

THE



DXer

JANUARY 1988

VOL XLI - NUMBER 1

CALENDAR

- Jan. 8 NCDXC January Meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto.
- Jan. 13 NCDXC Board Meeting, W6VG QTH, 7:00 PM.
- Jan. 23-25 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes.
- Jan. 27 Deadline for inputs to Feb. DXer.
- Jan. 29-31 CQWW 160 Meter DX Contest, CW.
- Jan. 30-Feb. 7 ARRL Novice Roundup.
- Feb. 7 North American Sprint, CW.
- Feb. 12 NCDXC February meeting.
- Feb. 15 North American Sprint, Phone.
- Feb. 20-21 ARRL DX Contest, CW.
- Feb. 26-28 CQWW 160 Meter DX Contest, Phone.
- Mar. 5-6 ARRL DX Contest, Phone.
- Apr. 22-24 Visalia International DX Convention, Grosvenor Holiday Inn, Visalia. Hotel reservations: (209) 651-5000.
- Apr. 29-May 1 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.

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JANUARY MEETING - FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 HARRY'S HOFBRAU, PALO ALTO

It's back to Harry's Hofbrau for the January 8 meeting. Take Embarcadero Road East from the Bayshore Freeway in Palo Alto. Hil, N6HR, will present Christmas in New Zealand - a fun-filled and colorful slide show of the Christmas Season Down Under, including visits to the shacks of several prominent ZLs. The usual schedule: Cocktails at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00. Y'all come!

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FROM THE PREZ

Here we go again! What happened to 1987? The holiday season is behind us and the new year starts with fresh hope of finding and working that elusive new country. Old timers and the 300 Plus Club look forward to adding P40, Aruba, and the Novices and New DXers can look forward to 10 Meter DXing... we're all expecting overall improved sunspot activity and, when compared to the recent past, 1988 promises to be a great year for the DXer!



Ted, KA6W

Work has progressed on bringing the decision for/against repeater expansion to a conclusion. Chuck, AA6G, and his subcommittee have reviewed the technical solutions for expansion and their findings will be published in the February DXer. In the same issue, a vote will be taken to determine your desire to expand or not expand repeater coverage. Depending on how the majority of you vote, our club will either drop the repeater expansion proposals or move toward a logical and cost effective implementation of expanded coverage. I urge all of you to review each proposal, the subcommittee report and VOTE your choice in February.

Our January meeting promises to be a fun-filled occasion. Hillar, N6HR, has spent a great deal of time on business assignments in the Pacific over the past 25 years. He liked what he saw so much that he returned as a tourist to New Zealand last year. His slide show, "Christmas in New Zealand" will be the main program at our January meeting. In addition, Larry, KG6GF, is prepared to present awards to winners of the recent NCDXC Marathon Contest. Come out and cheer for all of the participants!

73 es GUD DX in
a HAPPY NEW YEAR
Ted, KA6W

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.	Jim Knochenhauer	K6ITL
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NCDXC REPEATER W6T1R

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 W6T1R Thursday at 8:00PM local time.

Operations Manager	Ralph Hunt	AG6Q
DX News	Phil Garrahan	W6LQC
Propagation	Al Lotze	W6RQ
Contest News	Bob Dorsey	K4UVT
Westlink	Dave Bottom	KD6AZ
Swap Shop	Steve Munro	KZ6Z
QSL Info	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 7.015 and 14.002 MHz.

and it was certainly enjoyed by everyone. A few members were not able to work this one and they are anxiously awaiting the next expedition.

The treasurer's report was again published in the DXer. Frank, W6ZKM, also reported that the bill for the club's QSL cards has been received (\$3459.58) and he gently reminded us that the cards are available thru K6ITL for \$58 per 1000. Paying the QSL bill more than wipes out the reserve set aside for the cards and that puts a temporary dent in the operating funds. There was a first reading for Larry Knain, W6NWS.

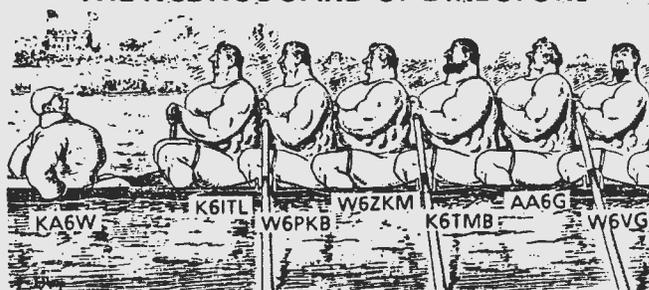
The program for January will be N6HR and slides of his recent trip to the South Pacific. Marv, W6FGD, suggested a questionnaire be mailed to the membership on the issue of repeater expansion. Ted reiterated the plan to have a write-in ballot in the February or March DXer.

A great time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted
Roger A. Gearhart, W6PKB
Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE DEC. 16 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The NCDXC BOD - Steering a Straight Course

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE NCDXC

The regular meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto, on December 11, 1987. The president, Ted, KA6W, opening the meeting at 7:47 PM by welcoming our guests. The International DX Convention is April 22-24 at the Visalia Grosvenor Holiday Inn, telephone (209) 651-5000, 8 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday, ask for Cheri. Registration chairman is N6IC and the fee for early registration (before February 28) is \$38.00. Bob, K4UVT, announced the ARRL DX contests coming up in February and March, and the membership is again reminded that all scores will be important to keep ahead of the SCDXC. A Christmas card has been received from BY1PK for all of the NCDXC members. Ted thanked both WB6ZUC and W6DU for their considerable efforts in putting together tonight's slide show and many others for the NCDXF. The program was the slide show of the 3Y1EE expedition to Peter I Island

The president, Ted, KA6W, called the meeting to order at 7:24 PM at the home of W6VG. Present were club officers W6ZKM, W6VG, K6ITL, KA6W, K6TMB and guest W6MKM. W6PKB appeared later. The Board is pleased to announce that Rubin, WA6AHF, has accepted the chairmanship of the DXer of the Year Committee. Frank, W6ZKM, gave the treasurer's report. A motion by K6TMB, seconded by W6VG and passed by the BOD establishes new prices for the excellent club QSL of \$80 per 1000 and a special until May 1, 1988 of only \$75/1000. Lou, K6TMB, gave the Repeater Committee's report. There are no changes on the new controller until the club has decided on future changes. Lou suggested that funds be transferred from savings to the repeater fund at a later date to maximize interest accrual. The Board discussed the contents of a letter from K6TMB to the secretary. It was moved by K6ITL, seconded by W6ZKM and passed, that "The BOD accept the Repeater Committee's recommendation to rescind the prior motion

of the BOD to always transmit PL in view of the repeater expansion presently under evaluation. W6VG moved and KA6W seconded that the BOD direct W6RGG, the W6TI station trustee, to send copies of the current license to W6GO and K6ANP (WW6D) for their files. A motion to table the motion until the committee headed by AA6G gives its final report was made by K6ITL, seconded by W6ZKM and passed by the Board. The BOD also discussed the issue of sanctioning the links. The Board resolved that:

"The Board of Directors feels that it is not in a position to sanction any of the links. The links have been sanctioned by the only entity in the business of sanctioning repeaters, namely NARC. However, the Board of Directors does feel strongly that the links have contributed greatly to the enhancement of the Club and hopes that the links continue in operation."

W6MKM reported a net income of \$29 from the last raffle. The Board continued discussion on a suitable award for participation and submission of logs for the February-March ARRL DX contests. Plans for the Awards meeting in January are in progress. The secretary reviewed the mail and the Board approved waiving first readings as requested in two new applications for membership. The decision was unanimous for WA6YFD (illness) but close (3 to 2 with 1 abstention) for WB6ITM (inconvenience in schedule and distance). The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger A. Gearhart, W6PKB
Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT - OCT. 1-30, 1987

Checking account activity	
Sept. check balance	\$5633.05
Deposits from dues	0.00
Other receipts	2623.00
Subtotal	\$8256.05
Accounts payable	(4117.11)
Current balance	\$4138.94
Bank of America Savings	\$13703.55
Reserve Fund (QSL Cards)	(2500.00)
Balance	\$11203.55
Reserve Fund/Savings Acct.	
Dues Life Members 86-87	\$ 624.00
Dues Life Members 87-88	-624.00
Subtotal	\$1248.00
At depletion of reserve fund-	
Savings balance	\$9955.55
Certificate of Deposit American S&L	
1 yr 7.411% annual yield	\$5800.00

Note: Accts. Payable this month reflects payment of \$3,459.58 for 95,450 QSL cards.

Frank H. Holst, W6ZKM
Treasurer

P4 ARUBA - NEW DXCC COUNTRY!

The ARRL Awards Committee didn't waste any time after the DX Advisory Committee recommended that Aruba should become a new country. According to an ARRL news release, "The ARRL Awards Committee has VOTED unanimously to ACCEPT the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee to add Aruba (P4) to the ARRL DXCC Countries List. The new Aruba listing, now separate from the Netherlands Antilles listing, by virtue of Point 1 (Government) of the Country Criteria. Aruba credit will be given for contacts dated January 1, 1986, and after."

But cards will not be accepted by the DXCC Desk before April 1, 1988. The ARRL news release describes the following administrative procedure for submitting cards for Aruba credit: "(1) Do not submit cards for Aruba credit before April 1, 1988; (2) Before Aruba credit can be given to those who already have credit for the Netherlands Antilles, a Netherlands Antilles card must be RESUBMITTED. Therefore, along with the creditable Aruba card, please also resubmit any card confirming contact with Curacao or Bonaire, or an Aruba card dated December 31, 1985, or earlier."

Thanks QRZ DX

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ONE Z4NG

NORHDAY IS.
FRANZ

STN	DATE	GMT	RST	MC	CW	TO
W6RQ	110-31-70	0436	599	14		can

T19

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Another New Country? Tnx W6RQ.

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REPORT FROM LLOYD AND IRIS

We concluded our YASME DX-PEDITION to Mexico, using the call XE2GKG, on 1 December 1987. We had 8000 QSOs with amateurs in 122 countries. We were in both of the CQ WW DX contests on phone and CW. We made about 1500 contacts in each portion of the contest and operated on all major amateur bands, from 10 thru 160 meters.

We were the center of two major 6.2-strength earthquakes. It was scary but the only damage to the motel in which we stayed was that many items fell off

shelves. Fortunately, none of our radio equipment was damaged.

We had great difficulty communicating with the local people because most of them spoke only Spanish. One exception is XE2CN, Francisco, and his family. They helped us in many ways, and we really needed and appreciated that help.

We are very pleased to announce that our next operation will be from the Kingdom of Nepal. We have permission to operate there in honor of the King's birthday, which is 29 December 1987. Look for us from there from Christmas on.

73

Lloyd Colvin, W6KG

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Iris Colvin, W6QL

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N7NG OFF TO AUCKLAND ISLAND

NCDXC Associate Member Wayne, N7NG, reports that he will join ZL1AMO, ZL1BN and ZL1BQD for the February 1988 operation from Auckland Island (ZL9). Wayne assures all SSB enthusiasts that they will not be left out during this DXpedition. Both modes -- SSB and CW -- will be aired equally.

QRZ DX

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NEWS FROM THAILAND

The *Bangkok Post* has another fine full-page article on Amateur radio, in the March 29 issue. It is by Tony Waltham, an editor, who is also HS1AMH, an active member of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, RAST.

The article, complete with several pictures, tells a lot about the hobby of amateur radio, and it outlines its history in that country, its current status and possible future.

Thai amateurs operated in past years by joining RAST, which regulated activity and assigned calls. This loose arrangement ended when four Americans were caught in Thailand with two-way equipment. They were employed by the government agency but were not amateurs. The Vietnam war has left its legacy on the Thai borders.

RAST has been meeting with the Post and Telegraphs, and with the National Security Council to get back on the air, Tony says in the newspaper article. In January 1986, the NSC assigned to the PTD full authority to draw up legislation to administer and control our hobby. Roy Parrett VE7TG, who has visited the club several times, forwarded copies of Canadian regulations and the DOC examinations as a possible guide.

This year RAST was authorized to operate "special event" stations during contests, and at the Science Museum's 12-day exhibition last spring, using HS0HS. The station was also on the air for National Communications Day in August.

Although Thailand is listed as a "banned country," RAST has never notified ITU that it has banned communication with that country, the club officials insist. [Editor's note: The Canadian DOC still maintains a list of banned countries.]

The club has 600 members, mostly Thais, but with a sprinkling of Canadians, like Dave Segal of Toronto, HS1AMM, and a number of Europeans. Several religious organizations from the United States have amateur stations that have been active in the past, and are only awaiting the go-ahead to operate again.

HS0B and HS0HS usually check into SEANET, 14320 kHz, around 1200Z, especially on weekends, if you are looking for HS contacts.

Roy Parrett, VE7TG, in *The Canadian Amateur*

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OKINO TORI-SHIMA TO RISE AGAIN?

Long deleted from the DXCC list, this "Wet Rock" is in the news again. The *DX News Sheet* reports that the Japanese government is preparing to save the island from disappearing beneath the waters of the Pacific as international law requires "land" to remain above water at all states of the tide. If Okino Tori-Shima (which exists as two large rocks at low tide only) vanishes, it will mean the loss to Japan of 170,000 square miles of fishing rights. The Japanese Ministry of Construction will shortly carry out a survey on how to save the island and work could begin in 1990.

This news begs the question, if the "wet rock" becomes a true island will it return to the DXCC list? The *DX News Sheet* says not.

Paul Cooper, VE3JLP, in *The Canadian Amateur*

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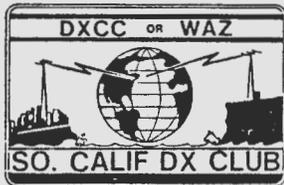
NOMINATIONS FOR DXER OF THE YEAR

President Ted, KA6W, has just announced the appointment of Rubin Huges, WA6AHF, as chairman of the DXer of the Year Committee. The DXer of the Year award is the highest honor conveyed by the NCDXC to one of its members. The award will be presented at the main banquet at the Visalia DX Convention in April, if a deserving candidate can be identified. Nominations are now open! Send your nomination to Rubin, together with a letter describing the reasons you believe your candidate qualifies.

1988
INTERNATIONAL
DX CONVENTION
APRIL 22 - 23 - 24
GROSVENOR HOLIDAY INN
VISALIA CALIFORNIA



SPONSORED BY
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB



A star-studded program for the up-coming Visalia DX Convention has been promised by this year's sponsor, the Southern California DX Club. Preregistration runs \$38 per person through Feb. 28; thereafter the cost will be \$44 per person. Checks should be made payable to "International DX Convention" and sent to Don Bostrom, N6IC, 4447 Atol Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The registration fee includes the banquet and Sunday brunch. Individuals must make their own hotel reservations. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel at (209) 651-5000, (ask for Sheree) and don't forget to mention the International DX Convention when calling.

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SORASD AT VISALIA

Duane, N56A, has reported via OF3VV that OH2BH and EA2JG, one half of the very successful SORASD team, will be in attendance at Visalia this year. OF3VV and EA9IE are also planning to attend. Other sources report that G3FXB, DXer and contester supreme, will be there, together with a group of prominent DXers and contesters from the UK.

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GOLDEN JUBILEE X 2 UPDATE

Latest to report 200 countries in 1987 is Bill, K4II, who crossed the mark on Nov. 1. As of Dec. 11, he's up to 217.

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MORE ON THE DON REIBHOFF MEMORIAL FUND

At the January 1987 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Foundation, the Don Reibhoff (K7ZZ) Memorial Fund was established. K7ZZ was killed in an automobile accident in Spain around the first of the year. With little publicity, more than \$2000 has been contributed to the fund through the end of June. If the fund grows to \$10,000, it will be turned into a scholarship fund with an annual scholarship of at least \$500 to be awarded.

In case you're not familiar with Don's operating exploits, he was perhaps best known for his thousands of HS, XV, XU and 1S (Spratly) contacts nearly 20 years ago, and more recently for his big signal as CT4AT.

After a recent trip of mine to the Caribbean (ZF2KI), my QSL manager (tightwad K1AR) ended up with IRCs to spare. That extra money has been sent to add to the Don Reibhoff Memorial Fund with the hope that the fund will continue to grow. Think about it next time you have a little extra - put it to good use!

Should you have any questions about the ARRL Foundation, please give me a telephone call or write.

73.

Tom Frenaye, K1KI
ARRL Foundation Director
(via the *National Contest Journal*.)

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DX CALENDAR

Thanks to *The DX Bulletin* and *QRZ DX* for the following.

Guinea-Bissau. Dave, K8MN, is due on from this African spot (J5) about now.

Heard Island. Dave, VK0HI, was scheduled to leave Heard Island at the end of January, but he will be staying a while longer. He was scheduled to leave on the NELLA DAN, but the wreck of the NELLA DAN not only stranded the crew on Macquarie Island, but Dave is now stranded on Heard Island. The earliest he can expect to leave the island is February 27 aboard a Canadian vessel, the LADY FRANKLIN. Dave is active with N4GNR on 14215 kHz around 0400 UTC.

Liberia. 5L5AY meets with Carol, N5GAP, on 14237 kHz around 2300 UTC, then works the pile up that collects on the same frequency.

Mozambique. C9MKT says his license was issued in honor of the 100th anniversary of the city of Mapulo, and was of a limited duration. The license, in Portuguese, has been sent to QSL manager SM5KDM to be forwarded to the DXCC desk.

Sri Lanka. DK1ZN and DJ0CP reportedly will operate as DK1ZN/457 and 457YLR Dec. 28 to Jan. 28, on 10-15M, SSB, CW, and RTTY. They might try lower bands as well. QSL to home calls.

Sudan. PA0GAM/ST2 is still QRV from this location, generally on the low end of the CW bands.

Thailand. HS0B may get permission to operate full-time in 1988, according to *The DX Bulletin*. Watch for long path openings 2330- 0130 UTC on 20 meters. HS0A again has permission to operate all major contests in 1988. HS0A QSLs 100% via the bureau, after waiting a few months for direct cards.

Willis Island. VK9ZR has been reported with the DX net emceed by RF0FWW on 20 meters around 1300-1400 UTC.

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**!!! OFFICIAL NCDXC QSL CARDS !!!
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All checks should be made out payable to NCDXC.

MORE NCDXC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The January 1988 DXing issue of *73 Magazine* is now on the street, chock full of DX related articles. Several NCDXC members are spotlighted. The lead article, titled "Working the World - FAST!" features Jay, W6GO. It describes Jay's achievement of being the first to qualify for the DXCC Golden Jubilee Award, describes the station, and adds a few words of wisdom from Jay on DXing. A few pages later the smiling faces of Lloyd and Iris, W6KG/W6QL, light up the room from an article that covers their many years of DXing and DXpeditioning. Other articles include QSLing tips, a list of DX Nets, an article on 10 meter DXing for Novices by our own Chod Harris, and an article titled, so help me, "In Praise of DX and WAS Nets." Aside from that DX net turkey, the only criticism that comes to mind is that Jan, K6HHD, is only mentioned in passing in the lead article. Jay may have worked 100 countries in 48 hours, 42 minutes last January, but Jan should at least get credit for putting up with him during the ordeal.

Jim, W6CF

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ARRL DX CONTEST COMING UP!!

by Bob Dorsey, K4UVT
NCDXC Contest Chairman

Conditions are improving, and we're even hearing more out of 10 meters than we've heard in a long time! And in February and March 1988, we'll have the ARRL International DX Contest to look forward to. The ARRL DX Test has traditionally been an NCDXC effort, and the '88 version should be a great one - with a little help from the propagation gods, of course.

The CW contest will commence on February 20 at 0000 UTC, and go for 48 hours. The Phone installment will follow two weeks later, beginning at 0000 UTC on March 5, also running for the next 48 hours. I will have copies of the rules, log sheets and summary sheets for anyone needing them at the next few NCDXC monthly meetings. Full rules for the contest appear on pages 81-82 of December 1988 QST.

I will submit an NCDXC official club entry for the ARRL contest, and I'd appreciate you getting your duped/final scores to me as soon as possible, and no later than the date stated in the rules.

So, whether you're a "big gun," a little pistol, or a modest station in between, let's jump in and have fun with this one!! Big scores and little scores - every point helps! Let's be sure that the best DX club in the world shows up number 1 in the affiliated clubs competition!

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THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

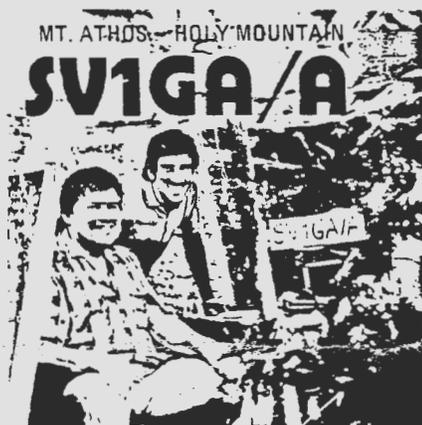
Norman J. Joly, G3FNJ, formerly SV1RX, has kindly supplied the following information.

In the middle of September "Mount Athos" was in the news again when half a dozen members of the Radio Amateur Union of Northern Greece, headed by their president, Dr. Nikos Georgiadis-Stefanidis, SV2RE, went on a properly-authorized expedition to the much sought-after "country."

Where is Mount Athos, and why should it be a separate "country" from Greece in the eyes of the ARRL? The amended criteria for including an area in the countries list were published in the June issue of QST about three years ago. But let us consider some of the facts relating to amateur radio activity in the area known to all Greeks as the "Holy Mountain" and not "Mount Athos."



P.O. BOX 717
OAKLAND, CA 94604 U.S.A.



The Holy Mountain is at the southern end of the most easterly of three peninsulas jutting southeastwards into the Aegean Sea. It is well wooded, with a bare mountain peak rising to a height of 2,033m (6,679ft) - Mount Athos - at the southern end of the peninsula. There are no monasteries on Mount Athos! But there are some 20 monasteries dotted around the coast of the peninsula, many hermitages, farms and tiny communities. It has been suggested that the area has remained in its "pristine state," and that the monasteries contain a thesaurus of icons, religious relics, priceless Byzantine manuscripts, frescoes and other works of art of a religious nature.

So why is the Holy Mountain a separate "country?"

The area is separately administered (under the protection of the Greek state) by a civil governor and a small religious body known as "The Holy Supervisory Council" (in Greek: *Iera Epistasia*). The council, which usually consists of 20 members, is located in the small village of Karyes. There are very few streets, some small grocery stores, a post office and a couple of cafes. Tourists wishing to visit any of the monasteries have to obtain a *Diamonitirion*, literally a "permit to stay." This is a kind of ticket usually valid for four or

five days and issued in the name of the intending visitor. It is a historical fact that the members of one of the "dpxpeditions" that operated from Athos inserted their call signs above their names on the visitor's pass after they had left the area.

The proper procedure for obtaining permission to operate amateur radio transmitting and receiving equipment, however, is quite a different kettle of fish. The licensing authority in Athens must first endorse the license of any prospective amateur visitor with *specific* authority to operate his equipment in the area of the Holy Mountain and *provided* he also obtains the written permission to do so from the council at Karyes, on arrival there. This was the procedure followed in 1980 when three licensed amateurs from Athens, headed by "Cliff," SV1JG, went to the Holy Mountain.

Foreign nationals holding Greek reciprocal licenses have to follow the same procedure. Last year some Italian amateurs made an application to the council that they wished to carry out some "scientific experiments" but they failed to get away with the ruse.

In April 1983 Gus Derdevanis, W6LAS, (a Greek-American) visited the monastery of Simonos Petra, but owing to a number of difficulties he was only able to have about 250 contacts, 19 with stations in the UK. His visit coincided with the period of Lent of the Greek Orthodox Church, of which Gus is a prominent member of the San Francisco Cathedral of the Annunciation. His authority to operate his amateur equipment during this period of meditation and prayer may have been facilitated by the fact that one of the monks at that monastery is a cousin of Gus's wife.

G3FKM, in *Radio Communication*

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CQWW DX CONTEST SCORES

Although it wasn't widely publicized, I am collecting scores for an NCDXC club entry for the CQ Worldwide DX Contest, 1987.

I just sent in the score for the SSB contest, with an NCDXC score of about 4.7 million points. For the CW contest, the deadline for submitting logs is Jan. 15, 1988. So we still have a little time to put the club entry together. If you would like to submit a score on behalf of NCDXC, please advise me of your final score, call, and list of operators (if you didn't enter as a single operator station).

Logs and summary sheets are available if you need them!

73.

Bob, K4UVT

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SUPER SUPERSCAF

by Tom McShane, NW6P

I have had a TS930 for several years and have always been disappointed with its CW performance. I've tried various combinations of filters and have listened to every 930 (and 940) I could find to see if anything would provide the selectivity I wanted without ringing or distortion.

I read Lew McCoy's review of the Aftronics SuperSCAF audio filter in the Nov. 1987 issue of *CQ Magazine* and decided to spend \$136.95 and buy the kit. My reaction has been so favorable that I had to share my opinion with readers of the *DXer*.

First of all, for those who didn't see the article, the SuperSCAF is designed around the latest audio filter technology - called switched capacitor integrated circuits. The SuperSCAF uses two of them - one for the low pass and one for the high pass filter. In combination, the designers have created a variable bandpass filter with some amazing characteristics. The rolloff (attenuation) is 150dB/octave without ringing, noise, or any distortion that can be detected by my ears.

By moving four thumbwheel switches you can slide the filters up/down and in/out making them as narrow as 30 Hz or as wide as 3900 Hz. As a practical matter, for CW I usually tune with the filter about 500 Hz wide, then narrow down to about 70 Hz. Signals outside the passband selected are just not heard. For example if you are on 7.002 MHz copying a weak signal with the filter set for 630-700 Hz passband a local signal a few hundred cycles away is so attenuated you can continue to operate. Switching the filter out dramatically demonstrates its effectivity. Up until SuperSCAF, whenever Marv, W6FGD - 1 mile away - got on 40 CW I would have to standby or QSY. Now I can operate within a kHz or two of his frequency. Switching the filter out verifies he's there!

On SSB the effectiveness is also dramatic - especially with reducing adjacent channel interference. I don't (yet) operate packet or RTTY but I'd imagine the SuperSCAF would do wonders for these modes as well.

Drawings of the filter characteristics for typical SSB and CW settings are given below.

Installation is very simple - just connect the receiver's audio output to the filter's audio input and connect the speaker to the filter's audio output. Plug the headphones into the filter or your speaker (assuming a jack exists there), turn power on and you are all set to go.

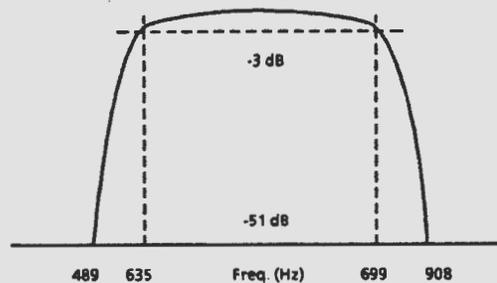
The SuperSCAF is available for \$136.95, including shipping, in kit form only from: Aftronics, PO Box 785, Longwood, FL 32750.

The directions are very good but don't try to build the kit without a pencil-tip soldering iron, a good light (preferably with a magnifying glass), and about 4

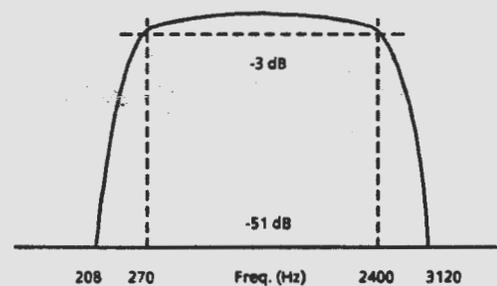
hours of uninterrupted quiet time! There's quite a few small parts including 4 or 5 socketed ICs. I hadn't built a kit since my last Heathkit in 1959. I was frankly intimidated by those funny looking solid state gizmos but somehow I got it to work.

Anyone wanting more info is free to call me or better yet come to my Cupertino QTH for a listen. I think the filter would be worth it if you only operate SSB. For CW the words that come to mind to describe the SuperSCAF's performance are: awesome, spectacular, unreal. Forget the old prejudices concerning IF versus audio filtering and have a listen to this solid state wonder.

The original technical article describing SuperSCAF appeared in *QST*, April 1986. The authors got so many requests for a kit they started Aftronics.



Typical Frequency Response - CW



Typical Frequency Response - SSB

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THE CANADIAN AMATEUR

"What? A Canadian ham magazine? Never heard of it!" That has been a typical response to articles credited to *The Canadian Amateur* which are reprinted in the *DXer* from time to time. Yes, Virginia, there is a Canadian ham magazine, in fact a very good one. *The Canadian Amateur* is the official journal of the CARF, the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation, not to be confused with CRRL, the Canadian Radio Relay League, an offshoot of the ARRL. *TCA* is published eleven times per year, generally with 48 pages of material. Coverage is broad - each issue contains a half dozen or so feature articles covering the full spectrum of ham radio activities, plus specialized columns - contests, AMSAT news, VHF/UHF, QRP, packet, YL news, and so on. A newsy and highly readable DX

column is turned out by Paul Cooper, VE3JLP. As one might expect, TCA's coverage of regulatory matters concentrates on the activities of the Canadian DOC (their "FCC"), but U.S. FCC actions are covered from the Canadian perspective if they have some impact north of the border. Subscriptions are available to U.S. residents for \$25.00 U.S. per year. Checks go to the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation, PO Box 356, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 4W2.

Jim, W6CF

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TO OUR FELLOW HAMS
NCDXC

Merry Christmas

*and Best Wishes for
a happy new year*

FROM BY/PK

*3
TONG XIAO-YONG*

TONG XIAO-YONG

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9BDXCC CLUB AWARD - UPDATE

Klaus, DJ6RX, takes his NCDXC award activities seriously - very seriously. Between October 10 and November 6, Klaus worked a total of 390 band/countries toward his 9BDXCC award! Of course, applications for the entry award won't be accepted before November 1, 1988. But his big push at the beginning shows that the countries are out there, waiting to be worked.

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de K6OZL (via W6GO) -

I had an interesting conversation with N6BYH on the 146.61 repeater yesterday. He is the guy in Visalia who had the repeater on 147.36 for years. He said he moved it to 146.76 but when I tried to bring it up today it didn't come on, so it must be on PL. He mentioned that he wanted to keep 147.36 in "reserve" in case he decides to move back! I told him we wanted to link the Northern Cal DX Repeater down to 147.09 west of Bakersfield. We have been at each others throats for years and it was unusual to have a friendly conversation with him.

He said he got sick and tired of hearing me relaying DX reports on 147.36 so finally decided to move. Glad for that...

Nothing got settled but I hope the club votes for the repeater expansion because it would be of benefit to a lot of people.

Regards,

Ron, K6OZL

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de K6ANP (via W6VG) -

Greetings to the gang! I have a new home out here in New Jersey on top of an 1100 foot mountain, with a clear shot in all directions. A 45 minute commute to work on a good road. Will be on during the ARRL DX contest, although I have no beams up yet. Will use a Butternut vertical until the weather warms up from the present 29 degree temperature - that will probably happen in April. Guess who had the most stupendous signal on 160 during our DXpedition to VP5 in November? KA6W. No kidding!

73, Len

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ROSTER CHANGES

Please make the following changes to your November 1987 NCDXC membership rosters.

W6AED - L. E. Walton, PO Box 279, Browns Valley, CA 95918. Phone: (916) 743-6670 (H).

K6ANP - Len Gerdali, 172 Farview, Great Meadows, NJ 07838. Phone: (201) 637-6481 (H).

K6ASI - Middle initial is A, not M.



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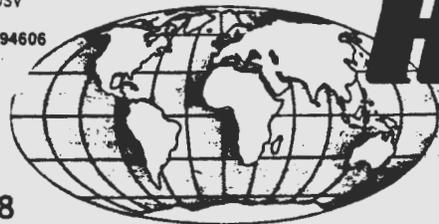
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