

THE



DXer

FEBRUARY 1986

VOL: XLI NUMBER 10

THE FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Friday, February 14, 1986

TIME: Cocktails - 6:00 PM
 Dinner - 7:00 PM
 MEETING - 8:00 PM
 =====

PLACE: Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto. Take the Embarcadero turnoff to the Palo Alto Airport / Golf Course.

PROGRAM: Dr. D.K. (Don) Reynolds, K7DBA will present "Revealing Antenna Secrets by Making Radio Waves Visible". D.K. teaches at the University of Washington and is a design engineer at AEA, where he designed both the IsoPole and HR-1, "Hot Rod" antennas. This is an intriguing subject and a program you won't want to miss.

FROM THE PREZ--

A belated Happy 1986 from the officers, directors and advisors of the NCDXC! I hope the new year brings each of you new countries, return mail QSL's, Bouvet for K6LM (and the rest of us, too), no dupes (for the contest contingent) and, most important, a sense of well-being.

Those who have read carefully the Board minutes last month may have noticed a Board recommendation to increase dues to \$24. (Actually, it was originally reported at \$25 but was amended to \$24 at the January Board meeting to accommodate pro-rata dues for new members, i.e., \$2/month). The Board has discussed the financial status of the Club at every meeting since the election last summer. We have carefully explored every feasible alternative to a dues increase -- but the cold, hard numbers remain essentially unchanged each month. Here's why we finally decided to recommend a dues increase to \$24 a year.

(Continued - next page)

FROM THE PREZ (Cont'd.)

1. In August 1980, dues were \$10 a year. The Club was "neither losing nor gaining money." (Sept. 1980 DX'er, p. 2). A scant four months later, the Board discussed the "possible/probable need to increase club dues." (Jan. 1981 DX'er, p. 3). Two months later, the Board bit the bullet: "Solvency and cash flow of the club discussed at great length, the creeping inflation and the projected financial obligations make an increase in dues necessary. The board arrived at a suggested yearly fee of \$15.00 . . ." The membership balked at the suggestion but reached a compromise. As reported in the April 1981 DX'er, the proposal to raise dues to \$15 a year failed but a motion to increase dues to \$12.50 passed. (April 1981 DX'er, p. 5).

2. In the last five years, club dues have remained unchanged. A \$2.50/member assessment was approved in August 1984 but the entire \$2.50 was (and continues to be) slated for the Repeater Fund. No misunderstanding: our repeater is superb and deserves our wholehearted support, financial and otherwise. The fact remains, however, is that dues have rested at \$12.50 for the last five years.

3. We spend money each year on the following:

- (a) The DX'er and postage
- (b) The roster and postage
- (c) Christmas Party
- (d) Club Picnic
- (e) DX Convention
- (f) Club Awards
- (g) Westlink
- (h) California Award
- (i) Club QSL Cards
- (j) Club Pins/Badges
- (k) Storage for Club Archives
- (l) ARRL Club Insurance
- (m) NCDXF Contributions
- (n) Administration (Club post office box, postage, etc.)

(Continued - next page)

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(Continued - next page)

FROM THE PREZ (Cont'd.)

In my view, the only item arguably vulnerable to a Gramm-Rudman approach is contest awards. But we've done it already. As reported in the Board minutes elsewhere in this DX'er, an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board (K6XN, KA6W, W6SZN, AA6G, and KG6GF) took a hard look at the NCDXC Awards (as described in the Procedures Manual) and thereafter recommended to the Board a reduction in the number of redundant and overlapping awards, effective for the 1986 ARRL and CQWW Tests. As a result, awards cost should fall from \$900 to about \$300, at least during the declining sunspot years. Nonetheless, like the U.S., we continue to run at a substantial deficit.

Knock, K6ITL, presented a Treasurer's report at year-end that projects a deficit for the balance of the Club's year (ending June 30) of approximately \$3,200. The big item, as it should be, is the DX'er. The club newsletter, in my view, is the best one I've ever seen and no one supports any cutback on the quality of it. The fact remains, however, is that the current dues per member just about cover the cost of the DX'er alone.

4. From what has been said above, I hope it is obvious that we must increase the dues. The only alternative is to reduce substantially what the Club is all about -- and I hope no one supports that. After considerable discussion, the Board unanimously recommended an increase to \$24 a year, effective with next year's dues (due July 1, 1986). At \$2 a month (about the price of a Bud Lite at Harry's), I think membership is a bargain: the DX'er, the repeater, Westlink, the Christmas Party, the picnic, club insurance, club awards, and others -- and the privilege of belonging to the best DX club in the world.

I hope you see it that way and support the Board's recommendation with your vote at the February meeting.

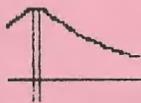
73,

Kip, W6SZN



REMEMBER YOUR VALENTINE!





DX-CERPTS ...

... FROM DX-PERTS

DX activities and events appear to be somewhat abundant despite the fact that there is a general lack of propagation to support them. As an example FR7AI is still planning to operate from Tromelin from February 1st thru March 31st... will probably sign FR7AI/T. NC7K broke in on the Thursday night net to let us know he will be operating from Tonga as A35WZ from February 13th thru March 4th... both of these operations coincide with the ARRL DX (CW & Phone) contests. There has been no further word from Ron, ZL1AMO about his operation from Chatham during March, but in this case, no news may be good news... latest news has it that HZ1ITA plans to operate from Somali... no word on a call or time.

An interesting story coming out of the Caribbean... word is, that Aruba will be applying for new country status... prefix is P4 and best guesses are that if it's not made this year, then we'll have to wait 'til 1996. So we'll have something to look forward to... Better still, here's some of the "stuff" hanging around that you might be able to work right now---

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>FREQ. (MHz)</u>	<u>TIME (UTC)</u>
Botswana	A25/W6KG	14 (CW & SSB)	1700-2130
Franz Josef Land	UV100	7.001-.025	2300-0100
"	UA1OT	3.502	0530
Kampuchia	XU1SS	14.180	1200
"	"	soon to be active on 40M	
South Orkneys	AZ1A	14.175	0230
"	"	14.025	2230
"	"	7.010	0330
South Sandwich	CE9AM/VP8	14.210	2200-0200
Sudan	6T2MG	14.18	2100
"	6T1YP	7.006	0330
"	DJ1AS/ST2	14.003	1400
"	also expects	to be QRV on 40 & 80	
"	ON7IP/ST2	(20M SSB)	(?)
Syria	OE3EMN/YK	14.185	1300-1500
"	"	14.023	1700
"	"	7.005	0230
Togo	5V7AS	14.002	2130
Tristan da Cunha	ZD9CI	14.183	2140
UK Sovereign Bases	ZC4MR	3.788	0200
Willis Island	VK9ZG	14.197	0930
Zambia	9J2DF	21.295	1730

Many thanks to Phil Garrahan, W6LQC. Most of what you see here is compiled from Phil's DX News on the Thursday night net. If it weren't for Phil, there would be a very scant amount of information in "DX-Cerpts" each month.

Good DX, WA6O

COMPETITIVELY SPEAKING...

CON-TEST: 1. A struggle for superiority or victory between rivals. 2. Any competition; especially one in which entrants perform separately and are rated by judges...

The following information about upcoming contests was sent to us by Frank Anzalone, WIWY, Contest Editor for *CQ Magazine*. Although Frank sent us complete information on all contests, we have chosen to show only DX type contests herein. For details please see *CQ Magazine*.

Feb.	15-16	ARRL DX CW Contest
Feb.	21-23	CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest.
Feb.	22-23	French Phone Contest
Feb.	22-23	RSGB 7 MHz CW Contest
Mar.	1-2	ARRL DX Phone Contest
Mar.	8-9	RSGB Commonwealth
Mar.	15-16	YL-ISSB CW QSO Party.
Mar.	15-16	Bermuda Contest
Mar.	29-30	CQ WW WPX Contest.
Apr.	9-10	DX-YL to N.A. YL CW
Apr.	16-17	DX-YL to N.A. YL SSB
Apr.	26-27	Swiss Helvetia Contest
May	10-11	USSR CQ-M Contest
May	17-18	ARI International Contest
May	24-25	CQ WW WPX CW Contest

CON-TEST-ANTS: 1. Those who take part in a contest...

A number of stations appear to be positioning for the ARRL DX Contests, but we've heard nothing about NCDXC members making the trek to DX spots. If you know of anyone, please spread the news around. The Colvins are still in Africa (Botswana at last report) and will possibly participate.

In case you missed it in the January Issue, there will be two new prefixes in the Caymans: ZF8 for Little Cayman and ZF9 for Cayman Brac. This could be useful data for those taking part in the CQ WPX Contests.

Finally, see the March issue of *CQ Magazine* for info on 1986 CQ WW 160M Contest Plaques.

VISALIA CONVENTION NEARS

Just a reminder that the DX Convention (hosted this year by the Southern California DX Club) is just around the corner. The Convention returns this year to Holiday Inn in Visalia and will be held on the weekend of April 18-20. Pre-registration is \$38.00 and must be postmarked no later than March 31, 1986. Subsequent registrations will be \$40.00. Checks should be made payable to SCDX CONVENTION and mailed to:

Don Bostorn, N6IC
4447 Atoll Avenue
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

The price of registration includes the Saturday Banquet and Sunday Brunch along with a cocktail party hosted by the Southern California DX Club on Friday night, and the famous Saturday Night Cocktail party hosted by Henry Radio of Los Angeles.

Room reservations for staying at the Visalia Holiday Inn may be made by dialing (209) 651-5000 and asking for the convention reservation desk. Please DO NOT dial the 800 line. Room rates will be \$42.00 single and \$50.00 double.

Fabulous programs and great awards are planned. So get your registration in early and come take part in the fun. See you in Visalia!

Mark L. Stephens, W6RON
November 29, 1947 - January 12, 1986

Mark was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and spent his childhood years in New York and Pennsylvania. He received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1969 and an M.S.E.E. degree from the University of California - Berkeley in 1974.

He was first licensed as an amateur radio operator in 1960 with the call, K3VVG. He received the W6RON call in 1974 when he moved to Campbell and began working for Signetics Corporation. He was employed by Advanced Micro Devices at the time of his death.

Mark is survived by his wife, Molly (N6EWJ) and two daughters, Rebecca and Kathryn.

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Although I didn't know Mark Stephens as well as I would have liked, I was probably the closest NCDXC member to his QTH in terms of mileage. He was a good family man and was proud of his wife, Molly and the children. He was also a good DX'er and I always knew when he was on the air and he no doubt knew when I was operating. He was a good competitor and had a clean, outstanding signal.

Mark and I visited on several occasions and he was always a delight. We discussed DX, antennas and the usual things Club members talk about.

Mark called me on Friday, January 10th to ask my assistance in helping Molly dispose of his equipment. It was then that he told me he was dying of cancer and had but a short time. I agreed to get together with him that weekend. When I called at noon on Sunday, Molly informed me that Mark had passed away at about 7:00 a.m. that morning (January 12th). I was shocked and upset that we had not gotten together on Saturday.

I attended the Church Memorial Services later that week and met Mark's father, mother and the family. He was an active member of the Methodist Church of Los Gatos, California.

Mark was a good Club member and attended as many club meetings as he could under the circumstances of work and family. I will miss Mark; in the chats on two meters; in the pileups on twenty meters; and his personal visits.

Bob - K6SSJ

NEWS BITS.

MAIL A PROBLEM?

From time to time it's felt that the Post Office picks on you. That could be, but more often than not, the mail you were expecting was never mailed in the first place. But if you feel that something is truly amiss, you can follow up on it quite easily. Please note the following and mark it for future reference. I hope you really never need to use it. But I, for one, for many years, had a postman who left me wondering why, on the day before his day off, I never got any mail... With the following, you have an easy way of checking it out. de WB6WKM

If you have a complaint about mail service, you can help the U.S. Postal Service solve the problem by filing a Consumer Service Card, PS form 4314C. The complaint card is a registered, postage-free, multicopy form. One copy is sent to the local postmaster; one goes to Washington, DC; the third winds up at the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Offices in St. Louis, Mo., and you keep the fourth. To get a consumer service card, contact your local postal authorities or write the Consumer Service Offices, St. Louis, MO 63155-9993.

PUT YOUR LOCATOR FIELD ON YOUR QSL

Many dxers are now starting to sort their contacts according to the Maidenhead Locator System. Having recently gone through all my qsl cards for the last 30 years to see how many of these locator fields I have confirmed has convinced me that there is a need for us to include either our latitude and longitude or field locator on our QSLs.

All of California is included in one of three fields.

1. If you live north of 40 N latitude you are in "CN".
2. If you live west of 120 W longitude you are in "CM".
3. If you live east of 120 W longitude you are in "DM".

Under the system the earth is broken up into 324 fields each 10 degrees latitude by 20 degrees longitude. This is a comfortable number for hf dxing. For uhf and vhf contesting a finer gradation is used. Each field is divided into 100 squares, each 1 degree latitude by 2 degrees latitude. Those of you who gave K6GSS and others contacts in the recent VHF sweepstakes will have gotten acquainted with CMB7, CM97, DM07 and many others. A tabular listing of grid squares for all locations within the NCDXC area may be found in The November DXer. The information comes from "The Radio Amateur's World Atlas" published by SM5AGM. If your Dixer is no longer available or you want further information please contact me, but whatever the case please consider adding your field data to your qsl.

W6DU

MINUTES OF NCDXC MEETING
JANUARY 10, 1986

Meeting held at Harry's Hof Brau in Palo Alto. Cocktails and dinner preceded the business and entertainment meeting. Business meeting convened at 7:38 p.m. with welcoming words from Prez Kip, W6SZN. Smitty, W6JZU introduced our many guests: AK5Q, NA6T, AH6FI, G3BWC, W7MAP, N7TD, KG6KZW, NV6Z, N6MTJ, KB6IRO, wives, and Kip's little nippers Sarah and Christopher.

The Southern California DX Club is accepting checks for the Visalia Convention. (April 18-20.) Our club needs a new MC for the Thursday evening Swap Shop, as Dick, WB6WKM is bowing out after 5 years of a very FB job. Rusty, W6OAT reminded us of the NCCC Sprint contest February 1 CW, and February 8 SSB. Kip announced that the chairman of the DX'er of the Year committee is Adam Mentis, N6QR. The two members assisting him are W6TEX and KG6GF. They will appoint two others who shall be unknown. The deadline for nominations will be March 14. Send your nominations to N6QR. The awards committee has researched the awards situation and will make their recommendations to the board. Los Altos Hills is still holding meetings over Ed Radlo's tower, but as yet there is no decision. We are sorry to announce that W6RON, Mark Stephens, is very ill, and the club is dismayed at the news. K6YK, John Lee, is in the hospital, and we are told that he is doing ok. Check in again soon, John (this is Ron, John).

Our program for the evening was presented by Bob Smith, NA6T. The subject was his DXpedition to Midway Island. Excellent slides and a very entertaining talk were very much appreciated. Knock, K6ITL, gave his Treasurer's report and said that the February DX'er will contain a comprehensive review of our financial status, being compiled by W6SZN and K6ITL. Secretary W6VG gave two first readings. Chuck Shinn, W7MAP and Mickey Driver, AK5Q. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. Very good turnout.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Panton, W6VG,
Secretary

MINUTES OF BOD MEETING NCDXC
JANUARY 14, 1986

Meeting was held at the home of W6VG, and convened at 7:22 p.m. Present were W6SZN, K6ITL, K6TMB, KA6W and W6VG. We were saddened to hear of the passing of W6RON, Mark Stephens, and the confinement of K6CN, Guy Ottinger in the Palo Alto VA Hospital.

A final report on the 1985 DX Convention was given, and the Board discussed various possible chairpeople for the 1987 Convention. Knock, K6ITL, gave a comprehensive financial report, and the Board reaffirmed its earlier decision to recommend a dues increase to \$24.00 per year. A report on this financial situation will be forthcoming in the February DX'er. The DX'er of the Year committee is in action and accepting nominations. Write N6QR with your nominations. An ad hoc committee studied the awards given out by the NCDXC each year, and a large pruning will take place. The Board discussed the Life Member initiation fee, which will necessarily increase with an annual dues increase. A letter was read from Mrs. John Nakken (W6CEI XYL) stating that John can no longer hear or read. He is able to hear CW, and is still on the air. She recommends that the club discontinue sending the DX'er to John. John is an honorary member.

Future programs for the club were discussed, and several good ideas came forth.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Panton, W6VG,
Secretary

IT SEEMS TO ME...

In his message for this month, W6SZN conveyed the Board's proposal for a dues increase to \$24.00 and presented a solid argument as to it's necessity. Kip also proposed some of the benefits that we derive from membership;

"the DX'er, the repeater, Westlink, the Christmas Party, the picnic, club insurance, club awards, and others -- and the privelege of belonging to the best DX club in the world."

Most of these benefits are clearly evident. But for me, the value of belonging to the first and foremost DX Club in the world is immeasurable.

Our's was the first DX club ever incorporated. And it's a privelege just to be in the company of some of the foremost names in DX'ing - to talk with them; share their experiences; and learn their techniques. Having others of their stature regularly visit our meetings, affords us an opportunity to look at our hobby (DX'ing) from a totally different perspective. Just knowing how the pileups sound on the other end, could be the key to having our calls recognized by a new or rare country.

From a technical standpoint; Our club abounds with knowledge and expertise. Take a look: ninety-six percent of our members are either advanced or extra class licensees! I haven't heard a technical problem mentioned, that couldn't be solved by someone in the club. And the spirit of cooperation that permeates the membership allows synergetic solutions to problems that might otherwise be insolvable.

It has been said that the greatest asset an organization can have, is good people. I agree. And for me, this is the greatest benefit to be derived from membership in the Northern California DX Club. It's also the reason that I support the Board's proposed dues increase. Good people have elected good people to guide our club. Let's accept their proposal.

We will always be the first DX club in the world. Together, we will continue to be the foremost.

WA60

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH DX'er is;
FEBRUARY 28, 1986.**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB INC., P.O. Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94026

The DXer is the bulletin of the NCDXC and is published monthly for the benefit of the club members, Permission to use any portion of this publication is hereby granted, provided credit is given to The DXer.

NCDXC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	KIP EDWARDS	W6SZN
VICE PRES	SMITTY SMITHWICK	W6JZU
SECRETARY	RON PANTON	W6VG
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	DAVE HILLMAN	N6AUS
	DICK LETRICH	WB6WKM

Send DXer Contributions to:
George Allan, WA6O
4050 Lemoyne Way
Campbell, CA 95008

DX LADDER

Send reports to:
Jim Hicks, KK6X
2260 Santa Fe Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

NCDXC REPEATER: W6TI/R

TRUSTEE	BOB VALLIO	W6RGG
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REPEATER COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN: SMITTY SMITHWICK W6JZU
Input Frequency: 147.96 MHz
Output Frequency: 147.36 MHz
Suggested Simplex: 147.54 MHz

NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

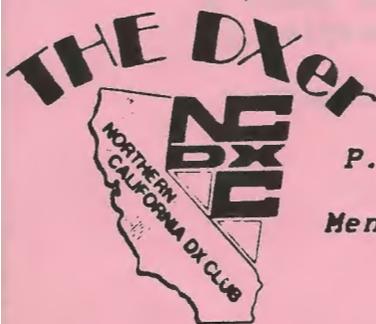
On W6TI/R Thursday at 8:00 PM PST

NET CONTROL:

DX NEWS:	Phil Garrahan	W6LQC
PROPAGATION:	Al Lotze	W6RQ
WEST LINK:	Chuck Vaughn	AA6G
CONTEST NEWS:	Ted Algren	KA6W
SWAP SHOP:	Steve Munro	KZ6Z
QSL INFO:	Jay O'Brien	W6GO

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



P.O. Box 608,
Menlo Park, CA 94026

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