26th National ARRL Convention Committee

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George Raymond, K7GR

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Ivan Lee, N7IL
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Wally Nelskog, W7FDG
Willis Propst, K7RS
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Vern Robinson, W7GSP
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Bob Thurston, W7PGY
Vice Director,
Ron Mayer, K7BT

LEGAL COUNSEL
William Cole, W7DRT

May 12, 1980

Advertising and Promotion Committee
1980 ARRL National Convention
John Brown W7CKZ, Chairman

Dear John,

Although there are probably several DX station operators coming to the Convention that we are unaware of at the moment, the following have committed to attend. Feel free to use all or any part of the following listed hams in any advertising and/or promotion for the Convention.

DL3ME, FB8XV, F5VU, G3FKM, KP4AM, KH0AC, JR1ZZC, YB7AAU, BV2B, KH6AN, ZL1BFF, KH6HQ, KH6INK, KH6AHZ, KH6OS, KL7CQ, KL7AP and the Colvins W6KG and W6QL as well as K6LPL/KH5/KH3.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the major DX oriented publications.

73. *Willis*
Willis Propst K7RS
Secretary

JOIN US AT THE
BIG DX MEETING
PART OF THE
**1980 ARRL
NATIONAL
CONVENTION**
25 - 27 JULY, 1980
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

For More Information
Write
SEANARC 80
P.O. Box 68534
Seattle, WA 98168 U.S.A.

Northern California DX Club
Box 608
Menlo Park, California 94025

Gentlemen:

I believe that some months back, you received a letter from OH1BR, Jukka, and his brother OH2BAD, Miika, introducing the new book which they have published called "The Radio Amateur's Conversation Guide". While visiting these two fine DXers and OH2BH, Martti, in Finland last fall, I volunteered to handle the book, the supplements and cassette tapes for them in the USA and Canada on a non-profit basis.

I would very much appreciate any help I could get in publicizing the above in your club bulletins or by a few words at your club meetings. I am enclosing a copy of a reprint from one excellent DX news bulletin and also some advertising slips from Finland that could be distributed to your members.

The "Guide" is priced at \$10.00, the supplements are \$2.50 each or two for \$4.00, and the 60 minute tape cassettes are \$8.00 each. All the above prices include postage and handling. Club prices for bulk purchases can be arranged to save on postage.

Both of these gentlemen have spent many months compiling the conversation aides and I feel they fill a very large speech gap for a lot of DXers in countries all over the world who can speak only their native tongue. As you know, both of these gentlemen are top DXpedition and contest operators and OH2BAD has been QSL manager for OH2BH and his many expeditions.

Thank you very much for your help and any questions you may have will be answered promptly either by mail or phone.

73's and Gud DX,

Wayne
Wayne Gingerich, W6EUF

2301 Canehill Ave.
Long Beach, Calif. 90815

Area code 213 596-6748

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C. 20554

PR
FCC 80-183
27075

In the Matter of

Amendment of Part 97.84(a)) PR Docket No. 80-136
of the Amateur Radio) RM-2910
Service Rules) RM-2939
) RM-3281
) RM-3302

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Adopted: March 31, 1980;

Released: April 9, 1980

By the Commission:

1. The Commission has before it four petitions for rulemaking separately filed by James R. Sebolt in 1977, John C. Kanode on behalf of the Potomac Valley Radio Club in 1977, Arlington R. Kaeding in 1978, and Stephen R. Mann in 1978. The petitioners request that the Commission consider simplifying the identification requirements for amateur radio stations. 47 C.F.R. 97.84.

2. Section 97.84(a) of the Amateur Radio Service Rules and Regulations provides that:

(a) An amateur station shall be identified by the transmission of its call sign at the beginning and end of each single transmission or exchange of transmissions and at intervals not to exceed 10 minutes during any single transmission or exchange of transmission of more than 10 minutes of duration. Additionally, at the end of an exchange of telegraphy (other than teleprinter) or telephony transmissions between amateur stations, the call sign (or generally accepted network identifier) shall be given for the station, or for at least one of the group of stations with which communication was established.

Two petitioners request that the Commission eliminate completely the requirement that amateur radio operators identify the station with which they were in contact, at the end of the transmission. The third petitioner also favors elimination of this requirement, except that he would retain the restriction for international third party communications. The fourth petitioner

requests that this requirement be eliminated where the entire exchange of communication lasts less than one minute. In addition, one petitioner requests that the rules be amended to allow stations completing an exchange in less than one minute to identify themselves at any time during the exchange, rather than at the beginning and end of each transmission.

3. FCC monitoring observers sample transmissions in progress, as well as the beginning or end of transmissions. For this reason, the proposal to allow identification at any time during a transmission lasting less than one minute rather than at the beginning and end of transmission, cannot be adopted. If adopted, this proposal would preclude FCC monitoring observers from identifying the transmitting station, if, for instance, the observer began monitoring the transmission after the identification was given.

4. The petitioners, and others who have filed comments pursuant to the Public Notices released by this Commission, advance the following arguments for amending Section 97.84(a)'s requirement that amateur radio operators identify the station with which they were in contact, at the end of the transmission.

- (1) Each station is required to identify its own transmission; therefore there is no need to require stations to also identify each other.
- (2) The removal of this restriction would reduce channel usage, and therefore reduce channel congestion.
- (3) This amendment would benefit United States amateur radio operators engaged in contest operations by increasing the number of communications that could be completed within a set period of time.
- (4) The Amateur Radio Service is the only radio service where station operators are still required to identify the station with which contact has been made. A similar requirement was deleted from the Citizens Radio Service Rules in 1975. 54 F.C.C. 2d 841, 40 Fed. Reg. 33667 (1975).

DX'ING, A HOBBY OR A BUSINESS?

From THE DX BULLETIN of 16 May 1980 (issue 38) concerning the Tokelau Islands operation by 4Z4TT, I note that following the QSLing information, the statement "One dollar per QSL card."

Assume a hypothetical situation wherein you are looking for 5 Band DXCC and you work such a station on all five bands, five bux will bring you the cards. If you are aggressive enough to work both phone and CW and you are successful enough to work the station on both modes on all 5 bands the tariff is now \$10.00 plus postage and the cost of the cards. Let us further assume that a station under these circumstances works some 20,000 contacts world wide and that 50% of those working him QSL. That's \$10,000.00, and not a bad return on the vacation investment!

Of course the station must keep up a good contact rate to achieve 20,000 contacts and therefore he spends the majority of his time on those bands where this is possible. He QSY's as soon as the contact rate drops below a certain level, say 2/3 per minute. He tries 40 meters and the rate is down but he works a few of the guys going for 5 BDXCC and he QSY's to 80 meters, where he works a handful of stations but spending just enough time to satisfy the 5 BDXCC types, and back to 20 where the rate is high enough to justify a profit on the trip.

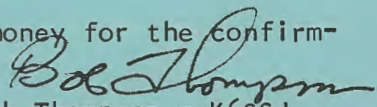
About 2 years ago a canadian amateur wrote a letter to various well known DXers in which he offered to spend 2 or 3 years on an extended DXpedition (vacation?) trip to a number of rare spots, if he could obtain \$1000 from 100 DXers or \$100 from 1000 stations. It was proposed that he would go to any rare spot where a license could be obtained, principally Africa, Asia and various ocean islands. It is rumored that a DXpedition is being planned to XZ Burma, which, of course, is a rare one indeed at this time. Money has been referred to again as the balm one would need to acquire this rare QSL.

Some people believe that Don Miller, W9WNV, made DXing a business and it was rumored at the time of the ARRL investigation that he had acquired a bank account of \$120,000.00! Under these circumstances, is this an amateur radio hobby, or a business for profit?

Many DXers do not mind a donation to a worthy DXpedition now and then or to a native in a rare country who has a problem with postage and/or printing of QSL cards etc. The new breed of DXers seem to have accepted the idea of "pay as you go DXing" thus encouraging these types of operations.

Wouldn't it be better to make your contributions and donations to an organization such as the Northern California DX Foundation for the tax advantage you can take and let them screen the DXpeditioners who receive assistance? Are we going to continue to prostitute and condone DX as a profitable venture to those who vacation to these rare spots or should we clean up our hobby by approaching DX as a hobby rather than the business it is becoming?

A donation for a QSL card is one thing, demanding money for the confirmation is quite another matter. I rest my case.


Bob Thompson - K6SSJ

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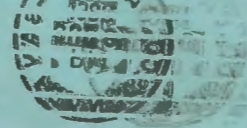
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* NCDXC REPEATER: WR6ACZ
 * TRUSTEE: Charlie Kump W6ZYC
 * Input freq. --- 147.96 MHz
 * Output freq. -- 147.36 MHz
 * Suggested simplex: 147.54 MHz
 * NCDXC THURSDAY NITE NET
 * On WR6ACZ Thursdays at 8:00 P.M.
 * NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS
 * W6TI, the NCDXC Memorial Station
 * broadcasts DX bulletins each Sunday
 * at 1800 GMT or Monday at 0200 GMT
 * on 14.002 MHz.
 * W6TI TRUSTEE: Bob Vallio W6RGG
 *
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