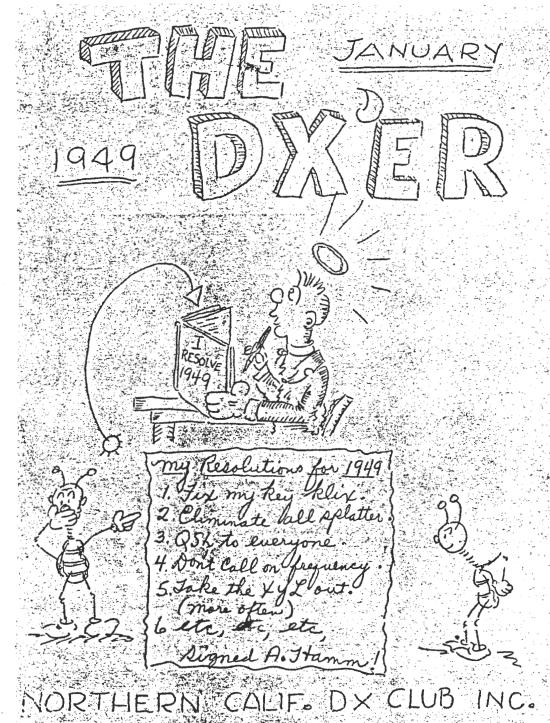
JANUARY 1989



# DXer

VOL XLII - NUMBER 1



#### JANUARY 1989

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#### January Events

Jan. 13 - Regular meeting of the NCDXC, Palo

Jan. 30 — Deadline for February DXer input. Feb. 10 — Regular meeting of the NCDXC, Palo

Feb. 18-19 - ARRL DX Contest, CW.

Feb. 27 — Deadline for March DXer input. Mar. 10 — Regular meeting of the NCDXC, Palo

Mar. 4-5 – ARRL DX Contest, SSB.

Mar. 20 - Deadline for Visalia DX convention advance registration.

Apr. 3 - Deadline for April DXer input. Apr. 21-23 - Visalia International DX convention.

#### Meeting Notice

Friday the 13th of January will be the next regular meeting of the NCDXC. The meeting will start at about 6:00 PM for dinner. The guest speaker will start promptly at 8:15 PM. Mr. Mason Bayles, our guest speaker will present a slide show on his adventures to the Amazon Basin, Nepal, and East Africa. These trips were not Amateur radio related, this coupled with the fact that Mr. Mason is a highly entertaining speaker should encourage you to bring your family members and other guests.

The February meeting will feature Kip Edwards and his talk on activating the new "country" of Rotuma.

The meetings are held at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto, near the Palo Alto airport.

#### DXCC/WAZ Ladder

Larry Bloom has graciously stepped forward to take over the DXCC/WAZ ladder from Jim Hicks, KK6X. We all thank Jim for his support to the club in keeping up the ladders for the past several years.

All members are urged to update the information contained in the Club DX Ladder. New members are welcome to submit information for the record. Henceforth, send all entries (or changes) to Larry, KD6XY, at the mailing address shown below (this is the same address as in the roster):

Larry Bloom, KD6XY 2520 Heather Lane San Bruno, CA 94066

#### DXER of the Year Award

The time has come to reflect on the past year and to determine, in your mind, who you think should be nominated for the Club DXer of the Year Award. This is a prestigious award culminating in its presentation at the International DX Convention before the foremost DXers in the world.

The criteria for nominating Club members for this award may be found in the Procedures Manual, paragraph 3-115. To get your brain cells working, some of the factors to consider are:

- 1. Cooperation and assistance with DX efforts, maintaining with or coordinating DXpeditions, helping other members to work DX.
- 2. Participation in Club activities, service as Club officer or Director, DXer editor, participation in DX contests, support of the Club repeater, attendance at Club meetings, service on committees.
- 3. Winning major DX contests, winner of awards, amateur related appointments and service, service to the public, amateur assistance and conduct of training programs.

Perhaps you know of some Club member who meets some of this criteria, or if you are not sure, leaf through the roster and a name might suggest a viable nominee. Send your nominations to our President, W8MEP. Do it now — April is fast approaching.

Hal, N6AN

#### Honorary Membership

By unanimous vote of the NCDXC Board of Directors and Club Membership, Mr. R. W. Wright, ZL1AMO, has been elected into the Northern California DX Club as an Honorary Member. A Certificate of Membership and other Club documents will be forwarded to Ron who is a resident of Auckland, New Zealand. Welcome to the world's greatest DX club Ron.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas F. Jones, K6TS, NCDXC Secretary

#### Roster Updates

New Member:

KI6UT - Chuck Louda 1569 Buttercup Ct. Livermore, CA 94550 License Class Extra Home Phone # 415 449 4649 Bus Phone # 415 464 7233

Change of Address:

W6XB - Kenneth C. Crandall 1172 Hyde Ave. San Jose, CA 95129

W6TPH - William H. Zachman 1488 Carnot Dr. San Jose, Ca 95126 Home Phone # 408 293 9908

License Class Change:

WB6OHH - Robert J. Murphy from Advanced to EXTRA

New Honorary Member

ZL1AMO - R. W. Wright 28 Chorley Ave. Massey, Henderson Auckland 8, New Zealand

Respectfully, Thomas F. Jones, K6TS, NCDXC Secretary

#### from the January 1949 DXer

DX having been as it has, and with the XMAS holidays cutting a huge part of our DX time, the past month has been a slim month for most of the Northern Calif. DX Club members.

However, there are slumps which do occur periodically and we will have to expect them from time to time. Yet, despite only fair DX conditions, many of the members have been able to add to their country totals and there are several members who have either applied for DXCC or WAZ in the last month or have been the happy receipients of either or both.

But, to a lot of us, the QSL is the thing. No matter how many stations you work, the proof of the pudding, in this case at least, is the return QSL card. With a rare QSL card in your possession, there is not the slightest doubt that you were able to contact the DX but without the card — well thats another matter. That is the prime reason for the Club's return QSL card which members may fill out and send to the DX station and merely by signing and returning same we are able to present the card for DXCC credit. Which is a mighty fine thing for ourselves and especially for the DX station that works several hundred W's and does not have enough QSL cards to go around.

One of the greatest assets is having a QSL Bureau in this country which becomes a central point for the DX to send his cards. This way, our DX friends are able to send all W cards in one package for distribution to the various QSL managers throughout the U.S.A. Then by merely sending your QSL manager a self-addressed, Stamped envelope, you receive your cards in relatively short order. We are of course speaking of the original and only real QSL bureau operated by the ARRL. It is too bad that another Bureau has popped up in the last few years. Unfortunate we say, despite their desire to help the Ham get cards, because the origination of some other QSL Bureaus tends to confuse everyone in other countries to just where to send cards. Confusion reigns and we all would feel better if just one Bureau, the ARRL would be the only one to handle our DX cards. With two Bureaus in existence there is just too big a chance taken in losing or misplacing some of those rare QSL cards for which some of us have been waiting so long.

W6PB, editor 1948 DXer

#### de KE6ZE

Once again, a view from the past has a familiar ring. It seems that nothing ever really changes. Forty years ago QSL cards were a topic of discussion, today it is still QSL cards. Just listen on the W6TI repeater, if the comment is not an announcement, it is probably one about QSL cards. You editor was not aware of the "club reply" cards, perhaps somebody could write a note for inclusion in the

DXER explaining (and showing a sample, if one exists) their history.

The DX ladder maintained by Jim Hicks, KK6X, in the past has been taken over by Larry Bloom, KD6XY. I wish to extend my thanks to Jim for his past efforts and to Larry for taking on the job. Larry tells me he will have another update ready in a month or two, just as soon as you-all get you inputs to him -so do it now.

Keep those cards and letters comming. In order to keep the *DXER* budget to some reasonable level, your *DXER* crew is trying to keep alternate months of \$.45 and \$.25 postage for mailing. Last month was a fat month, this a slim month, next a fat one, etc., you get the idea. But, the *DXER* needs your inputs to keep this up, so keep the stuff comming. We especially need cartoons and caricatures, if you run across one send it to KE6ZE.

Regards, Dave, KE6ZE

#### Treasurer's Report

December 1-31, 1988

Checking Account Activity
Deposits from Dues 38.00
Other Receipts 220.00
Subtotal 5,628.60
Accounts Payable 902.89

Current December E.O.M. Balance \$4,725.71

Savings

Bank of America 12/19/88 \$11,079.10 Includes reserve for QSL purchase.

American Savings & Loan
One-Year Certificate of Deposit
@ 7.4% annual yield \$7,481.51

Stan Kuhl, Treasurer

## NCDXC Board of Directors Meeting

The NCDXC BoD meeting was called to order December 9, 1988, 5:30 p.m. at the home of W6VG. Present were Club Officers, W8MEP, N6AN, K6RK, and K6TS. W6MKM was present to discuss the Club Raffle procedures,

as was W6VG.

Agenda Items for BoD Discussion or Action:

NCDXC Honorary Member Request. W8MEP read N6DJM's nomination of ZL1AMO for NCDXC Honorary Member status and the signatures of the required Club members was validated.

The BoD unanimously approved the nomination and agreed to bring this item up for membership vote.

Wl6TI Repeater. The Repeater update appears to be at a stand still. W8MEP has agreed to meet with the Repeater Chairman, K6TMB, and determine what needs to be done to complete the repeater controller update. Jerry would like the installation completed by January 1, 1989.

Technical assistance may be required for completion of this task.

DXer of the Year Committee. It was suggested that the format for selecting the DXer of the year be published. This would help committee members to determine a candidate's qualifications and achievements i a better fashion. N6AN has agreed to generate the requested format and publish it in the DXer.

Soviet Amateur Radio Operator's request for DX Club rules and regulations was received by W6HJK who contacted W6MKM asking for assistance. The Board members discussed this request but did not arrive at a conclusion to satisfy the Russian request. Further discussion of this item is needed before the NCDXC BoD could agree to provide information on DX Club Rules and Procedures.

NCDXC Raffle Procedures. It has been brought to the attention of the Raffle Chairman that there might be a misunderstanding in how many prizes are raffled off each meeting nite. W6MKM says that current practice is to have a selection of approximately six prizes, of which, two (2) are given away each meeting nite. The remaining prizes are retained and two additional prizes are purchased. Then, at the next raffle, all six prizes are again available for selection by winners. The raffle at the end of the year (Dec 88) permitted selection of eight remaining prize. The first ticket drawn gets first choice, second

Northern California DX Club, DXER

ticket, second choice, etc., until all the remaining prizes are given away. This seems to be a very efficient method of providing prizes for attendees as well as making money for the Club. Please remember, the first prize is usually the most wanted or expensive. All prizes are worthwhile to DXers. The BoD members approved of this current Raffle practice.

Visalia Convention Patch Design Contest. The BoD was informed that the Patch design contest must be ended in January 1989 if the patches are to be available for issue at Convention time. It was agreed that the Patch Design Contest closing date would be January 13, 1989, and the winner selected at meeting time. Members, get busy and submit your NCDXC Convention Patch Design.

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m. and all members traveled to Harry's Hofbrau for the regular NCDXC meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas F. Jones K6TS, NCDXC Secretary

#### NCDXC Meeting

The December meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto, on December 9, 1988. The President, Jerry, W8MEP, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Jerry extended a welcome to all, yes, ALL the visitors, (XYL's or friends were requested to attend). There were many and we hope you enjoyed your evening with the Club.

Steve, W6MKM, gave a brief description of the Club raffle procedures and then proceeded with the Christmas-time raffle. The winners were: lst Prize, K6TS, Isopole 2-meter antenna; 2nd prize, K16SC, 1989 DX Callbook; 3rd prize, K6KLY, Daiwa SWR & Pwr meter; KD6AZ, Coax Switch; KA6ING, 1989 ARRL HB; W6CSI, PL for hand held Xcvr; K16SC, PL for base Xcrs; and W6DUB, Heil HC4 microphone unit. A very impressive list of Christmas goodies. Thanks again to our raffle chairman, Steven, W6MKM, for a job well done -- we appreciate your efforts.

Our President, Jerry, then officially opened the NCDXC Meeting. K6RK identified a former NCDXC member who became an SK. Jerry then asked for a moment of silence for Silent Key Frank Zolfo, W6SJC.

Jerry asked that our visitors be identified, and WOW, this poor scribe had great difficulty in obtaining a complete list of names. I will not attempt to list the XYL's, but do want to thank them for their attendance and hope it was an enjoyable experience for all.

First readings for two member candidates was given. They are: W6FDU, Ben Deovlet, sponsored by W6BIP and W6ERS; and NY6C, Greg Miller, sponsored by WA6AHF and W6OAT. A second reading was given for KI6UT, Chuck Louda of Livermore. He was accepted into the Club with no opposing votes. Welcome to the NCDXC, Chuck.

W8MEP addressed then  $_{
m the}$ proposed Honorary Membership of Mr. Ron W. Wright, ZL1AMO, who was sponsored by Morris, N6DJM, and a list of other Club members. Jerry read a listing of ZL1AMO's DX achievements and then proceeded with the membership vote. All members present voted aye and no nay votes were cast. Therefore, Mr. Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, is now an Honorary Member of the NCDXC. Welcome, Ron, and keep up the good DX operations from down under and elsewhere in this world.

W6OAT gave a DX announcement for FO5HL, a possible new country, similar to the Rotuma Operation of last month. This is a list operation on 20-meter SSB. Rusty indicated that the DX station would be there for some time. Additionally, the DX station has very limited English capability.

All the XL's and XYL's attending were given a fresh carnation by W8MEP, sponsored by the Club.

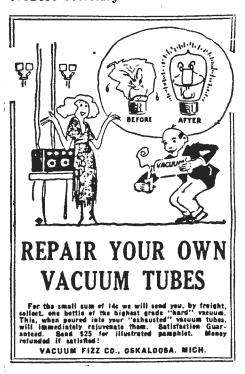
Jerry then introduced Jim, W6CF, our program host for the evening. Jerry initiated a DX Roast. Jim's description of some of the great DXer happenings had the group in stitches. Additionally, other Club members provided their experiences which covered practical jokes such as spark coil buzzing operations for W6BIP which was identified as a bomb; W6OAT's instant DX QSO while at a Club meeting; W8MEP's historical house equipped with ghosts; W6QHS & KA6HSM's experiences high in the clouds and mountains of Los Gatos — watching aluminum tubing fly

off of beams in gale force winds. I never quite understood all I'm supposed to know about the NCDXC damaged piano affair nor who cut BIP's antenna ten feet short, or how K6RK and a bunch of high school chums ever managed to graduate. Then with Christen's bedroom attic shack and its novel bathroom facilities. Uncle Vern - nothing hangs right. The door jam plating for 2 meter operations for Dave, KD6AZ, makes one wonder if school boards know what door jams are for? ...then shifting to DXer's names ...my name Jane, Jane, not an OM ...A closing comment, "What is DX?", Jim W6CF's reply--any foreign station that is at least 600 Kc from any amateur band. If I missed any one's DX experience, I'm sorry. I had to laugh so often I couldn't keep up with my pen or read my writing because it wiggled so.

This ends the stories and the NCDXC meetings for 1988. Lets hope the Sun Spot Cycle shines for us who try to gather great DX.

W8MEP then adjourned the meeting with a closing note. BOD on 12 January 1988, and the next Club meeting Friday the 13th of January at Harry's Hofbrau. See you then and Happy New Year & Good DX.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas F. Jones, K6TS, NCDXC Secretary



#### Letters to the Editor

Facts, what facts? These are opinions expressed here. Any clod can have the facts, it is an art to have an opinion.

Herb Cain, with some liberties taken.

#### Bugs

Dear Dave:

If Dan O'Brien, W6PB, were still with us, he would be delighted to see his "DX Bugs" again adorning the cover of the DX'er. When I took over as editor from Dan the "Bugs" were continued. Perhaps if they are around again more hams would be bitten by them (CW ones!).

Keep up the good work.

73 Bill, W6CTL

#### W6TI, Thanks

Editor DX'r:

Please add me to the list of people thankin those that are calling out DX stations on W6TI repeater. This morning, there were announcements for C9MKT and A4XRS and A4XJW. I managed to crawl out of bed and work them both for all time new countries. THANK YOU!!!!!

As I am sitting here at approximately noon-time, the signal strength is just slightly above the noise and I am unable to access W6TI. I have about 25 watts out to a Hy-Gain V-2 at 75'. My QTH is just to the north of San Pedro Ridge (1200') on the north side of San Rafael. Not complaining, just explaining why this station is not able to reciprocate with call-outs. Keep up the good work guys, we do appreciate the spotting, just not able to acknowledge all the time.

Thanks and VY 73,

Dick Wilson, K6LRN

#### Lloyd and Iris

British Base Area, Cyprus 27 November 1988

Dear Friends,

We have just finished our operation as ZC4ZR. We made 7,500 QSO's with radio amateurs in 117 countries. As usual, we operated on all bands, both CW and SSB. We were in the CQ World-Wide CW Contest and made QSO's on 1.8, 3.5 and 7 Mhz. as well as 14, 21 and 28 Mhz.

We were extremely lucky to receive permission to operate in ZC4 land. Many radio amateurs from the USA and other countries have tried to obtain ZC4 licenses with no success. ZC4 licenses are given normally to British Military Personnel located in Cyprus. Alan, ZC4AB, and his wife, Diane, permitted us to sleep in their quarters while we actually operated from the Radio Club located in the British Episcopi Garrison using our own radio equipment. Alan & Diane helped us in a number of ways for which we are most grateful.

During the time we operated as ZC4ZR and W6KG/5B4 on Cyprus for a little over a month, the value of the US dollar declined in value by 5% which directly resulted in an increase of 5% in our cost of living.

Look for us from another rare spot soon.

73 es 88, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, Iris Colvin, W6QL

#### DX CONVENTION TRAIN

AMTRAK has two trains daily up and down the San Joaquin valley between Oakland and Bakersfield with stops at intermediate cities. One leaves Oakland at 0725 another at 1715. The first arrives in Hanford (about 20 miles west of Visalia) at Noon, the second at 2150. AMTRAK provides bus service between Hanford and Visalia. Going back, a train leaves Hanford at 0718 and another at 1703, they arrive in Oakland at 1205 and 2150 respectively. The round trip fare Oakland-Hanford + bus to/from Visalia is \$50.00. The AMTRAK national reservation phone number is 800/872-7245.

The several hundred of you folks that have made room reservations but not the convention, please register before the last minute (like now). The Convention will be held at the Visalia, CA, Plaza Park Holiday Inn from 21 through 23 April 1989. The Holiday Inn is out of rooms for the convention weekend. Advance registration may be made through KE6ZE (David Engle, 1063 Summerwood Ct., San Jose CA 95132) and a SAE would be appreciated. Advance registration fee is \$ 40 (\$ US) until 20 March 1989. The registration fee is \$ 45 after 20 March 1989 and for on site registration. Make checks payable to "1989 DX Convention".

73, Dave, KE6ZE

## ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau Rate Change

The ARRL Letter advises effective February 1, 1989, QSL cards bound for overseas will be shipped for \$2.00 per pound. Packages of 10 cards or less will continue to be distributed at the rate of \$1.00. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau has not increased fees charged for this valuable service since its inception in 1976 despite the fact that postage has increased a number of times.

Hal, N6AN

## REPORT ON THE WOOD-PECKER SIGNAL

The Federal Communications Commission's high frequency network collected data concerning "Woodpecker" radio transmissions during a one week period beginning August 14, 1988. All thirteen FCC Monitoring Stations participated. Over 400 observations of the "Woodpecker" signal were recorded.

Our findings are: 1) The pulse rate remains at 11 to 11.5 pulses per second; 2) the pulse width remains at 4 milliseconds; 3) The lowest confirmed frequency was 7 MHz and the highest 19 MHz; 4) the lowest confirmed bandwidth was 20 kHz and the highest 800 kHz; 5) The most occupied bands appeared to be 10.5 to 11.0, 12.2 to 13.0 and 16.0 to 17.0 MHz; 6) the least occupied bands appeared to be 9.7 to 10.5, 11.0 to 12.2, and 13.0 to 15.0

MHz; 7) The bandwidth mean was 150 kHz, the median 75 kHz, and with a standard deviation of 207 kHz; 8) The air time of a signal was, as a minimum, 7.7 minutes for the mean, 3.0 minutes for median and with a standard deviation of 12.3 minutes; 9) All of the transmissions originated from a single location that we fixed at coordinates 51 degrees 24 minutes North by 137 degrees 42 minutes East near the city of Komsomolsk in the USSR.

These observations are essentially in agreement with the findings of monitoring we conducted February 23 through March 1, 1986. This appears to be the permanent pattern of operation of the "Woodpecker"...

Questions or comments should be directed to James Beckham at 202-632-6977.

James T. Beckham, FCC Field Operations Bureau, via N6AN

#### Gerald E. Starkey, WA6LIJ 1925-1988

Jerry Starkey, WA6LIJ, became a "Silent Key" Thursday, December 15, 1988. Jerry suffered a heart attack three weeks earlier and spent eight days in Kaiser Hospital recuperating and undergoing tests. He died in his sleep. He was 63.

Jerry developed an interest in amateur radio and was licensed as WA4YKF in early '65. After moving to California in '68, his call was changed to WA6LIJ. In '68, he also upgraded his license from "General" to "Advanced" class. In '88, he upgraded again to "Extra". Jerry "DX" and maintaining regular enjoyed schedules with sailor hams on adventurous and sometimes risky cruises, providing weather data and contact with their family ashore. His greatest interest was the personal contacts he made by being very active and participating in several local radio clubs. At the time of his death, he was President of the Foothills Amateur Radio Society, Board Member of the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System, Life Member of the American Radio Relay League, member of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, the Electronic Museum Amateur Radio Club, and the Northern Calfornia DX Club. He was "EC" for Los Altos for several years, working with city and

school officials on plans to provide emergence communications in the event of a disaster. As Training Officer for EMARC, he assisted many new operators to study and qualify for their first amateur radio license.

Jerry had a positive effect on amateur radio and he will be sorely missed by his many The family has requested friends. flowers". Donations instead may be sent to Foothills Amateur Radio Society, % Rick Joslin, Treasurer, 1945 Latham Street #2, Mountain View, CA 94040.

K60G

#### THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB, INC. PO 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: Jerry Griffin, W8MEP Vice President: Larry Souza, K66GF Secretary: Tom Jones, K6TS Treasurer: Stan Kuhl, K6MA Director: Ted Algren, KA6W Director: Hal Godfrey, N6AN Director: Chuck Patterson, K6PK

Director: Chuck Patterson, K6RK DXER STAFF

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1063 Summerwood Court San Jose, CA 95132

or, if you have internet access, to: engle@ford-wdl1.arpa

Send DX ladder reports to: Larry Bloom

2520 Heather Lane

San Bruno, CA 94066

NCDXC REPEATER W6TI/R

Input 147.36 Mhz; Output 147.96 Mhz; Simplex 147.45 Mhz

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Repeater Committee Chairman: Lou Beaudet, K6TMB NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET On W6TI/R Thursday at 8:00 PM local time.

Operations Manager: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q DX News: Phil Garrahan, W6LQC Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ Contest News: Bob Dorse, K4UVT Westlink: Dave Bottom, KD6AZ

Swap Shop: Knock Knockenhauer, K6ITL QSL Information: 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 0200 UTC) on 7.015 Mhz and 14.002

#### Washington Responds

Editor NCDXC DXer

Dear Dave:

The following letter was received from Senator Alan Cranston, in response to my letter concerning the August 220 MHz FCC action which you recently published in the DXer. The senator seems to understand and support our case, a result, no doubt, of activity by other hams. I thought this letter might be of interest to members of the Club.

73, Dave, AF6S

ALAN CRANSTON CALIFORNIA

#### United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 29, 1988

Mr. David M. Barton Post Office Box 54240 San Jose, California 95154

Dear Mr. Barton,

Many thanks for contacting me regarding the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) rulemaking proceeding in General Docket 87-14, and specifically the August 4, 1988, decision to reallocate the 220-222 MHz band to land mobile service. I apologize for the delay in responding.

The contributions that amateur radio operators have made and continue to make in the area of radio technology advancement and public service are invaluable. Amateur radio fosters a community spirit that is most beneficial and, in times of emergency, amateur radio operators always play an important role in relaying vital information. Clearly, amateur radio needs our continued promotion and support.

As you may know, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that government agencies should avoid actions to reduce amateur radio frequencies was incorporated into the FCC reauthorization bill that passed the Senate on October 7, 1988. Although some individuals believed this resolution, S.J.Res. 127, would reverse the recent FCC decision, in reality a resolution has no force of law and cannot itself alter the FCC's decision in General Docket 87-14 to reallocate the 220-222 MHz band for land mobile service.

You may be pleased to learn, however, that I recently contacted the FCC and was told that the Commission intends to reconsider the August decision. At this time, it is unclear what impact the passage of the text of S.J.Res. 127 will have on the outcome of the reconsideration. Be assured that I will continue to monitor this issue carefully.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

Alan Cranston

## O ICOM IC-761



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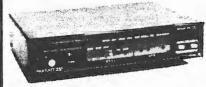
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