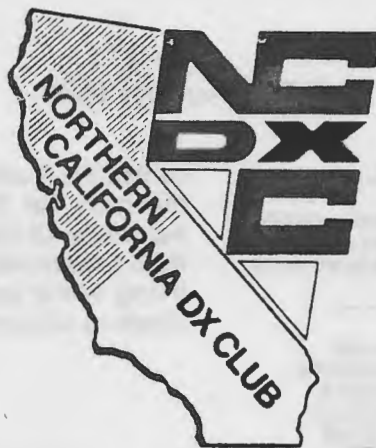


THE



DXer

AUGUST 1987

VOL XL - NUMBER 8



CALENDAR

- Aug. 8 - Electronics Flea Market, Foothill College.
- Aug. 14 - NCDXC August meeting., Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto.
- Aug. 15-16 - SEANET DX Contest, Phone.
- Aug. 22-23 - All Asian DX Contest, CW.
- Aug. 26 - Last date for inputs to September DXer.
- Oct. 2-4 - ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Jose.
- Oct. 10 - NCDXC 9-Band DXCC Award kick-off.
- April 22-24 1988 - Visalia International DX Convention.

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JULY MEETING - FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 HARRY'S HOFBRAU, PALO ALTO

The August meeting of the NCDXC will be held on Friday, August 14, at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road East, Palo Alto. A very special speaker has been lined up for the evening: Michel Rousselet, FT8XB, will have a slide presentation covering his operation on the Kerguelens in 1985. Better show up for this one to ensure a good seat! The usual cocktails at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

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FROM THE PREZ

Being elected to the presidency of the NCDXC at this time has caused me to have some very sobering thoughts. Lou, K6TMB, and his team have brought our club's state of affairs to an almost impossible-to-improve condition. It is with awe and trepidation that I embark on the coming year knowing the shoes I am privileged to try to fill. THANKS LOU FOR A GREAT JOB! May you leave knowing that you bowed, stage

left, with the house standing and cheering at your curtain call.

To the NEW TEAM, and all of you who support this greatest DX club of all, I say MOVE FORWARD with the example just set and continue to IMPROVE OUR CLUB. To that end, I believe we can work together to help each other develop our operating skills and raise our scores (in whatever award form that may take), that the monthly programs and activities can and will continue to get better, and that REPEATER USE AND OPERATION can improve such that 147.360 will receive praise instead of the dreaded and sometimes needed DC DISCONNECT!



Ted, KA6W

Please join me in moving the club in a positive direction. Remember the true spirit of our hobby and try reaching down-and-back instead of up-and-forward...help the person behind that is trying to reach your accomplishment level. As we enter a new sun spot cycle, let's all pull together while attempting to work the many or few remaining elusive DX goodies our scores demand.

Your comments? Sure... I want to hear from you. Give me your best and worst shots!

73 es GUD DX,

Ted, KA6W

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DUES ARE DUE -- DUES ARE DUE

Another gentle reminder that dues are payable as of July 1, 1987. Remember also that a recent Procedures Manual change requires that any member whose dues have not been received by September 30 will be dropped from membership!

Have a good summer everyone, but don't forget your cotton-pickin' dues!

Frank, W6ZKM
Treasurer

The DXer - August 1987

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*.

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Vice Pres.	Rich Stempien	WA9WYB
Secretary	Roger Gearhart	W6PKB
Treasurer	Frank Holst	W6ZKM
Director	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB
Director	Jim Knochenhauer	K6ITL
Director	Ron Panton	W6VG

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Send DX ladder reports to

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2260 Santa Fe Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405

NCDXC REPEATER W6T/R

Input 147.96 MHz; Output 147.36 MHz;
Simplex 147.54 MHz

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
Repeater Committee chairman	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB

NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

On W6T/R Thursday at 8:00PM local time.

Operations Manager	Ralph Hunt	AG6Q
DX News	Phil Garrahan	W6LQC
Propagation	Al Lotze	W6RQ
Contest News	Steve Brunt	WC6I
Westlink	Dave Bottom	KD6AZ
Swap Shop	Steve Munro	KZ6Z
QSL Info	Jan O'Brien	K6HHD

NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
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W6TI, the NCDXC memorial station, broadcasts

DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST

(Monday at 0200 GMT) on 7 015 and 14.002 MHz.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC

Meeting was held at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto. During the usual one hour eye ball (high ball) session Steve, W6MKM, conducted a raffle. The first prize won by Steve, WC6I. After the dinner hour, at 7:59 PM, the meeting was called to order by outgoing president Lou Beaudet, K6TMB. Vice president Ted Algren, KA6W, introduced the guests. The many winners of the 40/40 contest were awarded their certificates by the president and vice president. The program was presented courtesy of the Northern California DX Foundation, and was a very interesting video film on XU1SS, Cambodia. After the 9:00 PM smoke break, outgoing treasurer, Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL, gave a report. This was a report as of the end of the fiscal year, and was very complete, with a further breakdown of figures available for members to study if they so desired. Outgoing secretary Ron Panton, W6VG, gave a second reading for member applicant Joe Harmon, WB9HIP. Joe was unanimously voted into membership. First readings were given for appli-

cants K6LLK and KC6O. K6TMB thanked the board of directors for their help during the past year, and especially to his vice president, KA6W. Ted, KA6W, then presented Lou with a memorial gavel and the Irving Stone book "Men to Match My Mountains." Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Panton, W6VG
Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 13 MEETING OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:15 PM. In attendance were all club officers: KA6W, WA9WYB, W6ZKM, K6ITL, W6VG, K6TMB and W6PKB. Also attending were K6AN, W6JZU and W6TEX.

The incoming board addressed the issue of the appointments of various positions as follows: *DXer* editor - W6CF; historian/archivist - W6VG; California awards manager - K6ZM; records manager - N6AUS with KB6BW as assistant. A committee of K6TMB and W6TEX are to define the functions of the operations chairman for inclusion in the procedures manual and to make a recommendation for an appointee. WA9WYB is a committee of one to recommend appointees for the contest and awards chairmen. W6JZU has been chairman of the repeater committee for 2 years and has asked not to be reappointed. A committee of W6JZU, K6TMB and KA6W will offer recommendations to the board for a new repeater chairman and on improvements to the repeater. The repeater telephone number has been changed. The number is known only by W6JZU, K6TMB, KA6W, WB6OOL and NR7E.

The closing treasurer's report was submitted by K6ITL and accepted by the board with thanks for a job well done. It was moved, seconded and approved that a summary of the report will be published in the *DXer* and a more detailed report will be available upon request to the new treasurer, W6ZKM (SASE please). An informal budget for the coming year was offered by K6ITL and accepted by the board.

The possibility of sharing a Christmas party with the NCCC was discussed. A committee of KA6W and K6TMB will make recommendations and select a party chairman.

W6VG proposed a minor change in the procedures manual for the purpose of clarity. Inasmuch as W6VG has offered to continue his considerable efforts in

getting the DXer published and mailed, the board addressed the issue of Ron having routinely to fund part of the expenses out of his pocket. It was moved, seconded and approved by the board to increase the amount of the revolving fund for DXer expenses to \$400.00 from \$300.00.

W6TEX displayed the handsome plaque for the NCDXC achievement award. The board heartily approved. For lack of an appropriate map, the question of full membership for K6DC was tabled until the next meeting. The board regrets to report the passing of NCDXC member W6ATO Dick Czeikowitz and the board approved a contribution to NCDXF of \$25.00 in his memory.

A general discussion of possible program topics for future club meetings ensued. The membership is always encouraged to make suggestions for programs to any of the club officers. Merit awards for outstanding service to the club were also discussed. It is clear that the club depends strongly upon the voluntary services of many people and a concerted effort will be made to recognize those individuals.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Gearhart, W6PKB
Secretary

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K6TMB APPOINTED REPEATER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Smitty, W6JZU, has decided to retire as chairman of the repeater committee after two years of super support for the club. Many thanks to Smitty for all his efforts in keeping 147.360 in top operating condition.

Lou, K6TMB, has agreed to take on the job. The club has always been very supportive of Smitty - let's now transfer that same level of support to Lou. I know he'll appreciate it.



Lou, K6TMB

Along with the new chairman, we have a revised slate of control operators, as listed below.

Repeater Control Operators

W6DU	(415) 948-1748
NR7E	(408) 253-4474
W6GO	(916) 991-2010
W6JZU	(415) 948-3209
WB6OOL	(408) 227-8172
K6TMB	(415) 969-3017
KA6W	(408) 867-6226

Call any one when the repeater demands service or adjustment.

Ted, KA6W

KG6GF APPOINTED NEW AWARDS CHAIRMAN

Ted, KA6W, has just announced the appointment of Larry, KG6GF, to the job of Awards Chairman for the upcoming year. Many thanks to Al, KE6OT, for his untiring efforts during the last year.

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DICK CZEIKOWITZ, W6ATO, SILENT KEY

We were saddened to hear that Dick Czeikowitz, W6ATO, became a Silent Key during July while on a trip to Central and South America. Dick was one of the early members of the NCDXC, joining in June 1948. He served as President in 1950 and as Director on several occasions. Dick had a varied career in communications and electronics. During WW-II he worked as a Merchant Marine radio operator. Later he was in charge of communications for the Western Pacific Railroad for many years after WW-II, and then went to work for Elmar Electronics in Oakland until he reached retirement age. After retirement, Dick and his wife Margie (a Silent Key now for several years) traveled worldwide. They enjoyed their retirement travels very, very much, so it is perhaps fitting that Dick passed away while traveling. Many club members knew of Dick and Margie's unusual scrape with death several years ago when they were shipwrecked while on a cruise to Alaska. Dick was, as Bud Bane testifies, a truly square dealing fellow - always willing to help another friend in need. In addition to DX operating, Dick enjoyed antenna work, and many club members also benefitted from that interest. A good guy, a good DXer, one who will be missed.

Thanks to Bud Bane, W6WB, and Mario Chirone, W6DUB, for their helpful comments and reminiscences about Dick.

Jim, W6CF

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LYNX DX GROUP SAHARA DXPEDITION

POSSIBLE NEW COUNTRY!!!

Organized by the LYNX DX GROUP, between 6 and 16 August, and operated by EA2OP, EA2JG, OH2BH, EA2AJH, F6EXV, EA2ANC, EA2ANH, EA2XC and EA2BXQ, the station S0RASD (Republica Arabe Saharai Democratica) will be on the air.

With three stations operating, one of these training new operators, because we left in the country a complete radio amateur station (courtesy of Ken-

wood), the two others will be, one on SSB and another on CW.

The frequencies will be 28.595, 21.295, 14.195, 7.095 and 3.795 MHz on phone and 28.025, 21.025, 14.025, 7.025 and 3.525 on CW.

No lists, nets or special frequencies will be used

Any kind of help will be very appreciated via Lynx DX Group, Fondo de Ayuda a Expediciones, PO Box 351, 26080 Logrono, Spain. We make use of all our funds helping the Peter I expedition. We need your help!!



The QSLs for this operation will go through EA2JG, Arseli Etxeguren, Las Vegas 81, 01479 Luyando, (Alava), Spain.

A complete report for the DXAC is already prepared and OH2BH, Martti Laine, will present it in the ARRL the next 8 of July.

See you in the pile-up. Good luck.

de EA1QF

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FLASH! LATEST NEWS ON SAHARA DXPEDITION!

According to *The DX Bulletin*, the planned SORASD trip may be unravelling. F6EXV says he is not going, and many of the Spanish operators were not able to get visas for their travel through Algeria. Meanwhile, *QRZ DX* reports the strong rumor that several West German DXers made an attempt to activate the Western Sahara last week (late July), prior to the scheduled arrival of the Lynx DX Group, but were stopped (and possibly arrested) while attempting to enter RASD territory.

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DX TOOLS

New Awards Directories

Many club members chase DX awards in addition to the "biggies" of DXCC and WAZ. For those certificate chasers, two new directories have just been announced. Garry Hammond, VE3XN, recently released the fifth revision of his popular awards directory, consisting of 125+ pages of info. Ted Melinosky, K1BV, has just published a new awards directory, containing 150+ pages of data. Those of you interested in investing in one of VE3XN's directories should send \$10.00 US to him at 5 McLaren Ave, Listowel, ON, Canada N4W 3K1. The tab is \$14.35 for K1BV's directory, to 525 Foster St., Suite 1001, South

Windsor, CT 06074. Both directories are shipped via first class mail. If any NCDXC members buy one of these directories, please consider writing a brief review for publication in the *DXer*.

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ARRL REQUESTS SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE CALL SIGNS

The ARRL has requested the FCC to allow special commemorative call signs in celebration of the Bicentennial of the US Constitution. Specifically, the proposal asks that amateurs operating in their traditional call sign districts be authorized to replace the numeral in their call sign with a two-digit numeral corresponding to the order of entry into the Union (or in the case of the 13 original states, the order of ratification of the Constitution) of the state from which the operation takes place.

For example, Connecticut was the fifth state to ratify the Constitution, so K1ZZ in Connecticut could sign K05ZZ. California was the 31st state to enter the Union, so KB6ZV would operate as KB31ZV.

Also, pre-registered Amateur Radio clubs could replace the numeral in their call with the numeral "200" for a designated one-week period corresponding closely to the date of entry of their state into the Union. For example, W1AW would become W200AW for one week in January.

The ARRL has requested FCC to allow use of Bicentennial call signs from September 17, 1987 through December 31, 1988. An FCC response is expected shortly.

[Editor's note: A late-breaking report states that the FCC has approved the plan for pre-registered clubs, but has denied the plan for individuals.]

ARRL Letter, June 30, 1987

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1987 PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION SET FOR OCTOBER 2,3,4 IN SAN JOSE

Pacific Division Director Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, has just released information on the upcoming Pacific Division Convention. It is to be held at the LeBaron Hotel in San Jose over the weekend of October 2-4. A number of the activities planned will be of special interest to NCDXC members - a lecture on angle of radiation by K6RQ, DX forum by K6SSJ, low band antennas by NJ2L (of Hq. staff), CW copying contest by W6ZRJ and W6VZT, QSLing tips by K6HHD, propagation forecasting by NS6N, antenna legal forum by N3AKD, AMSAT/OSCAR forum by WB6GFJ, and more. Other details including, of course, registration information, will be released in the months ahead.

CONDITIONS AT OD5LX

Many NCDXC members have worked Ted, OD5LX. Ted has for many years been one of the most active hams in Lebanon. In a recent letter to G3FXB, Ted mentioned that he is only 200 yards from the so-called "Green Line" and a mile from the nearest Palestinian camp. In addition the nearest sniper's position is about 500 yards away making antenna work impossible. In addition to his FT101ZD, Ted runs a BC receiver in the shack to check the local radio news and a VHF/UHF scanning receiver programmed on the different militia's frequencies to check as to who is (or will be) shooting and against whom. Also the direction of the fire and what kind of arms. The choice is between T54 tanks, M30 or M37 Cannons or M51 rockets.

It takes someone with special devotion to stay on the air under such circumstances.

Thanks to G3FXB in the *FOC News Sheet*, July 1987

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W6AM BOOK IN PREPARATION

N6AW is compiling information for a series of articles and a book about Don Wallace, W6AM. If you have a story to tell about Don, please jot it down and send along to N6AW, address below. Pictures of Don or his station would also be appreciated - costs for copies will be happily reimbursed. Please write to Jan Perkins, N6AW, 6200 E. Ocean Bl. #7, Long Beach, CA 90803.

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**K7ZZ BOOK IN PREPARATION
ARRL FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES K7ZZ
MEMORIAL FUND**

According to *The DX Bulletin*, a book is being prepared covering the life of Don Reibhoff. Any photos, anecdotes, stories, exploits, etc., of CT4AT, or any of Don's many Southeast Asia operations should be sent to *The DX Bulletin* for possible use in the book. All proceeds from the forth-coming book will be donated to the Don Reibhoff Memorial Fund, recently established by the ARRL Foundation. More than \$2,000 has already been donated to this fund, which will award an annual scholarship when it reaches \$10,000. DXers wishing to contribute to the fund may send their contributions via ARRL in Newington, CT.

Via *The DX Bulletin*

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DX CALENDAR

Thanks to *The DX Bulletin* for the following.

- Algeria - 7X2LS has been QRV 20 SSB 0100-0300Z.
- Bahrain - A92BE has been QRV 14150 + 0200-0400Z.
- China - BY0CQ (Zone 23?) to be QRV Aug. 16-18. QSL via JR1HHL.
- Juan de Nova - FR5ES says he should be on from Juan de Nova by now, for about one month. He was scheduled to leave Reunion on July 25, and fire up a few days later. Alternate plans suggest a Europa Island operation, which counts as the same country for DXCC.
- Kermadec - ZL8HV QRV 14195. Also in Jim Smith's net on 14220, 0400Z.
- Kerguelen - FT8XD QRV 14010 0630Z. Also QRV 18074 at 0850Z on CW weekends.
- Lebanon - OD5SM likes 14183-218 02-0400Z. Mail service into and out of Beirut is sporadic; please be patient with QSL requests.
- Macquarie - VK0GC has been QRV on 14309 around 0300Z. VK0ML 10 up CW 0600Z.
- Mongolia - JT1BG hs been QRV on 14178 1630Z.
- Nauru - Ross Forbes, WB6GFJ, is planning to be QRV from C21NI Aug 11-17, followed by stops in New Zealand & Australia.
- Nauru - Ed DeYoung, ex-KH6GLU, is now signing C21XX. He hangs out on 1827 and 3540 CW, 3799 SSB, 7001 listening 7025 and up CW, and 7160 SSB. He'll be there a couple of years. QSL to Ed DeYoung, Box 17, Nauru.
- Pacific - Pekka, OH1RY, will start his Pacific DXpedition Oct. 18. He will start as 3D2RY, then on to C21, T30, ZK2, ZK1, and FO8.
- Peter I Island - LA1EE reports that 80% of the 15,000 QSLs received have been answered. Those DXers sending more than one card per envelope are the last to get response. "An incredible number of cards have the UTC time wrong by one or more hours or by one day," but all "not-in-log" cards are double checked. Many "not-in-log" cards appear to be QSOs with pirates, as neither 3Y1EE or 3Y2GV were on that band at that time. Those DXers without insurance contcts may be in big trouble.
- South Sandwich, South Georgia - The Uruguay DX Group that put on CX0XY from South Shetlands last year will try for these two Antarctic islands in early 1988. They'll be looking for financial support from the DX foundations.
- Tristan da Cunha - ZD9BV likes 21265 at 1799Z. QSL via W4FRU.
- Tunisia - Craig Maxey, WB7FRA, will operate as 3V8FRA October 19- 27, including CQWW SSB. He hopes to use TS8FRA during the contest.

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INTRUDERS

Yesterday morning some interesting traffic was heard on 3780 USB. [Editor's note: No date was given in the original of this article.] The traffic originated from U.S. military bases in Alaska and was first directed to Skyking, which is the identifier used for Strategic Air Command aircraft on patrol in the Arctic. After the message to Skyking, traffic was passed between base stations using only number identifiers.

At the time I was doing some antenna work, making short test transmissions with proper identification. I was duly informed by one of the stations that I was interfering with their traffic. I requested their callsign and this was refused. I then informed these stations that without proper Amateur callsigns I could not acknowledge them and that they were operating illegally in an Amateur band which was classed as Amateur exclusive in North America.

Upon this transmission, another very loud station came on directing all stations to switch to other letter designated frequencies and apologizing for intruding on the 80 metre band. These communications took place at 11:20 local time when you would assume 80 metres to be dead.

I contacted the local DOC office this morning and was informed that they were preparing a case of willful interference of several commercial frequencies and would add this information to their submission to the FCC. It might help if Amateurs in western areas were informed of this so they can keep an ear open for anymore of these intrusions. We had both commercial and military using 3780 USB all last winter in the north.

Maybe if these stations are run off the band we can get something done about the Japanese fishing boats right off our coast that take up the lower portion of the phone band every night and then go after the strange signal between 3792 and 3798 that sounds like some kind of duplex phone traffic.

YY1CW in *The Canadian Amateur*, June 1987

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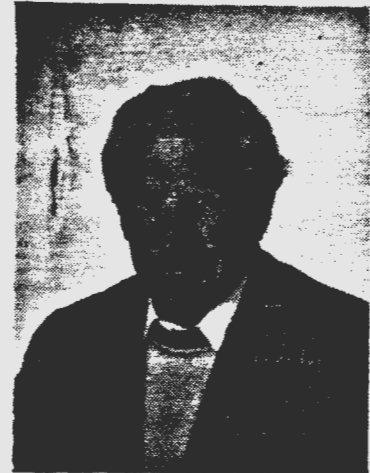
MEET THE MEMBERS

Dick Maddux, K6BWX

Our subject for the month is Dick "Doc" Maddux, K6BWX, an NCDXC member since November 1960, making him one of the club old-timers. Dick prepared the following autobiography which tells the story well.

I grew up in the Imperial Valley, which is an area of reclaimed desert in the southeastern corner of the state. In the summer it cools off to 100 F at night but during the day "it really gets hot." My first call, W6FWE, was received while I was in high school in 1932.

I went to Stanford and got my MD in '42. Doris, a Mills girl, and I were married in 1940. We were living on Russian Hill in S.F. and could get a steak dinner with wine at Ripleys Restaurant on Broadway for \$1.00. But no time for amateur radio. After med school I took a rotating general internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. A big state hospital of 1000 beds. We lived in the French



Dick, K6BWX

Quarter. A couple of years in surgical training followed. This was interrupted by WWII and the Navy. I returned to California and ran a little county hospital in Imperial County for two years and then spent two years doing general surgery with an office in El Centro, California. I was not happy with this specialty or the location. With a good deal of sacrifice on the part of my family (we had three children by then) I signed up for a three year training program at the L.A. General Hospital in orthopedic surgery (bone and joint). This was in 1951 and during this time I got back on the air as K6BWX. My log shows I was using a National NC-125 receiver and a modified surplus BC-459 xmtr on 40 meters. I was using a surplus BC-453 in the receiver IF strip with "improved selectivity" because of its filters.

In 1954 we moved to Los Gatos and I did orthopedic surgery in that area until my retirement. In '54 the log shows lots of trial circuits trying to get rid of chirp in the BC-459. Finally with a Viking VFO and buffer circuits the "xtal sound" in the signal arrived. However there was little activity on the air until about 1960. We were living at about 900' elevation with a good shot at Europe. I put up 100' of Rohn, acquired some Collins gear, a big old Moseley Yagi and some DX. A few years later the tower rusted at the base and went over in a big storm. I didn't get back on unitl just before retiring in 1984 when we moved to Santa Rosa. The present gear includes a TS-930 and the Alpha 78, which I do admire.

I have thoroughly enjoyed doing orthopedic surgery all these years. For me it is the best specialty in the best profession. You can help people, get them well. And, of course, it has gone through dramatic advances just as has communications.

DXCC? Well, I stand at only 240 confirmed so there are lots of new ones to work as the flux builds up

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AMAZING AMBIDEXTERITY

by D. K. de Neuf, WA1SPM

E. Stuart Davis, the veteran "telegrapher's telegrapher" and personal telecommunications assistant to Pres. F. D. Roosevelt

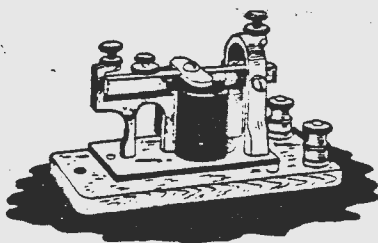
"One Wire Chief who wrote in a very tiny hand was asked how many words he could put on a standard message blank. He said he didn't know for sure but said he could copy a ten word message in the space of a postage stamp. Others bragged about how many words they could stay behind the sender, and so it went. Finally, another Wire Chief spoke up... "Well, I'm not the fastest operator around here but I can copy a message in French with one hand and one in English with the other at the same time." A demonstration was demanded. The Chief Operator went out to the traffic department and returned with a message in French chosen at random from the Montreal Duplex, and one in English. The performer was provided with pencils and pads. The two messages were sent simultaneously at usual handkey speeds by two operators. Sure enough, he made a perfect copy on both! Amidst cheers and slaps on the back, the Chief sent out for hamburgers and near-beer (prohibition, you know).

Such skills are apparently developed and sharpened by intensive practice. We've all seen these stage performers who can add up sums of figures (called out by members of the audience) on a blackboard writing the numbers upside down, while simultaneously citing "Casey at the Bat" ... or similar stunts.

Another telegraphic expert along such lines was a fellow I knew named Richard Johnstone, who was Pacific Coast Marine Manager for RCA circa 1925 and who gave me my first job as a radio operator. He could send with both hands simultaneously - one transmitting a message in American Morse Code, and the same message with the other in Continental Morse Code. When he demonstrated this skill, yes, of course, as you'd expect, his American Morse hand always finished first!

Dots & Dashes (the Journal of the Morse Telegraph Club), April/June 1987

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THE PHANTOM VOICE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS - VP8QE

Throughout the 73 days of the Argentine occupation of the Falklands, a secret daily radio link was maintained between Port Stanley and - improbable though it may sound - the resort of Bridlington-on-Sea, Yorkshire (England), via the good offices of one of the principal unsung heroes of the South Atlantic war.

Reginald Silvey, assistant keeper in the Imperial Lighthouse Service, can now be revealed as the Phantom Voice of Radio Port Stanley, the Man With the Plastic Shopping-Bag, the Man the Argies Never Found.

Silvey, who came to the Falklands 10 years ago as junior keeper of the Cape Pembroke light, is a rum-inative, taciturn bachelor of 43, whose main interests are fishing and Amateur Radio. He set himself up on the islands - as he had done when he worked in the British Antarctic bases as station VP8QE - broadcasting to anyone in the world who would listen on 21.325 MHz, 15 metres!

When the Argentine commandos stormed ashore at dawn on April 2, he saw, as he now puts it, "No particular reason why I should close down."

His first messages, picked up all around the world, relayed some of the awful drama of the first hours of the invasion. But later on that first Friday, a ham operator in Bridlington, Bob North, G4KHR, made firm contact with Silvey, whereupon someone, as yet unidentified, realized the value of retaining a link between the two operators for as long as possible.

"I realized by Monday morning that Bob North had been taken over by Ministry of Defense," Silvey says now. "He would come on each evening around 4 p.m. saying: 'This is G4KHR, waiting for traffic from the South Atlantic,' and I could tell from his manner there was a ministry man breathing down his neck."

"I had to decide whether it was worth the risk, my talking to him any more. I thought about it a lot, and then decided I had to do my bit. So we would talk almost every day. He would pass on their questions, and I would pass back the answers."

Silvey is well known in the Falklands as a ham operator. His equipment was listed in the Post Office register in Stanley, and it was only a few days before the Argentine occupation forces arrived at his front door to confiscate it. But he then managed to borrow an unregistered transceiver - an American Atlas 210-X, with the paltry (!) output of 100 watts.

"But the advantage of this set was that it was so small that it fitted nearly into a plastic shopping bag. I was able to carry it around from house to house without any of the Argies noticing," Silvey explains

And so, every tea-time, he would move into a house, spring up a crude aerial, plug in his set, lie on

the floor, tune into the 15 metre band and listen for Bridlington. "Bob used to ask how I was, where our new friends were, what they were doing, what movements there had been in the harbour, and that sort of thing. We would talk for five minutes or so, and then I'd close down. It was too risky, they were always looking for me."

They knew someone was operating a clandestine set. Each day a detector van would roam the streets of Stanley, waiting for the transmission. "Sometimes they got pretty close. A neighbour once told me they had broken into her house while I was on the air. They searched her place from top to bottom, convinced I was there."

"Once in a while, they got so close that I got really nervous, and I did think about giving it up. They put the word around that they would do all sorts of nasty things if they ever found me. But it was so exciting, really, being able to hear England calling, and being able to talk back. It's difficult to explain if you're not mad on radio."

Silvey's mischievous enthusiasm was not limited merely to sending Argentine military secrets to Bridlington. He spent some weeks rigging up a transmitter to jam the Argentine's 2 metre local radio network, and, according to other islanders, caused havoc.

"He would jam them for a while, and then stop jamming and start sending false messages to various army units. He had great fun. Best of all was that the Argies knew that someone in Stanley was doing it, but they could never find out who. It was great for our morale. We called him the Phantom Voice, a sort of Lord Haw-Haw in reverse."

Silvey, sadly, no longer has a paying job. The Cape Pembroke lighthouse - one of only two in the world still run by the once great Imperial Lighthouse Service - is unworkable, surrounded by Argentine minefields.

Windsor ARC from the Sunday Times, London, via *The Canadian Amateur*, June 1987

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DX QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In order to free up time on the club repeater, we offer suitable answers to some of the most commonly asked questions:

Q: Anything interesting on the bands today?

A: Yes.

Q: What am I missing?

A: Your tuning knob.

Q: Can anyone tell me who the station is on 7002.4?

A: Yes. The station on 7002.4 can, and probably will.

Q: Where is he listening?

A: He'll tell you when he is ready for you.

Q: Can anybody confirm my contact with?

A: Yes! Either the DX station, or his QSL manager.

Adam, N6QR

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A big drop in voltage

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RESULTS OF DOT LETTER QUIZ W7SW, W8MEP, AND W6ISQ DECLARED WINNERS

Well, the dust has settled, the results are in, and there are three winners of the dot letter quiz, not one as had been expected. That takes some explaining. The quiz, announced in last month's *DXer*, asked for the English word made up using all four "dot letters," i.e., letters formed exclusively of dots in International Morse code, and of no letters containing dashes. 5 IRCs were promised to the first person submitting the correct answer. Unfortunately, your editor made a slight mistake. It wasn't clear from the announcement that the intent was to ask for the *shortest* such word. As a result, three technically correct answers came in. The only fair thing to do, it would seem, is to award three prizes, perhaps splitting the five IRCs into three sets of 1-2/3 IRCs each. Well, that didn't seem to be quite the thing to do, so three prizes of five IRCs each have been awarded. More than one individual sent in correct answers. Preference was given to the earliest postmark; where there was a tie, the winner was decided by the toss of a coin.

8 entries were received from 7 club members, all of whom receive 0.14 CAT CLAW points for their efforts. W7SW was the clear-cut first winner with HISSES. Scotty was very nearly disqualified, however, because of his blatant attempt at stacking the deck by submitting a second answer created by his mother, a world-

The DXer - August 1987

class crossword puzzle addict. Winner of the draw for the word HIES was W8MEP, who apparently came up with the solution fair and square. Finally, W6ISQ picks up 5 IRCs for his word HEIS. Jack wrote "HEIS, as anyone with half a brain knows, is a crater about 8 miles in diameter in the second quadrant of the face of the moon." Oh well. Thanks also to the following who also submitted solutions: N6JM, WA8LLY, NW6P, N6AN, and WA9WYB. NW6P can also claim 5 IRCs if he can come up with an English dictionary listing for SHIES. I couldn't find it.

Jim, W6CF

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ROSTER CHANGES

The following changes should be made to the November 1986 NCDXC membership roster.

K6SSJ Change home phone to 209-675-2374.
WB9HIP Add Joe H. Harmon, 4034 Fallwood Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Phone 415-462-6560 (H), 408-437-4096 (W).
WW6D Change address to 3638 Hemlock Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

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NCDXC TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1987

RECEIPTS

DUES (includes fees, badge & pin)	\$8,488.25
QSL card printing	1,800.00
ACTIVITIES/RAFFLES	1,675.00
OTHER	
Badges (new)	\$ 36.00
Repeater	19.00
Misc.	46.75
Advertising (DXer/Roster)	415.00
Total	\$551.75
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$12,515.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (see below)	\$12,142.29
BALANCE	\$ 372.71

SAVINGS ACCOUNT \$10,527.02
 (includes life membership payment of \$290.00 to be transferred to CD 7/14/87)

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT AT CITICORP S & L \$8,445.00
 (due 7/13/87)

This includes life membership payments of \$5,945 and QSL card reserve of \$2,500. QSL card reserve to be used for purchase of new QSL cards in July 1987.

REPEATER FUND \$1,983.74

COST PER MEMBER PER YEAR is calculated as shown below:

1. 360 reg/life members + 23 absentee members = 383
2. Total expenditures = \$12,142.29
3. Deduct QSL card cost = -2,189.00
4. Deduct repeater payment = -919.00
5. Club expenses = 9,034.29
6. Divide by 383 = \$23.58
7. Add repeater payment for regular members = \$26.06/member

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY, JULY 1 1986 TO JUNE 30, 1987

ITEM	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<i>DXer</i>	\$3,798.85	
Stamps on hand 7/1/86	62.25	
Total	\$3,868.10	\$3,868.10
AWARDS		
President's gavel	\$33.11	
DXer of the year 1986	17.22	
California Award	28.46	
Mugs (40/40)	381.63	
Trophy engraving	101.65	
CQ WW (Dave Baker Mem.)	135.00	
Contest Plaques	173.44	
Honorary membership	42.67	
40 year certificates	84.95	
DXer of the year 1987	15.01	
Postage (mugs)	18.83	
Total	\$1,031.97	\$1,031.97
QSL printing and purchase		
Printing	\$1,092.00	
Deposit on new cards	515.00	
Total	\$1,607.00	\$1,607.00
ACTIVITIES		
Picnic	\$ 219.35	
Christmas party	1,330.83	
Raffles	599.82	
Total	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00
FEES		
QSL bureau	\$ 25.00	
Westlink	79.19	
Archive locker	96.00	
PO Box	29.00	
Secty of State	2.50	
Total	\$231.69	\$231.69
ADMINISTRATION		
Postage (non-DXer)	\$ 222.40	
Expendable supplies	157.37	
Stationery	237.56	
Insurance	438.00	
Total	\$1,049.39	\$1,049.39
OTHER		
Badges	\$289.31	
DXer advance	300.00	
Roster	528.94	
NCDXF (Silent Keys)	75.00	
Bank charges	23.62	
QSL type font	67.00	
Postage rebate	1.27	
Repeater	919.00	
Total	\$2,204.14	\$2,204.14
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$12,142.29