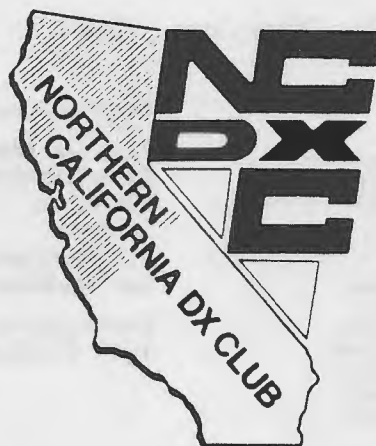


# THE




# DXer

JUNE 1988

VOL XLI - NUMBER 6

## CALENDAR

- June 1 NCDXC 3 month Marathon kickoff.
- June 10 NCDXC June meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto.
- June 11  Electronic flea market, Foothill College.
- June 11-12 South American CW Contest.
- June 15 NCDXC Board of Directors Meeting, W6VG QTH.
- June 15-30 10M DXCC applications due at ARRL. See further details elsewhere in this *DXer*.
- June 18-19 All Asian DX Contest, Phone.
- June 19 Father's Day.
- June 22 Deadline for inputs to July *DXer*.
- June 25-26 ARRL Field Day.
- July 8 NCDXC July meeting.
- July 9-10 IARU HF Contest.

+ = + = +



**NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, JUNE 10  
N6VV ON THE DX PACKET SPOTTING  
NETWORK  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The June meeting of the NCDXC will again be at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road East, Palo Alto, on June 10, 1988. Our speaker will be Lew Jenkins, N6VV, the sparkplug behind the new DX Packet Spotting Network. Lew will discuss the system design, equipment requirements, system capabilities, and long term goals. June is election month too, so be sure to be thinking about your favorite candidates for office. Cocktails at 6:00 P.M., dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

## FROM THE PREZ

The 1988 International DX Convention is past and our club will be hosting the convention in 1989. To that end, I am looking for volunteers to help create a grand affair to be held next year. Several club members have offered to help, including an offer by one of our popular DXers to chair the event provided the club locates a Program Chairman. Please discuss this position with your friends and contact any of the club officers if any strokes of brilliance occur. Make sure your choice is someone who will be willing to serve before you throw his or her call into the hat!



Ted, KA6W

June brings with it two major events; The **MARATHON CONTEST** and **CLUB ELECTIONS**:

The **MARATHON CONTEST** starts on June 1 and ends the last day of August. More can be found on this event in your Procedures Manual and later in this *DXer*.

**CLUB ELECTIONS** are held at the June meeting and I know that Ron, W6VG and his committee have identified several good candidates. It is fun to have a good race and a good race means there are a reasonable number of competitors...so COME ON leaders, make yourselves known to Ron and his committee. Just a little barb...if you're not willing to work and help improve our club, you don't have a leg on which to stand and complain! Join in being a working part of the Greatest DX Club in the World! Yes, it is work but a great honor to serve the NCDXC.

Jay, W6GO spent several hours reviewing the entries and results of members who competed in the ARRL spring contests. Later in this *DXer*, results are shown for your review. Please note (as identified by Jay) that the efforts of the smaller stations yielded greater than 50% of the Club's score with each entry providing less than 4% of the total score. Sure, the **BIG GUNS** were there but the **LITTLE PISTOLS** were the heart of the Club's total. A GREAT EFFORT BY MANY

**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	Ted Algren	KA6W
Vice Pres.	Jim Knochenhauer	K6ITL
Secretary	Roger Gearhart	W6PKB
Treasurer	Frank Holst	W6ZKM
Director	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB
Director	Chuck Vaughn	AA6G
Director	Ron Panton	W6VG

**DXER STAFF**

Editor	Jim Maxwell	W6CF
Contributing	George Allan	WA6O
Contributing	Hal Godfrey	N6AN
DX Ladder	Jim Hicks	KK6X
Production	Martin Oppenheimer	K86BW
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 W6TI/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 W6TI/R 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
W6TI, the NCDXC memorial station, broadcasts DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST (Monday at 0200 GMT) on 7.015 and 14.002 MHz.	

**Reserve Fund/Savings Account**

Dues Life Members 86-87	\$ 624.00
Dues Life Members 87-88	624.00
QSL Cards	500.00
Subtotal	\$1748.00
At depletion of reserve fund-	
Savings balance	\$10196.29
Certificate of Deposit American S&L	
1 yr 7.411% annual yield	\$6103.03

Frank H. Holst, W6ZKM  
Treasurer

+ = + = +

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 1988 MEETING OF THE NCDXC**

The May meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto, on May 13, 1988. The president, Ted, KA6W, called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. A moment of silence was observed for silent keys Mike Young, KbMBV, Joe Harmon, WB9HIP, and Jack Brollier, K6ERV. Both Mike and Joe were current members and Jack had been a member and president in 1965. Knock, K6ITL, welcomed our many, many guests. Ted announced that Jim, W6CF, has been appointed to the ARRL DX Advisory Committee, replacing Bob, K6SSJ. Jim offered his plan for "glasnost" and he will give the club frequent updates both at our meetings and in the *DXer*. Congratulations and thanks, Jim! Ted also congratulated Jack Troster, W6ISQ, on his recent election to the **CQ DX Hall of Fame**. Both Jim and Jack received warm rounds of applause. Jack took a poll of the members regarding their use of IRCs and "green stamps" under various scenarios. The results are promised for the *DXer*. Bob, K4UVT, discussed the unfortunate "HIRED GUN" badge issue and gave a rundown of the upcoming contests. Ted discussed the 1989 DX convention which we will host. Ted asked for volunteers for the chairmanship. Ted announced the appointment of Ron, W6VG, to head the election committee and of Knock to serve on that committee. Members were asked to consider serving the club and to volunteer. The speaker for the evening was Ray Allustiati, W6JOV. Ray is an electrical power engineer and a long time ham. His presentation of PG&E HV power lines was well received and was followed by many questions. Reinstatements were held for WC6I, WA6RLE, and K6GNX. Steve, Curt, and Bill are each welcomed back into the fold. First readings were held for W6YWH, N6KT, A16L, and K16WF. Wes, Rich, Jerry and Dave are asked not to be present for their second readings at the next meeting. Lou, K6TMB, reported on the current status of repeater expansion. Morris, N6DJM, commented on his interpretation of the BOD actions concerning repeater expansion. He raised the issue that, although the membership has approved the con-

PEOPLE! Thanks to you all and may the SCDXC wish they had never awakened the "Sleeping Bear."

Hey Lou, K6TMB! Where are the Award Badges?

Let me hear your thoughts about holding a club picnic this year. Are enough of you interested in trying to locate a site for a 1988 NCDXC Picnic?

Vy 73 es GUD DX,

Ted, KA6W

+ = + = +

**TREASURER'S REPORT - MAY 1-31, 1988**

Checking account activity

April check balance	\$2463.27
Deposits from dues	70.00
Other receipts	325.00
Subtotal	\$2858.27
Accounts payable	(714.35)
Current balance	\$2143.92

Bank of America Savings \$11944.29

cept of expansion, the membership should also be the body to decide the method of expansion. His views were supported by Dick, WB6WKM. Ted iterated that the Board had wrestled long and hard with this complicated matter and that the Board had acted with the conviction that they represented the best interests of the membership. A motion was offered by Lou and seconded by N6EK to "Reaffirm the repeater committee's recommendation to go forward with the repeater expansion by implementing a 420 MHz link." Morris offered an amendment that "a \$2000 limit be put on the expenditure and to authorize implementation." After having established that a quorum was present, both motions were carried by nearly unanimous votes. The concept of a club picnic was approved and Ted announced the appointment of Steve, W6MKM, as picnic chairman for this year. The raffle was held before the meeting and the prizes were a Curtis Keyer, won by W6QHS, and a Callbook, won by W6PNV. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 P.M.

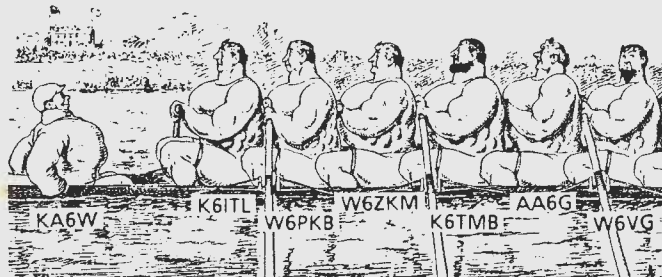
A great time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger A. Gearhart, W6PKB  
Secretary

+ = + = +

### MINUTES OF THE MAY 1988 MEETING OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The president, Ted, KA6W, called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. at the home of W6VG. Present were club officers K6ITL, W6ZKM, W6VG, AA6G, KA6W, K6TMB, and W6PKB, and guests W6MKM, N6DJM and K4UVT. Chuck, AA6G, reported that Keith, KN6K, has offered to initiate and keep a data base for the 9 Band Award. The BOD gratefully accepted Keith's offer. Morris, N6DJM, offered to assist should Keith need help get-



The NCDXC BOD - Steering a Straight Course

ting started. Chuck will shortly prepare an article for the *DXer* that will clarify the rules for the award. Issues relating to the 1989 DX Convention were discussed. Ted appointed Ron, W6VG, to head the nominating committee for the upcoming elections and Knock, K6ITL, was also asked to serve on that committee. Hal, N6AN, W6VG, and Roger, W6PKB, were

asked to review the Procedures Manual. The Board recommends having a picnic and the membership will be asked to vote on the issue. Steve, W6MKM, was asked to look into the possibilities for a picnic. The treasurer's report by Frank, W6ZKM, was gratefully accepted by the BOD. The NCDXC data base was discussed. Ron and Roger reported their ongoing interaction with the new data base manager, Martin, KB6BW. Martin has the data base up and running on his computer and he has everything under control. Ron offered to print updated rosters and Procedures Manuals if needed. Lou, K6TMB, presented a report from the Repeater Technical Committee. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that the Board accept the report with thanks to the committee. Lou will summarize the report for inclusion in the *DXer*. Steve has plans to continue the raffle at the meetings and he was thanked for his continuing interest. The sad story of the "Hired Gun" badges was related. The supplier continued to promise them on time but somehow they never materialized. The Board voted to designate Ted to resolve the matter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger A. Gearhart, W6PKB  
Secretary

+ = + = +

### JOE HARMON, WB9HIP, SILENT KEY

Joe Harmon, WB9HIP, became a Silent Key on April 7th, after a short illness. He died of respiratory arrest.

Joe, age 46, was a Vice President of "Businessland," past president of the Wheaton Illinois Amateur Radio Club. He was only one short of the Honor Roll, and was a gourmet cook. Joe had been a ham since 1970, was an extra class licensee. His interests were computers, packet, DXing, fox hunting, and photography.

He was just getting started as a member of the NCDXC, but I'm sure he will be greatly missed.

Jim Sheley, KA6DXY

+ = + = +

### NCDXC MARATHON STARTS 1 JUNE

Get your rigs all warmed up for the kickoff of the annual NCDXC Marathon, which started June 1. There will be three entry classes, as usual: Phone, CW, and mixed. This is a three month contest. Reports will go to the new contest chairman, whose identity will be announced shortly.

+ = + = +

# 4TH OF JULY PARTY

ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NCDXC AND NCCC ARE INVITED TO A 4TH OF JULY PARTY!!!!

PLUS, THIS YEAR ONLY,

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH (COUNT 'EM, 50!) WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF LLOYD, W6KG, AND IRIS, W6QL!!!!

5200 Panama Avenue, Richmond

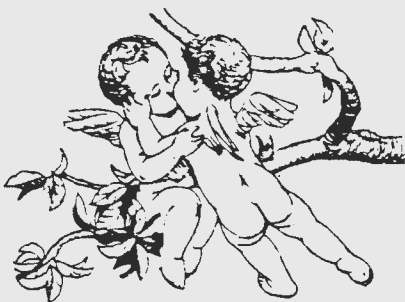
2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SEE THE LARGEST QSL COLLECTION IN THE WORLD!

DRINKS!!

FUN!!

CHEER!!



FOOD!!

MUSIC!!

PRIZES!!

VISIT THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN AND HELL!!

Directions: Take Highway 80 from Oakland in the direction of Sacramento. Look for three 100 ft. poles to the left of the freeway. Take El Cerrito Central Ave. exit, and head for the poles.

+ = + = +

## GET YOUR APPLICATIONS READY FOR 10 METER DXCC!

Applications for the new 10-meter Single Band DXCC will be processed beginning July 1, 1988. Applications will be accepted during a two-week "window" prior to that date (beginning June 15) and held for processing beginning July 1. The applications received during the window period with the highest total number of valid credited countries will be assigned the Number 1 certificate. Subsequent numbers will be assigned in accordance with the number of country credits.

New application forms have been prepared for this new award; they must be used. To request application forms, send two units of First Class postage to: DXCC Application Forms, ARRL Hq., 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

## NCDXC MEMBER KE6LT HONORED IN COLORADO

by Bob Gobrck, WA6ERB

In *RMPRA>PACKET*, the bulletin of the Rocky Mountain Packet Radio Association

One of the most prestigious honors for a Colorado ham to receive is the "Colorado Section Amateur of The Year" award. For 1987 this award went to no other than our *RMPRA>PACKET* editor Gene KE6LT. The award was presented at the 1988 ARRL Colorado State Convention on March 20 and cited Gene's unending work in supporting the SARES efforts to link Colorado with a packet network. Gene has made so many trips to Santoy Peak in Kremmling that there was even talk of setting up a "Mileage Plus" program for him. We all know Gene's effort as a BBS sysop, editor of the *RMPRA>PACKET* and the PBBS newsletters, but many of us probably don't realize the time Gene spends behind the scene making things happen.

Thanks Lou, K6TMB

+ = + = +

## PACIFIC DIVISION DIRECTOR APPOINTED JUDGE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, our ARRL Pacific Division Director, has been appointed Court Commissioner for the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County. His primary responsibilities involve presiding over trials involving traffic and criminal matters. Congratulations to Rod!

+ = + = +

## W6OAT NEW PRESIDENT OF NCDXF

Rusty Epps, W6OAT, was elected president of the Northern California DX Foundation at a meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors on May 25. Rusty replaces Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, who had served as President for the past 2-1/2 years. At the same meeting Stan Kiesel, K6UD, was elected to the post of Vice President. Continuing are Eric Edberg, W6DU, Secretary, and Ernie ZumBrunnen, WB6UOM, Treasurer. Other members of the NCDXF Board of Directors are N6HR, W6OSP, W6QHS, W6SZN, K6TMB, KA6W.



+ = + = +

## DX CALENDAR

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

**Afghanistan** - Rumors have YA on the air soon. About 100 United Nations observers will monitor the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and some of those observers will be Finnish amateurs. Look for OH7/4U from YA soon.

**Canada** - Skitrek activity continues. Andy, VE1ASJ, is once again signing C18CW and will do so until May 28. Two Soviet operators are also active from the Resolute Bay station: C18CR (UA3CR) and C18GZ.

**Chagos** - Dale, W4QM, has returned to Chagos for a 4 to 6 month stay as VQ9QM. Dale is very active on CW, but warns that the new station is near the broadcast station, and 160 meters will probably be impossible. QSL to home call.

**Comoros** - Bill, D68WB, is enroute back to his home in the Comoros after a visit in the U.S. and should arrive around June 2. Bill and his XYL are medical missionaries, who have spent their lives in some very inhospitable places! Bill has a 20/15 meter dipole with him and a linear amplifier should already be there. He promises to get on the air as soon as possible, including some CW activity. Incidentally, Bill needs some GOOD RAT TRAPS, the kind that are used to catch real rats. How about a trap for return postage?

**Glorioso Island** - Bruno, FR4FA/J, is expected to be active fro Glorioso Island for about a month beginning June 22.

**Indonesia** - Don, YB8ASX, is a missionary located on remote Halmahera Island in Eastern Indonesia, 350 miles south of the Philippines. Don is one of a handful of active YB8s, so prefix hunters take note that he can be found most weekends between 1200-1400 UTC around 14215 kHz.

**Juan de Nova** - Bruno, FR4FA/J, often checks into the INDEXA DX Net on 14236 kHz around 0330 UTC. A list is taken for him beginning at 0300 UTC. Bruno formerly signed FR0EH, a club callsign, and some of his FR0EH/J QSLs are being distributed in the U.S. via the bureau.

**St. Kitts & Nevis** - Greg, KO9Y, will be active from St. Kitts and Nevis between June 18 and 25 on CW only, 10-80 meters. He will be operating from the shack of V47NXX and V47NX, but will probably sign V47/KO9Y.

**South Cook Islands** - Bing, VK2BCH, is active now as ZK1XV from Rarotonga, South Cook Islands. He'll be in Rarotonga for 6 weeks or so.

**Vietnam** - Rumors continue to circulate about a possible Vietnam XV opertion this October by RL8PYL. The truth is that several Russian hams are part of a sports festival in Vietnam in October. They have

applied for operating permission, but have not yet received a reply. The operation is still very iffy.

+ = + = +

## RUSSIAN CALLSIGNS

Every May, Russian amateurs operate with lots of strange callsigns, to commemorate the end of World War II. Calls beginning with EU are in the capitals of the 15 Russian Republics. Those beginning with EV identify stations in the capitals of the 20 Autonomous Republics. Hero Cities stations are marked with EW prefixes, and stations in cities with former guerilla activity use EM prefixes. EO prefixes are from cities awarded medals for their contribution to the victory.

You can determine the Russian Republic by the letter after the number. If this is A, N, V, W, or X, the station is in Russia. If it's B, T, or Y, the station is in the Ukraine. Other letters identify the republic as usual. The DXCC country is the same as the Russian Republic, except for Russia itself. Then you must refer to the number in the call. 2 is Kaliningrad, 1, 3, 4, or 6 is European Russia, and 8-0 is Asiatic Russia.

To determine Oblast, look at the number and next two letters, for calls with more than a single-letter suffix. Stations with a single letter in the suffix are in the capital of the republic.

Operators will give QSL routes, including direct addresses at times. Otherwise, QSL via Box 88.

K1KI via *The DX Bulletin*

+ = + = +



Elsie and BIP, smooching at a recent NCDXC meeting.  
(Photo W6DUB)

+ = + = +

**DX CALLBOOKS SOLD OUT**

The International edition of the 1988 *Callbook* is sold out. The North American edition will be gone soon. There are still copies of both available from dealers, but not for long. There will not be a reprint of the 1988 editions, but the *Supplement* will be out next month.

Tnx *The DX Bulletin*

+ = + = +

**DXCC HONOR ROLL MEMBERSHIP UP AGAIN**

The DXCC Honor Roll, just published in the June *QST*, shows an overall growth of 6.2% as compared with 1987, with an especially strong growth rate in the CW Honor Roll. Below is short summary and comparison of June 1987 with June 1988.

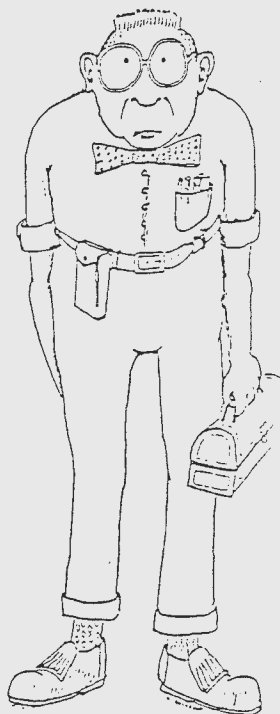
Year	Mixed	Phone	CW	Total
1987	1640	788	64	2492
1988	1716	841	89	2646
%Increase	4.6	6.7	39.1	6.2

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +



True Blue  
DXer/Contester



Ordinary Ham

**DXAC NEWS**

This is the first of what I hope to be a regular monthly feature in the *DXer*, a report on the activities of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. It is my firm belief that if the DXAC is to have the support of active DXers, it must do a better job of informing the DX community what is going on within the DXAC, and must do a better job of soliciting inputs from DXers. If you have any suggestions or gripes, please write! My address is OK in any *Callbook* and in the NCDXC roster.

But before getting into the DXAC agenda, we should all thank Bob Thompson, K6SSJ, for his six faithful years of effective service to DX as DXAC member in the Pacific Division. Bob was also Chairman for two years. I talked with Bob frequently during those years and can testify from personal experience how Bob was dedicated to the job. Tnx, OM!

What's happening? Well, things are rather slow since the recent decision to return SO (Western Sahara) to the active list and the DXCC changes announced in April *QST*. So slow, in fact, there are no formal items on the DXAC agenda at the moment. But there are a few matters being discussed.

First, although the DXCC changes seem to have been pretty well accepted by most, the RTTYers are on the bandwagon to get the endorsement rules relaxed. DXCC endorsement stickers are given in exact multiples of 25 between 100 and 250 country levels for Mixed, Phone, CW, and RTTY DXCCs. More frequent submittals are now permitted by the rules for 160, 80, 40, 6 and 2 meter DXCCs, as well as Satellite DXCC, but the RTTYers must follow the 25 step rule. Some RTTY DXers are unhappy with the situation, and have started a campaign to change the rules so that they can also submit cards in smaller increments as is permitted for the 160, 80, etc. DXCCs. NCDXC RTTYers - what do you think?

Discussions are also in progress on the status of Okino Tori-Shima, the famous (or infamous?) Baldwin's Reef or Platform Reef. Okino Tori-Shima was first put on the air by Don Miller in the 1960s, but didn't make it on the DXCC list until over ten years later, in the late 1970s. It was deleted in 1980 upon advice of the DXAC. A JA DXer has petitioned to reinstate Okino Tori-Shima, and his petition has opened up some new lines of thought. More info will be reported here as the plot thickens!

That's it for this month. Write!

73.

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +

## MINUTES OF THE REPEATER TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 10, 1988

The May meeting of the Repeater Technical Committee was held on May 10, 1988. The meeting was attended by WB6DFX, W6JZU, K6LLK, and K6TMB. The following items were discussed.

### I. Planning

1. The present plan for a two phase repeater enhancement and expansion program was approved unanimously. Phase 1 consists of trading the present ACC ITC-32 controller board for a S-COM controller board, mating the S-COM board to the ACC DTMF board installing the pair in the present repeater enclosure, and activating the new controller.

Phase 2 consists of expanding the present repeater coverage by implementing the approved 420 MHz linking proposal.

#### 2. Time Table:

Phase 1: The new controller is planned to be operational by June 30, 1988.

Phase 2 will be initiated when a valid letter of intent is received from a user group wishing to use the 420 MHz port.

### II. New Controller Implementation.

1. The new controller will provide the following features:

- Tx on/off
- PL on/off
- Link on/off
- Courtesy tone timer control and CW announcement
- Courtesy tone on/off and tone adjustment
- Timer on/off and timer length adjustment
- IDer control. Speed and tone
- Repeater control via telephone line
- Security access control
- Squelchless operation (audion delay)
- Control feedback via CW

#### 2. Installation/Integration

- S-COM-5K will be connected to ACC DTMF board to provide positive, secure telephone access to repeater functions.
- The S-COM controller will be integrated into the repeater via an umbilical cable in such a fashion that the old controller can be substituted for the new controller in case of catastrophic failure of the new controller.
- Every effort will be made to minimize the impact of the installation process on the repeater users. Present plans indicate that the repeater will be off the air for no more than one day. There may be a few additional outages of short duration during the debugging and tuning phase.

### III. Other Business

- 420 MHz application status. No word heard

back as yet. Beaudet to follow up next week.

- DXer report - for June - Beaudet.
- All systems presently installed on Black Mtn. will stay.
- Repeater Committee endorses the Packet efforts and feels that the DX Club should continue to support the effort in a non-fiduciary manner.
- Next Repeater Technical meeting tentatively scheduled for June 7.



Lou, K6TMB

Lou Beaudet, K6TMB  
Chairman

+ = + = +

## TO USERS OF THE SACRAMENTO DX LINK

[Editor's note: The following letter was written last April by Jay, W6GO, for publication in the May DXer. Unfortunately, although water flows downhill from Sacramento toward the Bay Area, mail does not. Jay's letter got stuck in the new, expensive, USPS system. But better late than never ---.]

The 144.95 MHz link which has been interconnected 24 hours a day to the NCDXC repeater since 1981 is changing. The link is now a Node on the DX Packet Spotting Network (PSN). The voice interconnect will continue temporarily on a shared basis.

PSN is a new organization. It is not part of any other club group. The PSN Nodes planned for Northern California are W6OAT in Redwood City, N6VV in Pleasant Hill, NV6Z in Saratoga, WG6H-1 in Santa Rosa, WZ6Z in Oakland and W6GO in Rio Linda (Sacramento). These Nodes will operate on various frequencies on two meters; some will share the same frequency. The nodes will be interlinked on 220 MHz, some through the WA7G NETROM digipeater. All users will be able to share announcements without regard to their actual point of connection to the PSN.

The system uses PacketCluster software from Pavilion Software (AK1A). This is the software in use successfully on the East Coast for DX announcements. In addition to the announcements, other information is available to the user such as propagation predictions, beam headings and sunrise/sunset times. There are also "Talk" and "Conference" modes for the exchange of information between connected stations.

All that is required to take advantage of this exciting new DX and Contest spotting system is a simple TNC to connect your computer to your two-meter radio. It isn't any harder to hook up than a phone patch, and there is someone on packet near you that will help you get it working. Those bursts of packet data you hear on 144.95 are sending information that you want to see, and the time to get going on packet is now!

See you on Packet!  
73.

Jay, W6GO

### NEW LIFE FOR TS-820 VFOS

by Dave Leeson, W6QHS

I have been plagued by frequency jumping and intermittent operation of the vfos in both my TS-820 and R-820, which I continue to enjoy because of the dual receive capability. At this year's Dayton Hamvention, I asked one of the Kenwood factory reps if this problem was common, and if there was an easy fix. He said, "Oh, yes, the capacitor spring problem. There's an easy fix."

The problem is insufficient contact pressure in the leaf spring at the back end of the vfo tuning capacitor. The solution is to place a 1 mm (0.040") spacer under the free end of the leaf spring to increase the contact pressure.

I took off the top and bottom radio covers, removed the knob and the front panel dial cover plate (which carries the inside dial with it), unplugged the power and rf connectors from the vfo, took out the digital display module, and took out the vfo by removing the two screws at the top bracket and the two screws at the bottom one. A little twisting and turning to clear the wire harness and the vfo is out, dangling from the dial lamp wires. The vfo cover comes off with one nut at the back (don't lose the three washers inside the stud) and two screws at the sides.

Once inside, I cleaned the spring contact with contact cleaner, added a little shot of WD-40, and pushed a small, flat piece of copper sheet under the ends of the spring. It needs a small indentation to clear the capacitor stop screw; I used a piece of copper with a hole in it, then broke the copper across the hole to get the indentation. I reassembled everything, tightening all the screws I could see. Now the vfos work like I remember them when they were new.

When I had the transceiver and receiver apart and the contact cleaner in hand, I gave the RIT switch, and the RIF, IF Shift and Audio Gain pots a good shot (rotate the knobs vigorously, inside knob is rear pot of double). This fix should work for any of the Kenwood series that use these vfos. The trip to Dayton was worthwhile for this info alone.

+ = + = +

### ANTENNA HINT: DACRON ROPE

by Ray Benny, N6VR

Synthetic Textiles makes Dacron rope which I have used for more than 8 years. I have two 96-foot verticals which are made of light weight 3- and 4-inch irrigation pipe. The verticals are not very stiff, so they will not support much weight (steel guy wires). I use the Dacron rope to guy these verticals.

When I first put up the verticals, I used yellow polypropylene rope. However, after a year it had to be

replaced due to rapid deterioration. I next used nylon, which was fine until it got wet, then it would stretch greatly. After our first winter storm, the verticals truly looked like wet noodles.

Finally, I started checking the local marine supply stores. I figured that they had to have something that worked for them since their equipment is constantly exposed to the sun and sea. There, I found the Dacron rope made by Synthetic Textiles. So, for a third time I replaced the guy wires, with white Dacron rope. This solved most of the above problems; however, it too deteriorated after 3 to 4 years.

But wait, guess what Synthetic Textiles makes now? UV-protected black double-braided Dacron rope. According to them, it should last 3 to 4 times longer than the white Dacron.

The black Dacron rope comes in three sizes: 3/32, 3/16 and 5/16 inch with a tensile strength of approximately 260, 770 and 1790 pounds, respectively. Stretch is supposed to be less than 5% of length.

Costs for each, which includes shipping and handling, for 1000 feet is:

- 3/32-inch - \$30
- 3/16-inch - \$65
- 5/16-inch - \$100 (2-500-foot spools)

They also supply an electric hot knife (110 volts) for \$12. I use a pair of sharp wire cutters and a match flame to seal the ends.

The people at Synthetic Textiles are very friendly and glad to help or answer questions. I've been very pleased with their product and service.

Synthetic Textiles, Inc., 2472 Eastman Ave., Bld. 21-22, Ventura, CA 93003.

NCJ, May/June 1988

+ = + = +

### SOLAR CYCLE PEAK MAY BE EARLY

The peak of the next solar cycle may occur as early as late 1988, and may possibly be the most intense cycle ever measured. According to Dr. Patrick McIntosh, Director of Solar Physics Research at NOAA's Space Environment Laboratory in Boulder Colorado, the solar activity level could reach normal maximum by summer if current trends continue. Earlier predictions based on traditional methods suggested that 1992 be the maximum.

Predicting solar activity is risky, and Dr. McIntosh cautions that the rapidly increasing levels could flatten out. However, NASA is apparently taking some precautionary action with its low earth orbiting satellites, protecting them from the "drag" that increases during periods of high solar activity.

ARRL Letter



### REVIEW - THE NATIONAL CONTEST JOURNAL

Yea, the *NCJ* has been mentioned in these pages before. And, believe me, I don't get a nickel or a dime or -- nothing! for writing mash letters. But the *NCJ*'s latest issue continues the trend toward bigger and better issues that started last year. It gets bigger and better. The note reprinted above on Dacron rope by Ray Benny, N6VR, appeared in the latest issue, along with a passel of other interesting articles that should jack up even the most jaded Honor Roll member. Just think - *Relay Diodes Can Cause BCI* by K8CC. *USSR Tidbits* by K1KI. *Montserrat Madness - VP2MDC* by K1TN. *Contest Excuses for All Occasions* by KU2Q and KY2J. Ten bucks to ARRL. They even take VISA, MasterCard and AMEX these days.

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +

### BOOK REVIEW - KLINGENFUSS RADIOTELETYPE CODE MANUAL

RTTYers and Packeteers - take notice!!! I'm a compulsive collector of anything and everything connected with Morse Code. So when I heard that Klingenfuss Publications had a book on the market with comprehensive coverage of CW alphabets in many languages, I bit. What arrived is much more than I bargained for. Here's what the 96 page Klingenfuss Radioteletype Code Manual contains:

Detailed descriptions of the characteristics of telegraph transmission of shortwave, with all commercial modulation types including VFT (Voice-Frequency Telegraphy). Comprehensive information on all RTTY systems and CW alphabets, including

- CCIR 342-3 (ITA3) duplex ARQ;
- single-channel ARQ-E;
- one-way traffic FEC-A;
- simplex ARQ-S/FEC-S;
- CCIR 476-4 Maritime Mobile Service SITOR, including SELCAL procedures with the corresponding number translation tables;
- CCIR 540-1 NAVTEX;
- Packet Radio;
- MFSK ("Piccolo");
- standard RTTY alphabets: 5-element ITA2 (Baudot), 7-element CCIR 342-3/ITA3 (duplex ARQ); 7-element CCIR 476-4 (SITOR); 7-element ARQ-E/FEC-A;
- non-standard RTTY alphabets:
  - 5-element Arabic, Cyrillic and Hebrew, with detailed explanation of the decoding of Arabic, Cyrillic and third-shift Cyrillic transmissions received on a standard Latin alphabet system, including an alphabetical list of 609 identified Araic words and station names;

- 5-element third-shift Amharic, Cyrillic, Greek, Korean and Thai;
- 6-element third-shift Japanese;
- new 5-element four-shift ATU-80 Arabic;
- Chinese;
- standard Morse alphabet including special characters for a variety of languages which use the standard Latin Morse characters such as Spanish, German, French, Swedish, Polish, etc.;
- non-standard Morse alphabets: Arabic, Cyrillic, Greek, Hebrew and Japanese.

Additional subjects included are

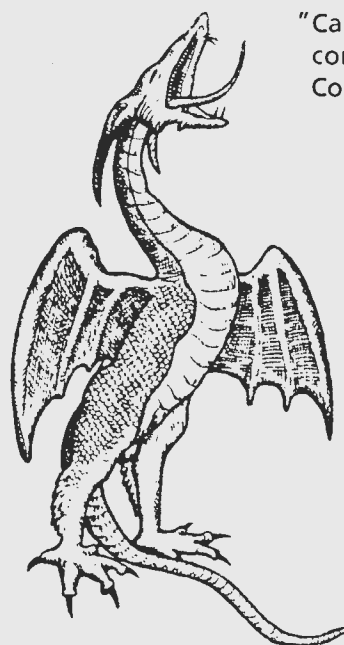
- comprehensive list of CCITT terms and definitions in the field of telegraph transmission and ARQ systems;
- introduction to cryptology with basic information on transposition and substitution methods.

Don't know what some of the above terms mean? Well, they're all explained, in detail. Enough detail is given so that those handy with a computer will be able to roll their own software to decode most anything heard over the air.

The price? 25 German Marks, which pays for the book and airmail shipment to the U.S. At current exchange rates that's just a hair under \$15.00. Klingenfuss takes cash or personal checks. I sent cash and it got through just fine. Address: Klingenfuss Publications, Hagenloher Str. 14, D-7400 Tuebingen, West Germany. Herr Klingenfuss is a ham, by the way, although I have misplaced his call.

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +



"Can anyone confirm my Contact????!!!"

**LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS**

de W6CTL -

I can't resist responding to the Guest Editorial in the May 1988 *DXer*, "DX with Training Wheels" by WW6F.

Back in the early days of NCDXC we had no such thing as a repeater or even a formal alerting network. In those times we worked DX the HARD WAY, WE EARNED IT!! WW6F is doubtless frighteningly close to the facts.

Bill, W6CTL

P.S. Have you ever visited a fish hatchery and thrown a pebble into the water or have been there at feeding time? The resulting uncontrolled frenzy is ALMOST adequate to equate to much of DXing these days.

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de W6KG and W6QL -

We did pretty well in the CQWW WPX Contest in March from YB0AQL, 2,743,704 points. Iris lost her voice after the first day and Lloyd had to finish alone. In the past it has always been the other way around - Lloyd loses his voice and Iris has to do most of the SSB work, hi. We sent the result sheet to the NCCC. We hope to see everyone on the 4th of July!

73 es 88  
Lloyd, W6KG Iris, W6QL

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de WA6AHF -

Fellas, the general rules for our Thursday night on-the-air swap meet say that "computers are generally not acceptable." Well, I know the reason for the rule was that we wanted to avoid turning our on-the-air radio swapmeet into a computer swapmeet. However, a lot of members there days are getting into DX packet radio, DX RTTY, and other digital modes. Maybe the time has come to change the guidelines to include this sort of gear. What say?

73.

Rubin, WA6AHF

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de G0GQK -

It is midnight. I hear the distant church bells, a new day is here. The annual International All-Band QRM test has drawn to its end, and an eerie silence has settled on the earth.

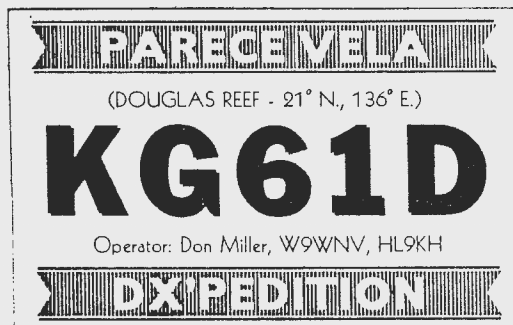
My friend, G0Plonk, apologises to all plonkers, has made 6.5 million contacts and used half a million units of electricity in the past 48h, and also made four new contacts on Mars. His 940 is now a 1,040, his antenna tips reached melting point, the traps have welded together, and his microphone has crystallised.

His dog growled when he went into the house for his supper, and tomorrow he's off to the doc's for treatment to his piles. Apart from all this, what did you achieve in 1987 CQ Contest?

Mel Evans, G0GQK

[Editor's note: The above letter appeared in the Feb. 1988 *Radcom* (R5GB). Any responses? Next month maybe you'll be able to read the response it drew from G4JKS. Or maybe not.]

+ = + = +



First Operation from Okino Tori-Shima, May/June 1963

+ = + = +

**ROSTER CHANGES**

Please make the following changes to the November 1987 NCDXC membership roster.

- K6GNX Add Bill Avery, PO Box 2469, Truckee, CA 95734. Phones (916) 587-4725 (H), (702) 831-8000 (W). (Reinstatement)
- WC6I Add Steven C. Brunt, PO Box 62344, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. Phones (415) 965-8679 (H), (408) 727-6500 x 6289 (W). (Reinstatement)
- K5OS Add Joe Butler, 242 Woodland Circle, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. (Omitted from last roster.)
- WA6O Change work phone number to (408) 995-3941.
- WA6RLE Add Curt Thompson, 1214 Sabal Dr., San Jose, CA 95132. Phones (408) 923-7868 (H), (415) 876-4202 (W). (Reinstatement)
- AK6T Change home phone number to (415) 837-3478. This number was incorrect in the May *DXer*.

+ = + = +



## Alpha Delta Model DELTA-4

Lightning Surge Protected  
4-Position RF Coax Switch

- Exclusive center "off" (ground) position.
- Uses ceramic Arc-Plug® protector.
- Micro-strip circuitry—no wafer switch.



**Model DELTA-4**  
(UHF Connectors) \$69.95

**Model DELTA-4/N**  
(N-type Connectors) \$89.95

**FREE SHIPMENT**  
MOST ITEMS UPS SURFACE

## A3 DX THAT STANDS OUT FROM THE CROWD

10, 15, 20  
Meters

Whether busting pileups, rag chewing or hunting rare DX, the A3 stands out from the crowd with the perfect combination of easy assembly, the right size, rugged durability and great performance.

- Boom Length 14 ft., Weight 27 lbs.
- Wind Surface Area 4.36 ft.

Mast not included

**REG.**  
**319.95**

**SALE**  
**229.95**

Plus Shipping



**MA-40**  
40' TUBULAR TOWER  
~~\$809~~ **SALE! \$629**

**MA-550**  
55' TUBULAR TOWER  
~~\$1369~~ **SALE! \$999**  
• Handles 10 sq. ft. at 50 mph  
• Pleases neighbors with tubular streamlined look

**TX-455**  
55' FREESTANDING CRANK-UP  
• Handles 18 sq. ft. at 50 mph  
• No guying required  
• Extra-strength Construction  
• Can add raising and motor drive accessories

**IN STOCK FOR QUICK DELIVERY**  
OTHER MODELS AT GREAT PRICES

Shown with optional MARB rotor base

**AEA** Advanced Electronic Applications

## PK-232 Multi-mode Data Controller



- NEW IBM Fax Screen Display Program Available
- Transmit/Receive on Six Modes
- CW/RTTY/ASCII/AMTOR/Packet/FAX
- IBM and Commodore terminal programs available
- Radio Ports for HF and VHF

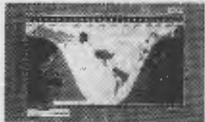
**In Stock for Quick Delivery**

**Free Shipment**

## KENWOOD TM-721A



Full Featured  
Dual Bander  
**LOW PRICE!**



**SEACHRON**  
GLOBAL  
TIME  
INDICATOR

- Detailed illuminated map shows time, time zone, sun position and day of the week at a glance for any place in the world.
- Continuously moving - areas of day and night change as you watch.
- Mounts easily on a wall. Size: 3 1/2" x 2 1/2".

**\$1295 DELIVERED IN U.S.**

## ICOM IC-781



HF ALL BAND  
TRANSCIVER  
**GREAT PRICE!**

## KENWOOD TS-940S



TOP-OF-THE LINE  
HF TRANSCIVER  
**CALL FOR LOW, LOW PRICE**



**BURLINGAME, CA 94010**  
999 Howard Ave  
(415) 342-5757  
George, Mgr WB6DSV

**Bob Ferrero W6RJ**  
President  
**Jim Rafferty N6RJ**  
VP So Calif Div.  
Anaheim Mgr.

**OAKLAND, CA 94606**  
2210 Livingston St  
(415) 534-5757  
Al. Mgr WA6SYK



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

LARGEST HAM OUTLET IN THE WORLD

**THE DXer**  
P. O. Box 608  
Menlo Park, CA 94026  
U.S.A.

**FIRST CLASS**

**FIRST CLASS**

**FIRST CLASS**

June 1988