

# THE



# DXer

FEBRUARY 1987

VOL. XL - NUMBER 2

## CALENDAR

- Feb. 7-8 - RSGB 7 MHz Phone DX Contest.
- Feb. 13 - NCDXC February meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto.
- Feb. 20-22 - CQ WW 160M SSB Contest.
- Feb. 21-22 - ARRL CW DX Contest.
- Feb. 21-22 - RSGB 7 MHz CW DX Contest.
- Feb. 25 - Last date for inputs to March DXer.
- Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 - French Phone DX Contest.
- Mar. 7-8 - ARRL Phone DX Contest.
- Mar. 28-29 - CQ WW WPX SSB Contest.
- April 3-5, 1987 - 38th International DX Convention, Visalia, Grosvenor Hotel (formerly the Visalia Hofiday Inn). Call (209) 651-5000 for reservations.

+ = + = +

## FEBRUARY MEETING - BLACK CAT NIGHT!! FRIDAY THE 13TH

The February meeting of the NCDXC will be held on Friday, February 13, at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Jo, WB6ZUC, will present another of her popular slide shows. This new one will cover her recent trip to Roumania and Poland. She spent three weeks in each, and even managed to see some hams! She will also show us a few slides from her trip to Peter I island a few years back. As you will recall, Jo wasn't able to land, but her ship came close enough for her to get several good shots of the island. Cocktails at 6:00PM, dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

+ = + = +

## FROM THE PREZ

1987 is starting off with a bang. The Peter I Island DXpedition is now history, and hopefully all the deserving worked this new country. The Golden Jubilee is in full swing and has really stimulated a lot of activity on the bands. Its been some time since I

have heard pileups on KH6s and JAs. So far its been great fun.

There is a lot more fun in store for us in 1987. Another club 40th anniversary mini-marathon will soon be under way. This time the goal is to work 40 countries in 40 days. To make it a little more interesting, you must also have worked at least 5 countries in each of the 6 continents. Further information on this event is presented elsewhere in this issue of the DXer.

The 38th International DX Convention, under the able leadership of Len, K6ANP, and Lyle, WW6F, is shaping up to be a really great show. Be sure to send your \$40.00 registration fees directly to Jim Hicks, KK6X.



K6TMB, after calling Peter I for 18 hours straight.

This is also the time of the year that the club bestows on a fellow club member its highest award, the DXer of the Year. The chairman of the DXer of the Year Award Committee this year is Dick, WB6WKM. Please send your written nominations to Dick as soon as possible. The cutoff date is March 6, 1987. Review section 3-115 of the Procedures Manual to see the selection criteria. The award is presented to the winner at the annual DX convention.

I hear from some of our SCDXC friends in the southland that they intend to give us a run for our money in the upcoming ARRL DX Contest. I think we will need a maximum effort this year if we are to retain the North/South trophy for the umpteenth time. The dates for the contest are Feb. 21-22 for CW, and March 7-8 for SSB. Be sure to get on and give it a good effort during the contest, and be sure to send a copy of your contest summary sheets to the Contest Chairman, Steve, WC6I. Steve will also have log sheets and dupe sheets at the club meeting, Feb. 13th.

See you in the pileups  
73 es DX  
Lou, K6TMB

**THE 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 its members. Permission to use any portion of this publication is hereby granted, provided credit is given to The DXer.

+ = + = +

**NCDXC OFFICERS**

President	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB
Vice Pres.	Ted Algren	KA6W
Secretary	Ron Panton	W6VG
Treasurer	Jim Knochenhauer	K6ITL
Director	Kip Edwards	W6SZN
Director	Bill Fontes	W6TEX
Director	Hal Godfrey	N6AN

**DXER STAFF**

Editor	Jim Maxwell	W6CF
Contributing	George Allan	WA6O
Contributing	Hal Godfrey	N6AN
DX Ladder	Jim Hicks	KK6X
Production	Dave Hillman	N6AUS
Production	Ron Panton	W6VG

Send DXer contributions to

Jim Maxwell, W6CF  
PO Box 473, Redwood Estates, CA 95044

Send DX ladder reports to

Jim Hicks, KK6X  
2260 Santa Fe Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**NCDXC REPEATER W6T1R**

Input 147.96 MHz; Output 147.36 MHz;  
Simplex 147.54 MHz

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
Repeater Committee chairman	Smitty Smithwick	W6JZU

**NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET**

On W6T1R Thursday at 8:00PM local time.  
Operations Manager

DX News	Ralph Hunt	AG6Q
Propagation	Phil Garrahan	W6LQC
Westlink	Al Lotze	W6RQ
Contest News	Chuck Vaughn	AA6G
Swap Shop	Steve Brunt	WC6I
QSL Info	Steve Munro	KZ6Z
	Jan O'Brien	K6HHD

**NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS**

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
---------	------------	-------

W6T1, the NCDXC memorial station, broadcasts

DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST  
(Monday at 0200 GMT) on 14.002 MHz.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

As this DXer goes to press, the Peter I operation is still going strong. A great many club members have worked them for an all-time new country. But who's to pay the freight? This is almost certainly the most expensive single DXpedition ever launched. All of you who treasure that new country and who have enjoyed the challenge of cracking the pileup should now seriously consider sending your thanks to the Norwegian gang in a form more substantial than a QSL card. The NCDXC Board of Directors, at their January meeting, discussed the matter of a donation in behalf of the NCDXC to the Peter I DXpedition. After extensive discussion, the decision was made to leave it up to the individual members. So it's now up to you. There are several ways to help out. Perhaps the easiest is to send a donation via the Northern California DX Foundation. Donations received by the NCDXF which

state that they are for the Peter I group will be passed on to them directly. Your name and call will also be forwarded with the NCDXF check. You may also enclose the usual green stamp (or two, or three, or more) with your QSL card. Let's let them know we appreciate the great job they've done!

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC**

Meeting was held at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto. After cocktails and dinner, the meeting convened at 7:47 PM, called to order by president Lou Beaudet, K6TMB. Ted Algren, KA6W, introduced the guests. Congratulations were given by K6SSJ, Bob Thompson, and KA6W for putting on a fine Xmas party. K6TMB announced that the ARRL Jubilee is going full blast. Lyle, WW6F, presented the latest update on the DX Convention coming up in April. Details are very much in hand with guest speakers N6TJ, W6KG, W6QL, KC7UU, ZL1AMO, DJ6SI. HRO once again is a tremendous help with prizes. There will be patches and coffee mugs available. Registration fee will be \$45.00. Sponsors for the Friday and Saturday cocktail hours have been procured, and prizes will include TS440 for pre-reg, a TS940 for the grand prize. K6TMB presented Joe Dillow, W6UR, with a special cup award. This prestigious Dr. Scholls catperson award was given for Joe winning the "Round the Block" Marathon. Joe graciously accepted the award with a few well chosen words. WC6I, Steve, reports between 25-30 applicants for the 40 year award. The main event was the presentation by Len, K6ANP, and Lyle, WW6F, on their Grand Turks & Caicos DXpedition. This was the VP5X operation during the 1986 CQ WW contest. The slides were excellent, and the presentation was well organized, and everyone enjoyed this happy trip with KK6X, WW6F, K6ANP, and their XYs. The secretary presented first readings for applicants WG6P, WZ6Z, WA8LLY, W6OSP, WB6UDS, WN6R, K6MBV, and N6EK. Second readings were given for W6TMA and K3EST. Both were unanimously voted into membership. Welcome to both new members. Clarification of the club awards for DX contest operation was given by K6TMB, and attention was called to the ARRL rules as the criteria. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Panton, W6VG  
Secretary

### MINUTES OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 13, 1987

Meeting was held at the home of W6VG. Present were K6TMB, KA6W, K6ITL, W6VG, N6AN, W6TEX, W6SZN, and guest W6MKM. Meeting convened at 7:26 PM. Item #1 was consideration of a petition signed by club members proposing DJ6SI for honorary membership in the NCDXC. Petition was approved, and will be presented to the membership for their consideration at the February 13 1987 meeting. Item #2 concerned contest ideas for the balance of our 40th anniversary year. W6ISQ presented ideas which were discussed at length. The final decision for a contest will appear in this issue of the *DXer*. DXer of the Year chairman will be announced shortly by K6TMB. Two of the committee have been selected and will be announced at that time. The board decided that the NCDXC should not contribute to the Peter I expedition, but members are urged to donate to the Northern California DX Foundation. Knock, K6ITL, gave a treasurer's report, and a report on the status of insurance for the club. Insurance will be procured before the April convention. There will be a raffle at the February meeting and will be handled by KA6W/W6MKM. Hal, N6AN, has designed a certificate for issuance to foreign hams for the 40 year contest. DX test awards discussed, both CQ and ARRL, and the club will strictly adhere to the sponsor's rules in the future. (A motion made by W6SZN, seconded and passed. W6SZN will write up.) Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ron Panton, W6VG  
 Secretary

+ = + = +

### NCDXC DXER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations for DXer of the Year are now in order. Club members are encouraged to nominate their favorite candidate whom they believe meets the criteria for DXer of the Year as outlined in the NCDXC Procedures Manual, paragraph 3-115. So, dig out your Procedures Manual, put a piece of paper in your typewriter and bang out a letter with reasons why your nominee should be the next DXer of the Year.

Send your nomination to the DXer of the Year chairman Dick Letrich, WB6WKM before March 10, 1987. A selection will be made by the five man DXer of the Year committee. The winner will receive a

handsome plaque which will be presented at the 38th International DX Convention in Visalia, April 3-5, 1987.

Hal, N6AN

+ = + = +



Why is W6RJ bug-eyed with surprise?  
 Read CATPERSON and find out!

+ = + = +

### GOLDEN JUBILEE AWARDS

According to the Jan. 13 issue of the ARRL Letter, the first four applications for the DXCC Golden Jubilee DXCC award were received at Hq. January 5 from AA2Z, K1MM, K6AAW and W6GO. The application from AA2Z and W6GO shows they worked 100 countries in the first 3 days! As of January 9, a total of 18 applications had been received.

W6GO actually worked his 100 in 48 hours 42 minutes, just a shade over two days. No info on the time for K6AAW, who is also an NCDXC member. AE6H reportedly completed his DXCC in 7 days.

+ = + = +

### AT&T FREEBIE

According to *QRZ DX*, AT&T has been distributing a device for determining the time in other time zones around the world. It is in the form of a circular slide-rule made of cardboard. Call AT&T's International Caller Club at 1-800-443-5550 and ask for the "AT&T Time Wheel."

+ = + = +

### PETER I WRAPUP

The CATS net has really been hopping for the past few days - screams of joy mixed with screams of agony as members have taken to 2 meters to announce their successes and failures with bagging the Peter I DXpedition. There must be a lot of tales out there

waiting to be told - tales of woe, of frustration, of joy, of exasperation. So why not tell them and let them be recorded! Please jot down your favorite story or stories and pass them along to either Jack, W6ISQ, or Jim, W6CF. If enough good tales show up, Jack has agreed to put together a story for the DXer which will preserve for posterity the essence of these past days. We'd like to know about your records, too. Who was the first NCDXC member to work Peter I on CW, the first on phone, and the first to complete QSOs on both modes? Who has succeeded with the lowest power, the strangest antenna, the most unusual time of day? Please send such info along too and we'll compile it. A letter to either W6ISQ or W6CF will do the trick, or pass the info along to us on the CATS net.

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +

### WORK 40 COUNTRIES IN 40 DAYS

In view of the success of the two previous mini-marathon contests and to continue with the celebration of the NCDXC 40th anniversary, the board of directors is pleased to announce a new intraclub mini-marathon, known as the 40-40 contest.

The objective is to work 40 different countries within a 40 day period. A minimum of five countries must be worked in each of the six continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America). The 40-40 starts February 13, 1987 at 0000Z and ends March 24, 1987 at 2359Z. Send your results to our contest chairman, Steve Brunt, WC6I, PO Box 62344, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 on or before April 4, 1987. A Northern California DX Club Contest Participation Award Certificate, suitably inscribed, will be presented to all who qualify.

Participation in the 40-40 contest will be concurrent with the ARRL Golden Jubilee of DXCC Award. So, here is a chance to get on the air and (almost) earn two awards for the price of one.

Hal, N6AN

+ = + = +

### VISALIA CONVENTION DETAILS

The time has come to register for the 38th Annual International DX Convention to be held April 3-5, 1987, at the Grosvenor Holiday Inn in Visalia. Room reservations must be made directly with the hotel. DO NOT use the 800 number. Room reservations can be

made by calling (209) 651-5000. Room rates are \$43.00 single and \$51.00 double.

Full details regarding the program and prizes is given in an announcement to be mailed to all members.

Pre-registration for the convention is \$40.00 and MUST be postmarked no later than March 8, 1987. All subsequent registrations will be \$45.00. A meal package (Banquet/Sunday Brunch) will be available for \$30.00. Seminar only registration is \$15.00 (limited prize eligibility). Please make your checks payable to the DX CONVENTION 1987. Mail your registration and check to KK6X at his address given on page 2 of the DXer.



Jim Hicks, KK6X

+ = + = +

### ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The ARRL Board of Directors met on Jan. 16-17 at Hartford, CT. Attending were Pacific Division Director Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, and Vice Director Knock, K6ITL. Among the items covered at the meeting were the following.

1. It was voted that the DX Advisory Committee be funded for up to \$3000 for an in-person conference of the three subcommittee chairmen and the chairman in mid to late 1987 to finalize a draft of proposed recommendations to the Board on the future of DXCC.

2. The Board Membership Services Committee is "directed to study the role of the Awards Committee and its relationship to the DX Advisory Committee and the Contest Advisory Committee." The Membership Services Committee was also "directed to review the standard operating procedures for the ARRL Awards Committee with the objective of incorporating a mechanism whereby any inconsistency between the conclusions reached by the DX Advisory Committee or the Contest Advisory Committee and the Awards Committee is resolved." This motion was introduced by Rod Stafford and seconded by Tom Frenaye, K1KI. The meaning of all the legalese doesn't exactly leap off the paper. What's behind it apparently is a widespread dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Hq. Awards Committee has overruled the DX Advisory Committee on several occasions. The hope is that a mechanism will be found to avoid future conflicts.

3. ARRL President Larry Price, W4RA, reappointed John Parrott, W4FRU, as chairman of the DX Advisory

Committee, and Doug Grant, K1DG, as chairman of the Contest Advisory Committee.

4. Plans are being made for the League to provide a new membership service, the timely notification of license renewal deadlines. This service is already supplied to NCDXC members, of course, by Dave Hillman, N6AUS. This is a good time to mention that you should check your mailing label, which contains your license expiration date. Send any corrections along to Dave.

5. The 1988 National Convention was approved for September 9-10-11 at the Red Lion Inn, Jantzen Beach, Portland, Oregon.

+ = + = +

### NEW CHINESE STATION ACTIVE

Alan Harvey, VK3DRN, was a recent visitor at the Nanjing Institute of Technology, where he lectured on speech recognition equipment. While there he presented an Icom 735 transceiver plus power supply to the Radio Engineering Department. They intend to set up a station with the call of BY4WNG.

There is a radio club station already operating there under the call of BY4RN.

Let's hope the BYs will soon be as plentiful as W6s - or at least KH6s!

Ray, K6FD

+ = + = +

### DX ANNOUNCEMENTS ON W6T1/R

How many times have you missed a DX announcement or the key part of a DX announcement?

How many times have others asked you to repeat all or part of a DX announcement?

This is a suggestion which, if followed, will reduce repeats of this very vital information. As you know, when a pileup is building, speed is the essence. Repeats cause delays, and should be avoided. Further, when you are asked to repeat your announcement, this takes you away from scanning the bands to repeat the announcement.

The suggestion is to follow the Procedures Manual. First, get everyone's attention by saying "DX ANNOUNCEMENT." If you wish, add the band and mode to further whet their appetite, such as "on twenty meter phone." Then, give the call of the station and the frequency, in that order.

Saying "DX ANNOUNCEMENT" gives everyone time to say "quiet" or the like to their dog, or turn down the TV. The band and mode information will eliminate some right away who may not be interested in your announcement. The frequency is given last, after the DX station call, so that those not interested won't have to make a mental note of the frequency only to find out that the DX station is one not needed. Think about it, you prefer to hear the announcements:

"DX ANNOUNCEMENT"

BAND and MODE

STATION

FREQUENCY

And, if you foul up (like I do some times) half way through, just repeat the announcement in the above order. Thanks.

Jay, W6GO

+ = + = +



What are these DXers gawking at? Read CATPERSON for Jan. 13 and learn their secret!

## DON RIEBHOFF, K7ZZ, SILENT KEY

We have all lost a friend. As many have already heard, Don Riebhoff, K7ZZ, was killed in Spain on Monday, January 20. Many NCDXC members became friends of Don through many on-the-air contacts with him, especially during his years in Asia, and through his occasional visits to NCDXC club meetings and to Fresno and Visalia. Bob Thompson, K6SSJ, was one of Don's best friends in Northern California. Bob agreed to write a few words in memory of Don.

Jim, W6CF

20 January 1987

Many of us in the NCDXC were saddened this morning to learn of the passing of Donald Riebhoff, K7ZZ. Don was killed in a head-on automobile accident in Spain. He was apparently killed instantly.

My first acquaintance with Don was via amateur radio. Don was active on all bands from his apartment in Saigon during the Viet Nam war. He was also on the air later from Phnom Penh in Cambodia (now Kampuchea). Don worked for the State Department and was assigned to a number of different countries during his career. He spent two years in Baghdad, Iraq prior to the assignment in Lisbon, Portugal. He had also spent a year or more in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He was not able to obtain licenses in Baghdad or Prague.

While in Viet Nam a group of fellows including Don were the first ones to put the Spratly Islands on the air. In addition to Don were Phil Wight, VS6DR, Chester, XV5AC, and Scotty, WB4VBY. All came to the DX Convention in Fresno and put on a very good program on this DXpedition. This was the same meeting at which we had "Brandy" do her "cake pop" for Frank Cuevas, W6AOA.

About a year ago, Don spent several months at the Monterey Language School studying Portuguese. He subsequently returned to Lisbon to continue his assignment. He purchased a large home and a sizeable piece of real estate for his antennas. He had a rather high tower and a rotary beam for 80 meters along with others for the higher bands. He loved the country and planned on living there for several years.

Don was tall, handsome, well-educated, friendly and enjoyed ham radio. He was an excellent operator on both phone and CW and was known the world over. Not too long ago I met with Don and his girl friend Ann over dinner in Mountain View. Ann worked for an airline and it wouldn't have surprised me if they had married eventually.

Don was a bon vivant and was popular with men and women alike. As a "Top of the Line" DXer he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Bob Thompson, K6SSJ

+ = + = +

## DX LADDER CHANGES

A new member DX Ladder will be published in the March *DXer*. This ladder will be a revision of the one which appeared in the October issue. It consists of phone, CW and mixed DXCC country totals, plus 5 band DXCC totals. Updates should be sent to Jim Hicks, KK6X, as soon as possible. Jim's address is given on page 2 of this issue.

+ = + = +

## DX DYNASTY AWARD

Never one to let the grass grow green beneath his feet, W2NSD has announced a new *73 Magazine* DX Dynasty Award (DXDA). DXDA is based on the concept of a country, as is DXCC, but with several new twists. The perennial problem of how to define a country has been solved by accepting everyone else's country definitions. In short, the countries list of every IARU society has been merged to produce a single super list of nearly 400 countries. Contacts made after 0001Z on January 1, 1987, are eligible for the DXD Award. QSLs are not required, and an extremely liberal endorsement policy is to be followed. For a copy of the DXDA list send a SASE to *73 Magazine*, WGE Center, Peterborough, NH 03458, Attn: DXDA.

+ = + = +

## NEW AMATEUR RADIO RECORD

Now fellas, CATPERSON doesn't like any mention in this here rag of anything other than raw DX. But CP's simply got to go along with the following news about county hunting. KB7QO, Ken Wosika, and his wife Norma, have traveled to and operated from every one of the 3077 counties in the United States! I don't mean that he has worked each of the 3077 - several hundred have managed to do that. *He and his wife have visited and have gone on the air mobile from each of the 3077*, finishing up in Polk County, Iowa, on November 25, 1986. Now, maybe county hunting isn't DX, but I doubt if many DXpeditioners have shown more dedication than have Ken and his wife.

## PG&E POWER LINE NOISE

(Editor's note: The following item appeared in the Dec. 23 1986 issue of the *ARRL Letter*. A real eyepener.)

### FCC DECLINES TO FINE ELECTRIC COMPANY

In August, ARRL Counsel Chris Imlay filed a Petition for Imposition of Forfeiture and Other Relief against the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E), on behalf of two ARRL members living in Anderson, CA. WB6SXL and W6VLE had both experienced noise from the PG&E's power lines of up to 10 dB over S-9 on 160 through 20 meters. Richard Santos, WB6SXL, had first complained of heavy power line noise to PG&E in 1977, but no action was taken by the utility. More complaints were made in 1978, and finally in 1979 PG&E began a serious investigation of the noise. After many tests, the source of the noise was found to be high voltage lines one-half mile away from the Santos' home. Since then PG&E has refused to eliminate the interference, claiming high replacement costs. Complaints to the FCC Field Office in San Francisco have produced no response.

Another amateur, W6VLE, is also experiencing high noise levels, and has written letters to PG&E and FCC without the problem being solved. In both cases, there has been no reduction in interference, despite PG&E's claims that over \$20,000 has been spent trying to solve the problem. Having exhausted all other remedies, the ARRL filed its request for imposition of forfeiture before the FCC. It asked that the Commission issue a notice of violation against PG&E as the result of their repeated refusal to rectify the interference. On November 21, the FCC Chief Scientist, Dr. Thomas Stanley, denied the petition. "The Field Operations Bureau" [he wrote] "has found that the radio noise is due to the Corona effect [an electrical discharge resulting from a partial electric breakdown in a gas, such as that which happens in the air surrounding a wire of a high potential]. This is typical of the old chain-like cable that is used in this transmission system. The FOB has further determined that the only way to eliminate completely the remaining interference would be by replacing the existing conductors of the facilities."

"The Commission's past policy" Dr. Stanley said, "with regard to this type of interference has been to require power companies to correct problems if the RFI is caused by defective line insulators, loose unbounded hardware, discharges from defective lightning arrestors, or defective transformers. However, the Commission has not required power

companies to correct RFI on properly installed transmission lines, if the interference is caused by Corona, if the interference is to only a few individuals, and if correcting the problem would constitute a major financial burden to the power company, which would be passed on to the public."

At press time, WB6SXL and W6VLE are undecided about pursuing other remedies.

+ = + = +

### NEW ARRL CONTEST MANAGER

Mike Kaczynski, W1OD, has resigned as Contest Manager effective mid-January. Since 1979, Mike has served in a number of positions in the Technical and Communications Departments. Mike has been accepted into the Air Traffic Controllers Academy in Oklahoma City, OK. The new Contest Manager is Billy Lunt, KR1R. Billy has served as Assistant Contest Manager for the past 18 months.

Hq. is now looking for an Assistant Contest Manager to fill the spot left vacant by Billy Lunt's promotion. Applicant must be thoroughly interested and knowledgeable in the ARRL's varied contest program. Applicant must work with the Contest Manager in administering the contest program, score logs, and prepare contest results for QST. PC familiarity and some writing skills preferred. The beginning salary range, depending on experience, is from \$13,754 to \$15,132. Contact Billy Lunt or John Lindholm at Hq. for additional information.

*ARRL Letter*, Dec. 23, 1986.

+ = + = +

### REPORT FROM LLOYD & IRIS

The following report was sent from the Comoros Islands, January 1, 1987.

Dear Friends:

We made 9,000 QSOs with radio amateurs in 152 countries, operating as D68QL, from 13 December thru 30 December 1986.

This is our best record so far on this trip out.

There are only two other licensed amateurs in this country: Bill, D68WB, and Alain, D68AM. D68WB is an American Doctor who has been here for the past 10 years and was a great help to us. He is associated with a missionary group here, all of whom assisted us in many ways. The procedure to obtain a license includes a meeting and approval of the Commander in

Chief of the Armed Forces of the Comoros Islands. It cost 160 American dollars for our licenses, which is the highest that we have ever paid. This is not very much, however, when compared to other prices here; for example, two Coca Colas cost six American dollars.

Our tri-band antenna was in an excellent location on the shore of the Indian Ocean, with two guys secured to a rock actually in the Indian Ocean. We were inspected twice by local Police, who kept saying "Who are you sending messages to?"

The weather is very hot and humid, and, for the first time ever, we really enjoyed having air conditioning available (usually we disconnect the air conditioning unit and connect our radio to that electric circuit).

There is no QSL Bureau in the Comoros, so everyone must QSL to YASME.

73	es	88
Lloyd Colvin		Iris Colvin
W6KG		W6QL

+ = + = +

**CQ, CQ, CQ**

There is a town in the state of Washington named SEKIU, ZIP 98381, pronounced "CQ."

+ = + = +

## WILD NOGGA PLACED ON ENDANGERED LIST

The rare, wild Nogga has been placed on the endangered species list, according to the Save the Nogga Foundation's Executive Director Clevelund Aremurray. The Nogga became an endangered species because of unregulated hunting of the smelly beast to provide Nogga hide coverings for furniture. Not to be confused with artificial Naugahyde, the hide of the wild Nogga is valued because of its soft texture and unusual odor. Mr. Aremurray said, in a statement issued last month, that "The wild Nogga may be wiped out in the next few years unless people become aware of its plight. No one should buy furniture or any other items made from the hide of this rare, ugly, stinking animal." Mr. Aremurray encouraged citizens to refuse to patronize any dealer selling products made from the hide of the Nogga, and to call their local radio and TV stations, and newspapers, to demand their support of the Save the Nogga campaign. He said that regular commercial Naugahyde provides an adequate substitute for Nogga hide. "Although the Nogga is ugly, terribly smelly, and has extremely disgusting mating habits," said Mr. Aremurray, "that is no reason to murder it." He estimates that there are no more than 10 million wild Noggas living in the world today.

Thanks GEARVAKf Bulletin and N8JR

## THIRD-PARTY AGREEMENTS

The following are countries with which the United States shares a third-party traffic agreement.

V2	Antigua	YS	El Salvador	HP	Panama
LU	Argentina	C5	Gambia	ZP	Paraguay
VK	Austria	9G	Ghana	OA	Peru
V3	Belize	J3	Grenada	VR6	Pitcairn Is.*
CP	Bolivia	TG	Guatemala	V4	St. Christopher & Nevis
PY	Brazil	8R	Guyana	J6	St. Lucia
VE	Canada	HH	Haiti	J8	St. Vincent
CE	Chile	HR	Honduras	3D6	Swaziland
HK	Colombia	4X	Israel	9Y	Trinidad
TI	Costa Rica	6Y	Jamaica	GB	United Kingdom**
CO	Cuba	JY	Jordan	CX	Uruguay
HI	Dominican Rep.	EL	Liberia	YV	Venezuela
J7	Dominica	XE	Mexico	4U1ITU	ITU Geneva
HC	Ecuador	YN	Nicaragua	4U1VIC	VIC Vienna

\* Agreement with the U.S. is temporary and informal.

\*\*Limited to special-event stations with call-sign prefix GB (GB3 excluded).

Thanks W6NLG, *IARS Newsletter*, and *Spurious Radiations* (The Rockaway Amateur Radio Club, Brooklyn).

### N6JV AND W6CF CLAIM NCDXC DX RECORD

It all started on January 4, 1987, at 0010 GMT. Norm, N6JV, with his beam to the northwest, was working an Okinawa station on 20 CW. Jim, W6CF, noticed an unusually loud echo on JV. Jim turned his antenna toward South America. JV's direct path signal fell to S2, but his long path signal was S5! After N6JV finished with the Okinawan, he and W6CF had a short, slooow QSO over the 25,000 mile path. Any other claimants for membership in the 25,000 mile club?

+ = + = +

### QUIZ

Who were the first hams to join the NCDXC after its foundation by the eleven charter members on October 10, 1946? Answer below.

W6MVQ (now N6GG), Rich Lawton, and W6LMM (now K6PJ), John Nelson, who both joined the club in February 1947. Rich, N6GG, is still a member of the club and actively chases DX from his QTH in Pioneer, CA. K6PJ, Nels, is no longer a club member but he is still active, especially on 10 meters.

Hal, N6AN

+ = + = +

### 160 METER DXING IN EUROPE

by Klaus Heintzenberg, DJ6RX

Jan. 1, 1987, the Belgian administration granted permission for ONs to operate on the 160 M band. They may use a maximum of 10 watts, and operate between 1830 and 1850 KHz. This of course was an easy new country for any of the European DXers.

Somehow, last winter season while listening to DL9KR, DJ8WL and other well-known 1.8 MHz specialists - only hearing them, but not the exotic DX they were working - I got stimulated to give it a serious try also. The project got started. Target: DXCC on 160 in 1986.

The antenna solution was found in QST for November 1975. The oversize Gamma match was built quickly. The vacuum Gamma capacitor (BC610 WW2 surplus) rests in an empty plastic beer bottle container. The HF Yagis on top of the 18 M tower act as top loading. Tuning was easy, the match seems to be near perfect to the TS930. However, the VSWR changed while attaching more radials. I stopped adding wire when

the VSWR changes became very insignificant, hoping that the antenna efficiency was acceptable now.

Germany 160 M band regulations allow operation between 1815 and 1835 KHz, also between 1850 and 1890 KHz, all CW. SSB operation is only permitted on one channel: 1832 to 1835 KHz. Practically, there can be only one station on 1835 LSB, using up all of the channel. The legal power output in either mode is limited to 75 watts! More on that SSB channel later.

Listening again to the big guns in G (10 W), SM (10 W), DL (75 W) and other European stations on low power regulations and comparing their signals with the legal high power operation from Switzerland, for instance, made me wonder. How can a 10 W signal be heard in W2 with S9 + +, have a +/- 1 KHz synthesizer noise bell at my location and push the needle to the stop on my transceiver? They all must either have some secret or use an "active transmatch" or both.

It took 8 months of effort, including study and experimentation, but I enjoyed the work and the results prove I found the others secret. Guess everybody has experienced the frustration of not being heard. I rather prefer being told by KL7H on 7 MHz "Klaus, you need a better receiver, I called you many times on 160, but you only answer the East Coast stations." - The other day we made the contact.

Back to the European 1.8 MHz band. We all share the band with many fixed and MM services. Every 3 KHz you may find a G, OZ, PA, SM etc. marine SSB signal. All working USB, providing ship to shore telephone services. These stations of course come on when you dig deep. RF gain set just so that only noise bursts move the needle, AGC off and the audio wide open to catch the signals with "negative signal to noise ratio." Just as you hear something, or you try to copy a call or the report, they come on, S9 + 40 dB SSB, some English lady wishes her husband a Merry Xmas. We not only face UP1BZZ clicks, the QQRP OK novice asking for a report, ON4UN's "10 W noise bell," but also the many commercial services. This should explain why we often just do not hear the W6/W7 calling on that band.

Now some remarks on that German SSB channel. Most everybody is complaining about it. The so-called DX window is completely useless for most Eu's while the SSB gang is chatting. And sometimes they chat from sunset to about 2 hours after midnight. 1832 to 1835 is useless for weak signal work during that time. On 1831 and 1830.5 KHz continuously runs a commercial CW transmitter. This wipes out 1830.1 to 1831.4. However, often you have a good chance between 1823 and 1824 as well as on 1829.5 and 1830.1. The section 1850 to 1890 is not used much for

DXing although there are many holes during our sunrise periods.

By the end of 1986 I had worked 108 countries, with the ON there are 109 now. I am now waiting anxiously for the mailman to bring 18 more cards to complete DXCC.

WAS should also be possible, if some states would produce more serious DX activity on 160. 42 states worked, still looking for MS, NM, AZ, MT, NV, UT, WY and ND.

Fortunately there is KH6CC who already sent his card. KL7Y and KL7H are very active and show up often with good signals.

The most outstanding West Coast signals come from N7UA, W7EJ, A17B, W6RR, W6EE, and K5MM/7.

DXing on 160 can be even more exciting than on 80. I am still fascinated and hope to see more of you on that band too.

+ = + = +

### BIRD DROPPING RESEARCH

(Editor's note: Yes, you read the title correctly. Could the research discussed below describe a mechanism for flashover of antenna insulators? Perhaps we should be building anti-roosting spikes on our antennas. Anyone have any ideas?)

Recent speculators on the water-repellency or otherwise of bird droppings seem unaware that this is of major economic importance to the power industry. High-voltage transmission lines normally consist of conductors suspended by insulators from grounded crossarms. In open country, birds view the crossarms as convenient perches. Predictably, insulators in such areas are frequent recipients of droppings, sometimes causing power cut via flashover of the insulators in wet weather.

The physics of this phenomenon is believed to involve low-current electrical arcs elongating over insulating surfaces. This process requires a continuous conducting film. If the surface is non-wetting, the water forms small droplets (beads) and flashover occurs by distortion of the drops by the electric field. This is unlikely in the case of power-line insulation since the electric field required is several orders of magnitude higher than typical operating fields. Thus, G. A. W. Rook is probably correct in surmising that bird droppings render the surface more wetting, perhaps due to an ingredient in the bird bile.

Further support for the hydrophilic view comes from Soviet researchers who suspended unenergized high-voltage insulators under a perch in a vulture

cage. When sufficiently coated, the insulators were removed, energized and subjected to mist. Flashover occurred at voltages typical of wetted surfaces. A mildly repulsive photograph of the vulture-cage arrangement has been published.

To simulate the phenomenon, engineers at the Bonneville Power Administration in the United States, after consulting with avian experts, designed a mechanical cloaca consisting of a pressure chamber with an adjustable-diameter orifice. A balloon within the chamber contained raw scrambled eggs (for correct viscosity) doped with salt (for correct electrical conductivity). The dropping level was determined from measurements on rehydrated cage scrapings from a local zoo. A solenoid operated needle broke the balloon on command, discharging the contents.

In full-scale test conducted at 500 kV, the mechanical cloaca operated perfectly, resulting in spectacular electrical fireworks. As a result of this study, spikes were installed on crossarms to discourage roosting. Animal rights activists will be pleased that no living birds were injured in the research, and that a hazard to wild birds was reduced.

(Ref: *Nature*, Vol. 319, Feb. 20, 1986, by David C. Jolly, Brookline, MA, and *The Journal of Irreproducible Results*, Vol. 32 No. 2, Nov/Dec 1986.)

+ = + = +

### LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de G0CLY/K6SMH

Hello from Merry Ole England! Got the DXer today and read it with great enthusiasm!

Here at Menwith Hill Station we have the DARLEY Amateur Radio Club on the air with club call G0FOS. QRP at 100 watts (FT102) with only G5RV dipole for now. Also active on 2 meters and 70 cm. We also have the only Volunteer Examiner team in the U.K. and have managed to administer about 50 + U.S. ham exams resulting in about ten new license holders and several upgrades.

I sent in my qualifying QSOs for the NCDXC coffee mug but see from the DXer I'm not on the list of club members who qualified for the mug. I read the rules which say members need only QSO 40 DX stations in 10 countries. Any problem with my qualifying?

Re the DXer - especially enjoy reading CAT-PERSON!!

Please extend my Christmas Greetings to all NCDXC friends - was glad to be able to make the September picnic.

My special even call sign GB2RIP (Ripon City 1100 birthday) expires 22 December 1986 so am back to GOCLY - Cute Little Yankee.

73.

Jerry Bliss, GOCLY

PO Box 219  
Menwith Hill Station  
APO New York, NY 09210

+ = + = +

(Editor's note: In late December Sam, W6TSQ, received a most interesting letter from famed 80 meter DXer John Devolder, ON4UN. The following is a slight condensation of that letter.)

Sam - I thought of dropping you a line to tell you how things have been here, and to wish you the best for the coming season.

During the summer all radio activity comes to a standstill, while I try to do some sports (tennis, cycling, swimming). This summer, though, I also had to spend some time finalizing the manuscript of the new book.

Comes October, my (80 meter) DX season starts and I come back to radio life! This season I have made it a habit to go to bed early (Frida likes that), and get up before 6 AM (she hates that, I think). This gives me 1-1/2 hours in the morning to work the short path on 80. And I have been pretty successful so far. - Since October 10th (the day I started this season), I have made about 250 West Coast QSOs, and even about 10 on the long path! I like CW a little better than SSB, but there is much less activity on CW than on phone. It is a shame! I also set out to get the Northern California DX Club anniversary award, for which you have to work 40 club members in 1 year (Oct. - Oct.). I want to do it on 80, and have 28 worked so far. Wish me good luck...By the way, I work Glenn, K6NA, and Jim, W6YA, quite regularly on 80. This morning I worked Jim, WB6FZC, who was running 100 watts only, and he was 55 and gave me 58! I know you would have been 59 if you had been on. It was a really good opening today.

We expect to have 160 within days or weeks now. And I am all ready to go. So watch out for me.

I recently put all my West Coast QSOs on 80 meters (over the years) on the computer. I have made nearly 1500 QSOs with W6/W7. It is interesting to see the very low QSL rate even from W6s on 80. Not more than about 20% all over.

I now write a regular 80 meter DX column in *RADIOSPORTING*. Have you read this new magazine? Guess as a DXer at heart you would enjoy it.

This morning I worked my country #307 (present DXCC list, or 321 all time) on 80m with KH9AC. Bob, W6RJ, helped me with the QSO which Ray, N6DKP, had arranged for me. I am very happy with this one. The list becomes quite restricted now: 3Y, FR/Glorioso, KH5 (Palmyra, Jarvis), KH5K (Kingman), VP8 (South Sandwich), VU7 (Andaman), XZ, ZA and ZK1 (North Cook). Glorioso is coming on the air for 2 months as of today, so maybe we'll have a chance there. VU7 should be activated early next year, I understand. So we still have something to look forward to!

I have plans of putting up a 4 element vertical array for 80 (diamond) on top of the greenhouses which belong to my father-in-law next door. He is going to rebuild part of it maybe next year, and then I would take the opportunity to install an elevated ground system (about 13 ft high). The ground system would be 1 acre in size (200 by 200 ft). Sounds like that might work out OK. Could give me 5 dB over the present system. I also plan to put up a 3 el full size 40 meter Yagi at 95 ft, and a new 65 ft tower with the 10 and 15 meter Yagis.

I must thank you for all the good QSOs we have had on 80 meters this season. It looks like you are watching the band day and nite! Your signal is really fantastic, not by the strength of it, but I always recognize it, even if I can make out only one letter in a pile up. You must undoubtedly use an old Vibroplex bug, and I love the fist. Don't you ever switch to another key!

My new book on LOW BAND DXing (should be out) by next summer. The software that goes with the book is already on the market. *Ham Radio Magazine* was the first one to sell it. Others are following (ARRL, *CQ*, 73, *RADIOSPORTING* etc). The software is available in several systems now: DOS 3.3 for Apple 2e and 2c, CPM for Kaypro and alikes, CPM for Commodore C128, MS-DOS for IBM and compatibles, and later also for the Apple Macintosh. It is selling like pancakes...!

It looks like I might be out your way sometime next spring. I will try to make it to San Diego. I was very disappointed I could not make it for the National convention. I did enjoy Visalia though, and was disappointed not to have seen you there!

Let me wish you a very Merry Christmas, and all the best for the new year.

John, ON4UN, and family

+ = + = +

## MEET THE MEMBERS

Gary Blake Jordan, WA6TKT

CATPERSON screeched and yeeeeooooowwwlled and and scratched long and hard for the privilege of writing the biography of Gary Blake Jordan, WA6TKT. But Gary did such a good job on the material provided to the *DXer* biography editor, that CATPERSON's deft touch wasn't needed.

Gary has been in ham radio since 1952 and has been a member of NCDXC since April 1978. He reports that he is an electrical engineer by trade, sports a Ph.D., and occupies his time in the rather esoteric field of electronic warfare at ESL in Sunnyvale. What does that mean? Well, I don't know and he won't tell. It has been reported, however, that Gary has been spotted at NCDXC meetings, lurking in the background, wearing dark glasses, sneakers, and a trenchcoat.

Seriously, one thing Gary does not do is wear shining armor to club meetings, even though there might be some justification to do so. You see, Gary states in his biography that he is a Knight of Malta, having received his orders and knighthood at SMOM in Rome. Gary doesn't say whether or not he has any influence with 1A0KM QSOs and QSLs. But he hasn't worked 1A0KM himself, which makes one wonder whether or not that trip to SMOM was worth it, after all. Gary mentioned that his knighthood would entitle him to be addressed as Sir Gary, or Gary Jordan, K.M., except - alas - the use of titles of nobility in the U.S. is unlawful. So a simple "Dr. Jordan" must suffice. He will surely get it right in time for his next visit with His Highness King Hussein, JY1, a distant cousin, and the only other ham in the family listed by Gary - oops, Dr. Jordan, PH.d.

Anyway, Gary's country total is 250 mixed, which means he's at that frustrating point where there still are countries to be worked, but they're not coming as easily as they once did. He spends his time about evenly split between phone and CW, and has worked well over 100 countries on each mode. He's also put away WAZ mixed and phone. Gary does it all with a TS-940S, SM-220 + SB620, a TH6DXX and several wire antennas - a 40M Delta, a 40M ground plane, a long wire, and a trap dipole for SWLing. SWLing? Yep, in



Gary, WA6TKT

addition to ham radio, Gary reports an interest in listening to clandestine radio stations. He likes to listen to revolutionary and military communications coming out of Central America, and has also been spending some time puzzling over the famous (or infamous) number station problem.

Gary lives in San Jose with his wife Gloria Jean and their two children Gareth Kylae and Glynis Jerell. In addition to ham radio, Gary enjoys photography, and is a certified scuba diver.

Finally, Gary also enjoys music, and in fact music at one time helped put food on the table - he reports that he helped pay his way through college playing the trumpet professionally in a mixed bag of orchestras ranging in style from the Philadelphia Philharmonic to dance bands working the college circuit. Gary mentioned that he still plays trumpet occasionally. These musical skills may well be the secret to Gary's 50-50 split between phone and CW - many CW operators have a special fondness and talent for music. And what better background for working a vicious phone pileup than a well-developed trumpeter's embouchure?

Jim, W6CF, L.R.E.  
(Lord of Redwood Estates)

+ = + = +

## KNOCK ON ANY DOOR

by Al Slater, G3FXB

During my travels around the world I have knocked on the door of many a ham's QTH and virtually without exception the result has been positive. These visits are invariably remembered for many things ranging from marvelous hospitality to the chance to observe some pretty massive antenna farms and superb locations. One of the most unique however did not fit into any of these categories.

The visit in question occurred in 1974 when together with Howie and Dottie, W1HZ and our two youngest daughters we were touring the Maritime provinces of Canada. It was late May and the weather was not the greatest. In any event we ended up one evening at a motel in Middleton, Nova Scotia, and after dinner a brief reconnaissance revealed a two element Quad just across the road. Needless to say Howie and I went to investigate and a knock on the door produced an answer from a woman who was certainly getting on in years. We explained ourselves and were immediately invited in and shown into the lounge.

"Fred" the woman said, "there are a couple of fellows come to see you - one from England and the other from Boston." Fred was sitting looking out of the window and was obviously fairly well advanced in years.

"How old do you think he is?" the woman queried.

"Oh about 76 years" I responded employing the tact that I had acquired in business.

"I'll go along with that" was the response from Howie.

"Fred do you hear what these fellers are saying about you? They think you're 76! Let me tell you he is 99 - he'll be 100 next September!"

Howie and I were in the company of the oldest active ham in North America - Fred Bath, VE1LQ. And active he was for we were ushered into the shack complete with one of those huge old fashioned pot-bellied stoves and a brand new FTDX 401.

"You are still active then Fred" I ventured.

"Sure son" he responded. "Check into the Maritime net on 75 every day."

"What about the HF bands?" Howie asked.

"No, don't bother with that DX stuff any more" was the reply.

"But what about that Quad out back?" I asked.

"Oh that belongs to my son next door" Fred said.

"And how old is your son?" asked Howie.

"67" came the reply!

I then asked Fred for the secrets of his long life.

"Abstaining from alcohol" said Fred. "Way back in 1904 I had convulsions and the only thing that saved me was brandy. The Doc said if I had been a drinker it would not have done the trick."

After some further ragchewing it was time to go. We said our farewells to Fred and his XYL and headed back to the motel. Apart from the fact that we had enjoyed the company of the oldest ham in North America there are three other points worth noting. One was the fact that I had omitted to take the camera across the road with me. The second was that despite the fact that it was "Apple Blossom Time" it snowed the following morning and at least we have pictures of the kids playing in the snow in late May.

Finally Fred Bath never made his century. After our return to the UK we noted his listing in QST that September as a Silent Key!

From the *FOC News Sheet*, Jan. 1987

+ = + = +

## NEW DXCC COUNTRY IN BAJA CALIFORNIA?

Hot, dusty Baja California Sur has a population density of about eight people per square mile.

But now its deserts and salt flats are ringing with rumors that 500,000 Hong Kong Chinese are on their way, bearing plans to erect luxury condos and high-rise office buildings in Baja's tiny, dirt-road pueblos. These Chinese, it is said, want to practice laissez-faire capitalism at its purest in revolutionary Mexico.

In villages rimming Baja's Sebastian Vizcaino Bay, peasants have been spotted marking off desert plots with boards and old tires, staking claims in the hope that the forthcoming invasion will ignite property values.

In Mexico City, there's a small firestorm of criticism. Union advocates say the Chinese will be stealing jobs from Mexicans. Reporters in the capital are clamoring for the facts. Mexicans wonder if someone is getting rich on the deal. A congressional inquiry has begun.



The cause of the storm is an article which appeared in Virginia City Nevada's *Territorial Enterprise*, which told of the big plans for Baja. According to an article in the magazine, top officers of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid announced that Mexico's ruling party, the PRI, has granted a 99-year lease of a portion

## ANSWERS TO MARATHON QUIZ

by Catperson

of Baja California Sur to a consortium of bankers and industrialist from Hong Kong. The article was headlined: "Baja...A New Hong Kong?"

The article went on to describe plans for a sprawl of luxury townhouses and a deepwater port. It called the project a New Economic Zone, or ZEN, its Spanish acronym. It quoted one Hong Kong eager beaver who said he had already bought a 15th floor sea-view apartment in a building that won't be ready until 1988. And it named a Dutch engineer who said planning a city from the ground up is a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

The article has been widely translated in the Mexican press, and read in congressional testimony. To Mexicans, who already complain bitterly that they too often have to read about their own government's economic doings in the foreign press, word from abroad of a secret new ZEN was like tabasco sauce rubbed in a wound.

"The more the government denies this, the more we know it's true," says Salvador Landa, an opposition-party congressman from Baja California Sur, expressing a widely held view.

And far away, in tiny Virginia City, Nev., Tom Muzzio, publisher of the *Territorial Enterprise*, is chuckling with amazement at how seriously Mexico is taking a story that his magazine made up in keeping with a tradition he says Mark Twain began.

*Territorial Enterprise*, he says, started out as a miners' guide in 1858. But then Mark Twain joined the staff and "started writing with imagination," says Mr. Muzzio, "even to the point of making things up."

Mr. Twain (he even made up his name, of course) wrote up massacres that hadn't happened and reported silver strikes on mined-out land. He apparently wrote one imaginative article too many, was challenged to a duel and fled to San Francisco.

But in Virginia City, his approach to news lives on. "We're just keeping up a 130-year-old tradition of making up the news," says Mr. Muzzio. He says the article was born out of his knowledge that nervous Hong Kong businessmen are looking for a place to park their capital once Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997.

"We just decided to invent a place for it to go," he says. Why Baja? "I just looked at the map and thought it looked like a fun place," he says.

Condensed from the *Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 16, 1986. Tnx W6ISQ.

+ = + = +

NCDXC has run several mini-marathon DX contests. Last issue we asked some questions to keep your intellect from rusting.

Answers about the real marathon are:

1. What is a marathon? Answer: Any long contest requiring endurance. In athletics, a foot race 26 miles 385 yards.

2. Why is it called a marathon? Answer: See answer following question 7.

3. Where is Marathon? Answer: Marathon is a small town about 25 miles northeast of Athens.

4. When was the battle fought? Answer: As any 8th grader knows, the battle was fought in 490 B.C.

5. Who fought? Answer: You idiot! The Persians fought the Greeks (mostly Athenians). Who else?

6. Who were the commanders? Answer: The Persian commander was Darius. The Greek commander was Miltiades. Common knowledge.

7. Who won? Answer: The Greeks won, although outnumbered 2 to 1. Persian dead 6400, Greek dead 192.

2. Why is a marathon race called a marathon? Answer: After the Greeks won, Miltiades sent a runner named Pheidippides double time back to Athens to announce the victory. Poor Pheidippides had just run a round trip from Athens to Sparta and back, so he was bushed. But he still ran to Athens for Miltiades. As he reached the city limits, he gasped, "Rejoice, we conquer," then died. Marathon races are a recreation of Pheidippides' last run.

### DXCC IN HISTORY

For DXers, the interesting part of this ancient history is that Darius had tried to invade Greece in 492 BC. But his ships wrecked against the Mt. Athos peninsula. Later, Darius' son, Xerxes, in 480 BC spent 3 years building a canal through the Mt. Athos isthmus, so he wouldn't face the same sailing problem when he invaded Greece. (Wonder if any of that ditch still remains?) And now look what is happening to Mt. Athos. It continues to be the wrecker of DXers' dreams. The DXers are continuing what the Persians and Greeks began many years ago.

The Persian-Greek story gets more interesting with Thermopylae and Salmis, but you will have to read that for yourselves----or ask WB6DSV to recount those actions of the glorious Athenian past.

## YE000WWLLLS HEARD ON THE CATS NET

By Catperson

*—being the record of events that may or may not have happened to CATS on the CATS NET during the past month or so.*

27 Dec. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, checked into the CATS NET thrice daily throughout Dec. Always asking the same question: "Anyone heard the Glorioso station yet?" Today a few CATS finally said yes... "Glorioso was working Europeans and Africans." Not heard in W6.

28 Dec. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, chairman of the Be Good to Critters League International, added to his already full managerial burdens by assuming the presidency of the newly-formed Save The Wart Hog Society. He departed via London, for Kenya on a mission of mercy where he will confront officials in Nairobi to do something about lions eating defenseless wart hogs. He will give up his vacation time to plea for the wart hogs.

First shot at Peter I scrubbed. CATS in mourning.

29 Dec. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, new president of STWHS, fogbound in London.

30 Dec. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, president of STWHS fogbound in London.

31 Dec. W6QHS: "It only takes 3600 watts to heat my new house." N6QR: "Gee, that's great. A lot less than your final."

The Glorioso station worked Suffering Sixes for 3 hours with S9 sigs. All CATS worked the Gloriosos. Even QRPer W6ISQ.

1 Jan. 1987. Happy New Year all you CATS.

Dr. Epps, W6OAT, ex-president of the now defunct STWHS arrived in San Francisco. Informed by CATS he just missed Glorioso. Did he need that for a new one?

New Year's Revolution: W6KH: "I'm gonna upgrade my QRP station. Build a decent high power final."

2 Jan. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, after intense prodding by members, agrees to become president of the Save the Seychelles Sea Shells Society. Mr. Epps notified all SSSSS members that the next meeting will be in the Seychelles at some future date to be determined by Dr. Epps.

5 Jan. Today the mayor of Rio Linda California declared this day to be Citizen Jay O'Brien Day in the local community. It is not every day a local boy gets his name entered in the Grimace Book of Records. Mr. O'Brien made history by staying awake longer than anyone else in Rio Linda history. Mr. O'Brien's actual record was 48 hours and 42 minutes, but Mr. O'B

actually was awake about 127 hours before the record setting event, preparing himself psychologically for a run at the previous stay-awake record which was 18 hours, 13 minutes, a very good time for Rio Linda.

There was a big preraid, of course. The sidewalks were jammed with school kids, sober citizens and a pack of raucus, howling CATS.

The preraid was led by Ron Panton, W6VG, and his Marching Violin Ensemble which played bawdy marching tunes. You will recall that W6VG's Violin Ensemble has been the long-time role model for the Incomparable Leland Stanford Junior Marching Band.

Following W6VG's gang, were miles of veterans groups, ladies aid societies, marching contingents of librarians, beauticians, dentists, funeral directors and more...and more. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, led a militant, obnoxious, scraggly bunch from the Save the Seychelles Sea Shells Society.

Mr. O'B rode on a float at the end of the marching columns. Mr. O'B was lying down on a bed on the float. Mr. O'B was asleep on the bed on the float.

Following Mr. O'B's float came the ever-popular twirling Josephine, WB6ZUC, and her magic CW brass baton. ZUC had to be last, otherwise her popularity with the CATS would have shut down the whole preraid.

On the steps of city hall, the mayor presented the key to Rio Linda to Mrs. O'B. Mr. O'B was still asleep on the bed on the float. W6VG's Marching Violins played "For He's a Jolly Good DXer" and the CAT multitudes hooowwleed and wanted to know how Mr. O'B managed to stay awake so long. Even the thundering of the Ensemble couldn't awaken Mr. O'B.

6 Jan. Mr. O'B was finally shaken awake. UPI reporter asked the Big Question..."what did you do to stay awake?" Mr. O'B replied..."I played..." and went back to sleep.

7 Jan. A Reuters correspondent asked Mr. O'B the Big Q. Mr. O'B, feeling better, replied..."I played with..." Sleep again.

8 Jan. The White House press corps asked Mr. O'B the Big Q. Almost wide awake now, a smiling Mr. O'B answered, "I played with my radio" and collapsed again. Press bolted for phone booths.

The new W6GO record for the Grimace Book of Records was complete. CATS hooowwllleed and screeched. CONGRATS W6GO. CATS proud of you.

9 Jan. Tall, sophisticated, handsome N6TJ made a token appearance, for a few moments, at the club meeting to receive the plaudits of the CATS. Asked how he kept all the girls chasing him relentlessly, year after year, James answered, "I'm frank and earnest with them." He's Frank in Los Angeles and Earnest in San Francisco.

Great pitcher show at the meeting of the VP5X contest operations with K6ANP and WW6F, CATS purring at the great island location --- and congrats to the ops for a great score.

10 Jan. Philosophical Phil, W6LQC, breathes his epithets from the Low Sierras ... "Do you know where DX lurks?" Silence. Too profound a question for the CATS. W6OL will lead a delegation of heavy thinkers to carry this question to the San Rafael Oracle, WA6AUD, for a suitable poetic reply.

13 Jan. There was a convention of the geriatric branch of the CATS NET today at Ham Radio Outlet's Burlingame store. All the aging TOM CATS came off the back fence and somehow clawed their way to HRO. It was advertised as a birthday welcoming party for Bob, W6RJ, who is slowly, inexorably, crashing into the ranks of the Junior Senior Citizens community.

They should have known something was amiss when they arrived and saw several ambulances in the parking lot. The thought of promised freebee birthday cake, however, dimmed their perception and they blindly packed in.

Impeccable, dashing, Bob, nattily attired, was a gracious host. After lunch at the local bistro, he invited the OLD TOMS into his back office for a piece of cake. About 15 OTs and a few young TOMS packed in for their free cake. Someone had thoughtfully put a big box on the floor --- birthday present for Bob. How nice.

So Bob cut the ribbon --- and out popped a sleek white CATTE dressed in a beautiful pair of high heels.

There she was ... in the all together ... gulp. OLD TOMS gaped in disbelief. She jumped onto W6TSQ's lap. Sam swooned. Only then did Brandy (for that was what Bob called her) realize this was not her birthday boy. So she looked around, and, of course, there was hand-



Sam, hyperventilating

some Bob, who else, gloriously red faced. "Bob, darling, I'm so terribly sorry. I didn't recognize you with your clothes on." And she threw her slender form into his outstretched arms.

Always the debonaire, gallant gentleman, Bob replied, "Brandy, dearest ... but where was it last time ... Cannes? ... San Moritz? ... Rive Gauche ...?"

Most of the OLD TOMS had passed out cold. The YOUNG TOMS like WA9WYB, W6NLG, NG6X and K6PU were administering smelling salts and oxygen.

Hoping to revive some of the geriatrics, W6VG and his Marching Violins struck up the Happy Birthday song, but no one sang. So he switched to a heated tango. Bob and Brandy took the cue and begana torrid



and begana torrid tango that carried them over the prostrate forms and out the door toward the counter ... and on ... on ... and away ... tangoing away ... out through the back door ... cha-cha-cha. It was the first time in living memory that George, WB6DSV, standing behind the counter, was seen to smile.

The Honor Roll types began reviving. Still quite woozy. K6SSJ, panting and softly humming lullabies, was helped to a couch. K6ITL wrote a memo to ARRL Hq. Glassy-eyed W6DU stared wonderously out the window ... she did look quite Nordic. W6BJH, who had driven all the way from the Oregon border wanted a replay. K6MA had to be helped into an ambulance for oxygen. W6ERS swallowed his whistle. W6DUB nonchalantly began to practise his shaky golf swing in the corner. W6SYL leaned back, stared at the ceiling, and casually puckered up to whistle a slow CQ ... but nothing came out. W6BIP asked "what's on the program?" A green-faced W6ZO wiped cake off his front.

Then came the questions. "Did you see what I saw? Must of been a phantom?" "Where's Bob?" "I don't believe it." Bob was gone. What happened to the cake? Well, some OLD TOM collapsed on top of the table and smashed the cake to the floor.

The cake was lost. More's the pity. Tears began to cascade. Those who had driven miles and miles for a free slice of cake came up empty. "We had our cake but we didn't eat it," lamented N6DJM. They concluded it had all been a dream. Bob had left early for a business appointment. But something must have happened ... after all there was the cake on the floor and W6ZO covered with cake. W6BIP summed it up, "Wha' hoppin'?"

The Olde Mill Valley Philosopher, W6TSQ, the one who almost got the phantom Kittie Kat, explained as they loaded him into the ambulance for the trip home ... with tears in his eyes ... "It's a terrible thing to waste a perfectly good cake. They should have stayed with bagels. You can step on bagels and still eat 'em."

14 Jan. W6ERS on the CATS NET all day announcing it will be his birthday soon ... next November. He will be 34.

15 Jan. Another phantastic performance by Al, W6RQ, on the weekly 2 meter club meeting. If you are not listening Thursday nights you are missing something good. All departments very well done. Interesting and helpful.

16 Jan. K6SSJ had his 38th Farewell Dinner before moving to someplace in the valley. He explained he can't move until his antenna is up. He is stringing a wire from W6GO's tower north of Sacramento to W6KPC's tower north of Bakersfield.

W6DU announced he is about almost positive she was a Swedish Kittie Kat, maybe from the north country. It may have been the way she wore those high heels.

17 Jan. CATPERSON wishes to thank Jerry Bliss, K6SMH/G0CLY, for sending the magnificent gift across the ocean. We greatly appreciate your thinking of us, Jerry. It is being put to good use here. About time some of you local CATS got with it and showed proper respect for SUPER CATPERSON. We are pleased our fame is spreading across Europe.



CATPERSON keychain - a token of esteem from Jerry Bliss, K6SMH/G0CLY

18 Jan. W6DU announced to the CATS NET that he about almost perhaps believes her name in the old country was Digger Svensen. Brandy is her anglicized name. She's from around Lapland way. Got used to dressing like that during those long, cold winter evenings in sauna bath houses.

19 Jan. CATPERSON AWARDS N6AN 1.68 CAT CLAW points for coming closest to the correct answers to the Quiz about the Marathon. Congrats, Hal. One entry arrived with an Oakland postmark, but the yo-yo didn't include his name! But what else would you expect from someone from Oakland. A pawful of used cat litter to the rest of you nincompoops!

20 Jan. Tally of CAT CLAW points awarded so far for helpful contributions to the DXer and for innuendos, lies, hearsay, facts, nonsense for Yeeeeooooowwwwwls:

N6AN	3.17 points
K6SMH/G0CLY	2.80
N6QR	1.58
W6GO	1.42
WWTHA5IN	1.29
W6PHF	0.83
Kittie Katte	0.64
W6DU	0.17
Digger Svensen	4.03 (late arrival)
W6CF	-1.34 shape up fella

It takes 5.00 points to receive the coveted CAT CLAW award. Who will be first?

CAT CLAW points are awarded for tidbits sent to W6CF for those items mentioned above. Don't just get even. Tromp on some CAT.

21 Jan. W6GO irate. He slept through birthday party. From description he's sure she's Irish.

22 Jan. Dr. Epps, W6OAT, President of SSSSS, poised to determine whether to call emergency on site meeting. (Thinks Bob & Brandy headed for Gloriosos.)

23 Jan. The DXpedition showed up in some parts of the world from Pete I. CATPERSON believes the outpouring of RF from earth will be easily detected by LGMs with xtal sets in the Horse Nebula.

CATPERSON hopes you will be gentlepersonally in calling Pete I. CATPERSON will be listening.

And goodnight to B & B ... wherever you are...

+ = + = +

### ROSTER CHANGES

The following changes should be made to the November issue of the NCDXC membership roster.

Add:	
K3EST	Robert Cox, 3039 Campbell Pl., Davis, CA 95616. 916-758-7422(H), 916-752-2088 (W).
KI6T	Gary Stilwell, 7632 Woodland Ln., Fair Oaks, CA 95428. 916-961-6659 (H), 415-923-4447 (W).
W6TMA	Ken Archbold, 17431 Lakeview Dr., Morgan Hill, CA 95037. 408-778-3024 (W).
W6YFW	Glenn E. Koropp, 1980 Santa Maria Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. 916-483-0551 (H), 916-489-0941 (W).

#### New Addresses:

KB6HT	Ray Miller, 8099 B Street, Windsor, CA 95492. 707-838-4189(H).
K7SA	Warren Mays, 544 Castlerock Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94087-4418. 408-245-6297 (H), 408-973-4325 (W).