

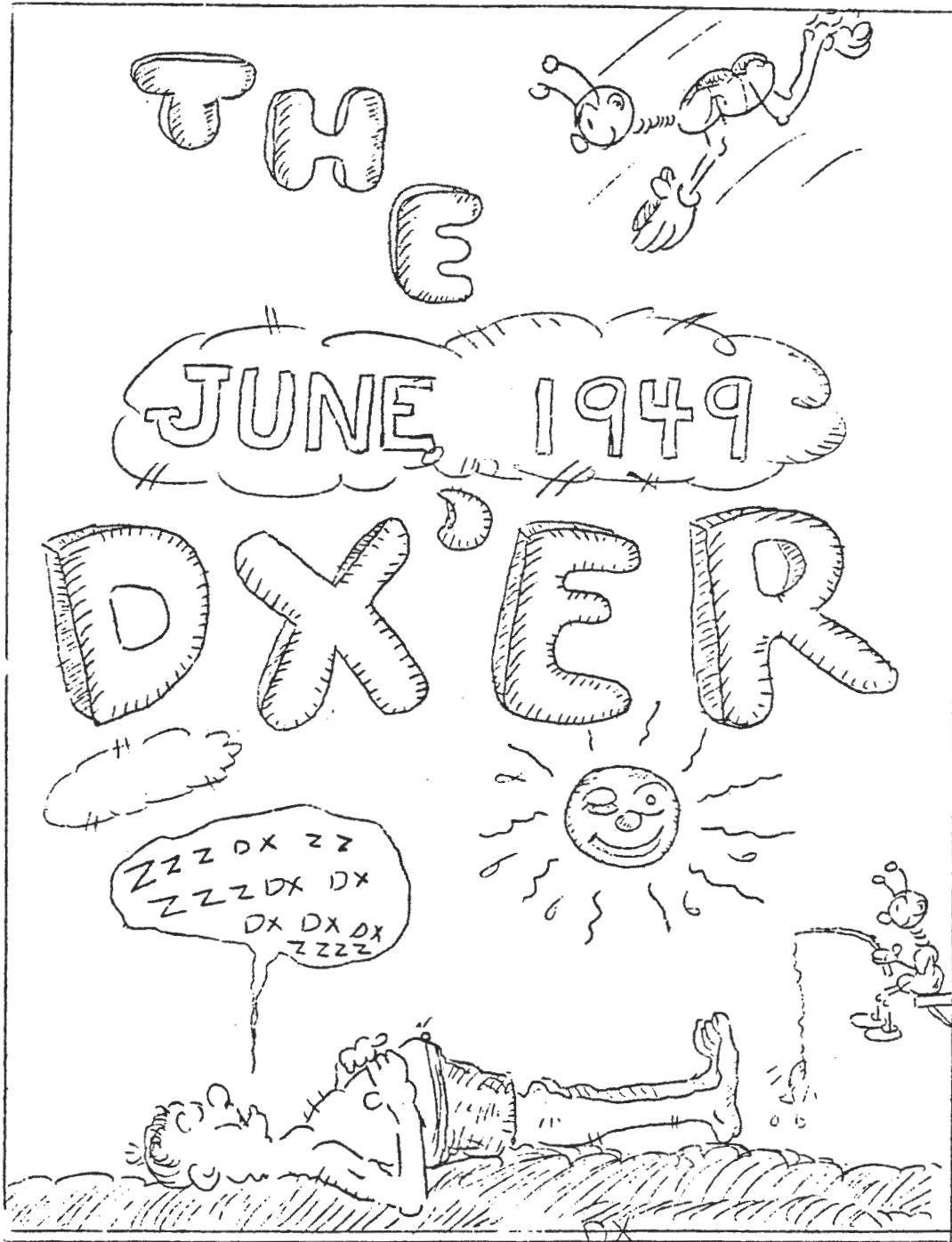
THE



DXer

VOL XLII - NUMBER 6

JUNE 1989



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CLUB INC.

JUNE 1989

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June Events

June 9 – NCDXC meeting, Palo Alto.

June 10-11 – ARRL VHF QSO Party.

June 10 – Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College, Los Altos.

June 17 – All Asia SSB.

June 24 – ARRL Field Day.

July 2 – Deadline for July DXer input.

July 8 – IARU HF Championship.

July 8 – Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College, Los Altos.

July 14 – NCDXC meeting, Palo Alto.

Meeting Notice: Friday the 9th of June will be the next regular meeting of the NCDXC. The meeting will start with dinner around 6:00 PM Friday afternoon, and the meeting will start around 7:45. This month's meeting activity will be the election of club officers.

June Election

There will be an Election of club officers at the June general meeting. The nominating committee of:

Jim, W6CF; Martin,

KB6BW; and

Morris, N6DJM

have provided us with the following slate of candidates:

President -- Rusty, W6OAT,

Vice President -- Larry, KG6GF,

Secretary -- Dave, AF6S,

Treasurer -- Stan, K6MA,

Director -- Chuck, AA6G,

Director -- John, K6LLK.

Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor. Please come and cast your ballot.

W6CF

NT6G points out there is a nice article about South Georgia in the March 1989 National Geographic.

Welcome

Welcome the following new members of the NCDXC:

Louese Bloom, KA6ING

2520 Heather Lane

San Bruno, CA 94066

Res: 415/583-5333

Nick Name: Louese

Paul H. Scott, N6NXV

4558 Park Cherry Pl.

San Jose, CA 95136

Res: 408/225-3339

Bus: 408/749-4218

Nick Name: Paul

Richard E. North, WA6SDR

41345 Lilly Mtn. Dr.

Coarsegold, CA 93614

Res: 209/658-7721

Bus: 209/658-7958

Nick Name: Dick

Welcome to the World's greatest DX club.

Yasme Awards

Of possible interest to Yasme Award seekers.

The Yasme Foundation recently received (from Anna Spenceley, widow of KV4AA) a number of logs from Danny Weil's various Yasme DXpeditions. We can verify (for Yasme Award credit) contacts with the following calls (only):

1956 -- VR1B, VR4AA, VK9TW

1958 -- VP2AY, VP2KF, VP2KFA, VP2VB, VP2MX, VP2DW, VP4DW, YV0AB

1959 -- VP2LW, VP2GDW, VP2SW, VP7VB

1960 -- VP5VB, HC2VB, HK0AA

Cards (with SASE) should be sent to YASME or via W6BSY.

Tnx and 73, Mac, W6BSY

Past NCDXC Presidents

1946-47 W6PB	1947-48 W6IKQ
1948 W6TI	1949 W6WB
1949 W6OMC	1950 W6LDD (K6AN)
1950 W6ATO	1951 W6JK
1951 W6MVQ (N6GG)	
1952 W6SR	1952 W6DZZ
1953 W6PYH	1953 W6JK
1954 W6MHB (W4AI)	
1955 W6EJA	1955-56 W6GPB
1956-57 W6KEK	1957 W6CTL
1958 W6KG	1958-59 K6AQP
1960-61 K6SSJ	1961-62 K6ANP
1962 W6ERS	1963 W6FYM (W6SC)
1963-64 K6OHJ	1964-65 W6CBE (W6VG)
1965-66 K6ERV	1966-67 W6WX
1967-68 W6CUF (W6CF)	
1968-69 W6RGG	1969-70 WA6AUD
1970-71 W6MAV (K6RV)	
1971-72 WB6UJO	1972 W6HVN
1973 W6DOD (W6QL)	
1973-74 K6SSJ	1974-75 W6ISQ
1975-76 W6MUR	1976-77 K6QX
1977-78 N6GG	1978-79 W6ZYC
1979-80 W6BJH	1980-81 AA6AD
1981-82 K6DC	1982-83 W6DU
1983-84 K6RK	1984-85 K6ANP
1985-86 W6SZN	1986-87 K6TMB
1987-88 KA6W	1988- W8MEP

Compiled by W6CF

June 1949

The month of May, just passed has certainly been a sad one, at least as far as any good DX is concerned. Possibly due in part to sunspot activity, both the Ten and Twenty Meter bands have not lived up to the predictions given for the month of May.

However, there have been a few spotty stations which have come through and there have at least been a few good QSL cards coming throughout the month which more or less takes some of the sting off of rotten DX conditions.

All members of the Northern California DX Club are hot after new countries but we might just mention that the number of countries which a DXer has been able to amass is not necessarily a good yardstick of DX ability or DX operation. It is more or less the ability to tune and tune and tune by the hour, always looking for a new station. Also, a help in the garnering of new countries is the scheduling idea which helps out tremendously. True, it is nice to be up on top but what we are trying to put over is just this: When you reach the top, what then? After all, there are only a certain number of countries in the world which any station in the world will be able to contact and, as long as the chase goes on and there are plenty of countries left to work, its a lot of fun. But, come the day when you reach the top and then, poof. You might just lose interest when there are no new ones left.

This we would hate to see as there are several fine DX members of the Club who are soon going to reach the saturation point and we hate to see these same stations losing interest. So, as a tip to the gang, why not vary the DX activity. If you are on CW, why not break down and try phone DX operation or vice-versa for the Phone men. Or again, try and fill out some of the various districts in the various countries which in itself is a lot of fun and sometimes not nearly as easy as it sounds.

In other words, vary the activity a bit so as not to get stale and then end up with no hobby at all. It is certainly worth thinking about. Keeping up at the top is fun but little by little some of the boys are creeping up there as witness the country totals on the back pages of the DXer and compare this month's total with the total of the same station a few months back and you will see what we mean.

W6PB, June 1949 DXer Editor

de KE6ZE

Half way through the year now and a new set of officers about to be elected. Sometimes it makes you wonder; the days seem to go by slowly but the years are flying by. Oh well no stopping the clock. But a look back shows similar propagation problems. Here we are near a Sun spot cycle peak and we have stinko propagation. You could hardly tell we

weren't near a low as W6PB comments about in 1949.

Next month the DXer covers will fall back a year and start with the first issue of the DXer, July 1948. Your editor gets a relatively small number of comments about the DXer, should the looks back continue? Does anybody care?

Regards, Dave



The Doctor is Out; The Scalpel is Sheathed

King Fox Arthur reflected over the past year, which seemed like a flurry of activity, most of it a blur. The first sixty days trying to figure out what was going on (what was going on?) (July and August). The September picnic, a great success (What do you mean I forgot to call Harry's and tell them we won't be there ...) The Visalia Tryst Committee and its leader, Prince Fox Tea Pot Hot Bill, appointed in September and hard at work by October! (A rabble, in the truest sense of the word, but what spirit and hunger for the best convention ever ...)

But now, surely things would be calm, but young Sir Fox Larry of Garlic was just new at his Veep job and discovering/having to control his unyielding thirst for DX by rooting out problems to solve. (He settled on the repeater challenge and brought it to a successful conclusion!)

The new DXer editor, Sir Fox David of Bearded Visage in Fungus, was putting out great newsletters by November.

Sir James Fox of Chicken Feathers in Piltdown held one of the all-time super "fess-up, nostalgia evenings" for the December program.

At the half-year (decade?) mark, King Fox Arthur felt both proud and frustrated: DXers kept resigning/quitting their assigned tasks (perhaps unglutted in a few orifices along with the wine at Harry's would keep things well greased?) But other DXers were volunteering to take their place in the spirit of fellowship -- they still serve the Club well!

January brought the DXers Lloyd and Iris from Cyprus, a foxy event! A new DX Ladder Leader, Sir Fox Larry sans Bloom, took over his natural niche and is doing a superb job! A new magazine, the DX Magazine, appeared and quickly filled a need by providing info and news unparalleled by any other publication. It is edited by Sir Fox Chad von Fliegen Im Bart.

King Fox Arthur entered a hallucinatory roll -- what glory, what pride his villagers can have in themselves! They kept on working DX, everything that showed on the bands! The Big Kahuna, Sir Fox Robert ohne Schwanz, announced that again this collection of reprobates called "contesters" within this rabble had severely trounced the reprobate contesters of a group of rabble far to the south of us, in a gigantic land called "Socal", where people either eat or fly into LAX! This land is so big that the consanguinators who DX there use 2KW just to talk across town!

March brought a BOD consensus to put a new repeater controller up. This project had been in the works for a long time, and it was finally at the stage where it could be completed. The leader of the repeater gang and his rabble had it at that stage. King Fox Arthur was pleased! And to work the 3D2XX as well! DX is, he mused. March also brought a flurry of activity by the Visalia Tryst group and leader, who wanted to orchietomize all who attended, so their true allegiance to honest and gentlemanly and ladylike DXing could be honored, and a new tradition established. King Fox Arthur felt gratified but was unsure as to how the YLs could be so memorialized.

April at the Visalia Tryst! Surely the best Tryst ever -- all the DXers of the Village pitched in where help was needed -- a truly proud and great moment in the history of this Event and Club. It was as if it had a spirit and life of its own; nothing was left unplanned and undone; the DX world regaled and basked in the presence of the DX world leaders, OH2BH CQ Contest Hall of Fame; W6SZN, NCDXC DXer of the Year; Iris and Lloyd in between back to back YASME trips! And on and on! No need to hallucinate with anything else.

3D2CR was also on, T33JS to come soon, ZS8MI on, ZYOSS/SW on soon -- Oh, where does Nirvana end? The solar cycle, the DX, the Tryst, the orchietomy! What more is needed for a pure DXer?

A successful year for the Village, a move forward, and a great feeling of pride -- King Fox Arthur was pleased. The next two Village meetings were taken up with succession matters. Who will be the Village leader next year? Stay tuned! Will it be -- oh no, could it be, no, not Cat-Person?

73/DX, Jerry

Election coming up in June, gang. Everybody come, nominate, and vote!

ARRL DX bulletins

Here are edited versions of last months ARRL DX bulletins.

Aruba. QSL P40P to Nao, N1CIX, and P40YL to Claudia, HB9CUY.

Central African Republic. Tom, 9Q5NW, is expected to operate as TL8TG for two days around May 5 and will feature CW on 10 to 20 meters.

CHAD. F2CW STATES THAT F3CW WILL OPERATE AS TT8CW STARTING MAY 16 FOR UP TO FOUR WEEKS. THIS OPERATION WILL BE ON CW. QSL VIA F2CW.

CHAGOS. KH2F REPORTS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS WITH QSL FOR VQ9KR AND THOSE WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE SHOULD RESEND DIRECT TO KEN RAMIREZ, KH2F, LOT 24 NORTHWINDS MANOR, ROUTE 26, ROME, NY 13440.

GLORIOSO. FR5AI/G WILL BE ACTIVE FOR ONE MONTH BEGINNING MAY 19.

Liberia. DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, LIBERIAN AMATEURS WILL SIGN THE PREFIX 6Z IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 142ND INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA. ALL QSLs FOR 6Z CONTACTS MUST GO VIA K5HUT. PLEASE DO NOT QSL DIRECT TO LIBERIA.

MACQUARIE. VK0GC HAS BEEN OPERATING BY HIMSELF LATELY. LOOK ON 14180 AND 21290 KHZ AROUND 0400Z AND 28480 KHZ AROUND 0100Z.

Malagasy Republic. Documentation for the 5R8VT operation has been received. DXCC credit for this

operation will begin with the applications received on April 3, 1989 and after.

Marion Island. Peter, ZS8MI, is becoming more active as his work schedule now allows. QSL to his home call, ZS6PT.

MARKET REEF. OH2AP/OH0M WILL OPERATE FROM JUNE 7 TO 13 ON THE USUAL DXPEDITION FREQUENCIES, CW, SSB AND RTTY 10 THROUGH 160 METERS, 50 MHZ AND OSCAR 13. QSL TO OH2AP AR

MARQUESAS. FO5LZ HAS BEEN OPERATING AROUND 14025 KHZ BY HIMSELF AND DOING A GOOD JOB.

Ocean Island. QSL T33JS by VK9NS and T33RA by KN6J.

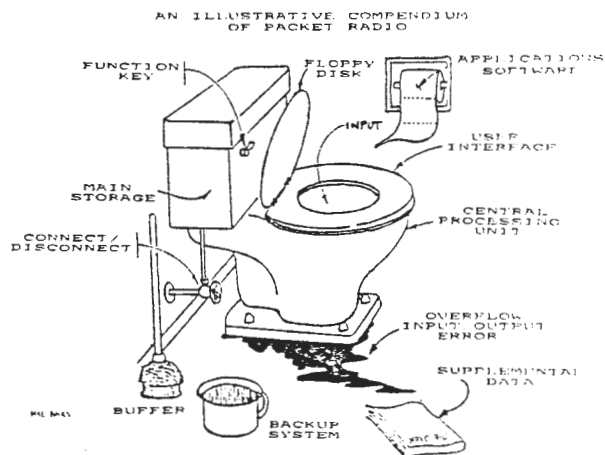
Pacific DXpedition. Bing, VK2BCH, will be off in May on his sixth Pacific DX tour. He will be active on all bands, 160 through 6 meters, starting May 14 as ZK1XV in the South Cook Island through June 8, then 5W1GY June 8 to 15 from Western Samoa. The next stop is KH8/VK2BCH June 16 to July 7 from American Samoa. Tokelau, ZK3, and Rotuma, 3D2, stops are also planned within the July 8 to August 8 time frame. All QSLs go to VK2BCH, Box 344, Forster, NSW 2428, Australia.

ST MARTIN. QSL FS5R TO W7EJ, FS5T TO AI7B AND FS5DX TO WB7FRA.

ST PETER AND PAUL ROCKS. ZY0CW ON CW, ZY0SY ON RTTY AND ZY0SS ON SSB. QSLs GO TO NATAL DX GROUP, P.O. BOX 597, 59021 NATAL, BRAZIL.

South Georgia. VP8BUB comes up Sundays at 1600Z on 28470 kHz, working Europeans and Africans first and then stateside. QSL to G4YLO.

WESTERN CAROLINES. Republic of Palu. QSL KC6TY, Toru to JG1RVN.





May NCDXC Meeting

The May meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto, Ca., on 12 May 1989. The President, Gerry, W8MEP, called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. Gerry extended a welcome to the visitors and then Steve, W6MKM, proceeded with the raffle. The winners are : KA6DXY, Jim, a digital multimeter; KI6EZ, Alex, the soldering iron; KJ6LD, Henry, a screw/nut driver set; and N6DJM, Morris, the bench low-pass filter.

A moment of silence was held for Silent Key, Jerry Branson.

Gerry discussed the DX Convention of 1989 and questioned the members present as to "Are we out-growing Visalia?". He requested input from NCDXC members as to possible new locations for this event.

Gerry also poled the membership present as to their feelings on a code/no code license. It appeared that the code always requirement for any class license won. However, it was close. Gerry discussed the need for a New Contest Chairperson. Please step forward if you wish to fill this position--your services are needed.

Gerry presented the following NCDXC Certificates of Merit to the following Club members: K6LLK, Repeater Committee member; K4UVT, Contest Chairman; W6LQC, DX Information; and to Jay and Jan O'Brien, W6GO - K6HHD, QSL Information. Note: Jay and Jan provided over 16 years of QSL Information to Club members. Well done Club members. The NCDXC membership appreciates your efforts and service.

The NCDXC also presented plaques to WB6OOL and NR7E for their work in maintaining our W6TI Repeater for several years. W6JZU accepted their plaques and will deliver them to Pete and Rod. NCDXC Marathon Plaques were awarded to WG6P, Dennis; N6DJM, Morris; and VE2AQS/W6, Bob, received an NCDXC paper weight plaque for his contest efforts. Additionally, the CQWW 87/88 Single Plaque was awarded to K6HNZ, Ken, and absentee NCDXC member for his CQWW Contest efforts. Well done Club members!

Second readings were held for the following NCDXC candidates: Louese Bloom, KA6ING; Richard North, WA6SDR; and Paul Scott, N6NXV. All members present voted aye with no dissenting votes heard. Welcome Louese, Dick, and Paul into the NCDXC.

First reading were held for Greg Engle, N6PYI; Henry Stewart, KJ6LD; and Fred Naseef, KB6SP.

A special note of thanks should be given to Lou, K6TMB, and Rusty, W6OAT, and to all their bartenders for their wonderful service at the Visalia Hospitality Hour. Thanks fellows.

W6QHS, Dave Leeson, from Windy Mountain, Soda Springs Road, Los Gatos, CA., gave the NCDXC members a presentation on "Beam Designs for Windy Locations". Dave, your efforts to solve beam survival problems are greatly appreciated by NCDXC members. Thanks for a wonderful presentation.

Gerry, W8MEP, adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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



Board of Directors Meeting

The NCDXC BoD Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 1989, at the home of W6VG. Present were Club Officers, W8MEP, KG6GF, K6MA, K6TS, K6RK, W6VG, N6AN, and KA6W.

The BoD discussed the following items:

By-Laws/Procedures Manual Revisions -- The BoD reviewed and approved the changes and revisions presented by Hal, N6AN, and Ron, W6VG. The Club Officers want to thank Hal & Ron for their suggested changes/revisions and the hard work they did to research each proposed change/revision.

NCVDXC Contest Chairman -- A contest chairperson is still needed to replace K4UVT. A couple of suggested individuals have been named. However, they have not been contacted as yet to determine their willingness to serve.

W6TI Repeater -- AE6H is diligently working on the controller and interface needed for the repeater. The Repeater Committee will decide on the various features to be installed. The assembly is nearly ready to go. The old controller will be kept at the repeater site in case it is needed. The W6TI Repeater Antenna may require replacement at some future date; however, the tower, transmitter and receiver are in good shape.

The BoD again discussed the possibility of changing the location of the International DX Convention from Visalia to some other location/city/area. Of concern was the possibility that we have outgrown the facility at Visalia. The

BoD requests input from Club members on this matter.

Gerry, W8MEP, suggested that the NCDXC meetings be held at an outlying area say once every quarter. Areas of current discussion were Marin County, Sacramento Area, and Fresno. The NCDXC By-Laws and Procedures Manual, Page 38, Section 4-1, reflects this as a current capability. The NCDXC Secretary will contact individuals in these areas and determine if this capability is desired and can be accomplished. More on this item when information is available.

Please note: K6RK's c/s - name was inadvertently missing from last month's BoD attendance listing.

The BoD adjourned at 6:10 p.m. and traveled to Harry's for the regular Club meeting.

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

Treasurer's Report

May 1 - 31, 1989

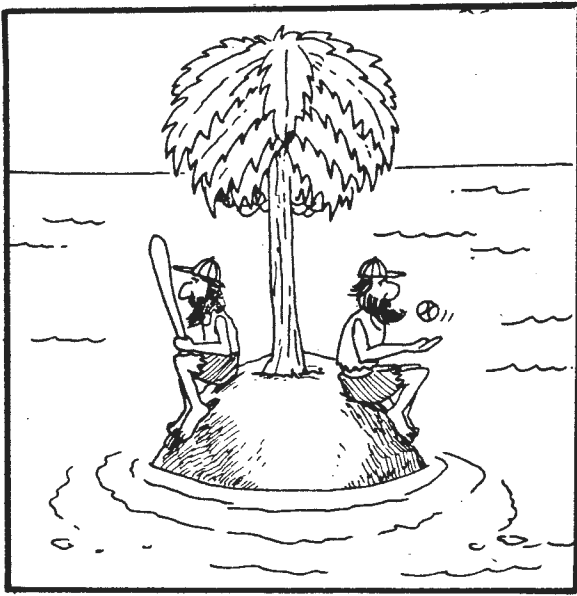
Checking Account Activity

April 1989 E.O.M. Balance	\$2,868.45
Deposits from Dues	\$67.00
Other Receipts	\$114.00
Sub-total	\$3,049.45
Accounts Payable	-\$1,054.01
May 1989 E.O.M. Balance	\$1,995.44

Savings

Bank of America (5/18/89)	\$11,341.06
includes QSL Reserve	
American Savings (3/26/89)	\$7,878.85
one year CD due 7/1/89	

Stan Kuhl, K6MA, NCDXC Treasurer



"This is the last time we go on a DXpedition during the bottom of the sunspot cycle."

Where's DX?

I've been sitting around the shack for most of the day now; its kind-of rainy and cold. The weather is very unusual for this time of year. Usually in May the rain is long gone and we are into our "Mostly Boring" period. Well, it was a good day to clean the radio desk and catch up on some long overdue QSL'ing chores. Late evenings in spring are supposed to bring with them some of the best deep Russian openings of the year on 20 meters; but this evening bore none of those fruits. It is now 2030 local and short path is weak to Europe and the Pacific Rim is strong but very few signals are present. Perhaps its a Pacific area holiday from Ham Radio.

It is Sunday, and this is the weekend of the Dayton Hamvention. I expect the fellows that made the trip to the biggest amateur radio convention will all be back now and ready to tell some yarns about DXers, Contesters and the pursuit of "Happiness in the Stoffer's Hotel". Dayton is big alright, but not nearly the best. In the case of Ham Radio conventions I'm a firm believer that smaller is better. You see, the weekend just prior to the Dayton Hamvention is THE weekend. Visalia! What perverse act of God brought a radio convention to this abysmal outpost in California's San Joaquin valley? I'm sure I couldn't imagine but I certainly am glad it's close to home. You see I wouldn't miss this convention for anything.

Over the years the Visalia convention has become (for me at least) a very special tradition. It was at Visalia that I finally had the pleasure of meeting an author who was writing for QST while I was in

high school. This fellow authored some of the funniest (and most poignant) stories ever written about the hobby, and in doing so captured this young man's imagination. A year or two later at the same convention I met several Hams who practically started this hobby. This year a well known DX scribe was giving a seminar on the state of DX as seen from somewhere east of these parts and provided me with yet another fond remembrance. Late on Saturday, just prior to the evening cocktail hour the scribe presented a slide show the subject of which escapes me at this moment. It matters little; for the thing that struck home was the last slide of the program. It was a picture of German Ham's QSL card. Ordinarily a QSL card wouldn't capture my eye, or for that matter such significance that I would write about IT. This card captured the whole essence of Amateur Radio in a single image. A simple card really. In line drawings, carefully overlaying one another were symbols from five or six of the worlds capitols. The Eiffle Tower, the Taj Majal, the Tower of London, the Golden Gate Bridge and perhaps several others. A simple message was overlain across the top of this card: "Ham Radio Makes The World A Village".

Where is DX? It's in the hearts and memories of all of it's participants.

73, Chuck, W7MAP

Russian Phrases for Amateur Radio

This is a new 20-page syllabus compiled by W6HJK to help amateurs better communicate with their Soviet colleagues. You need not be an expert in Russian, only interested in "trying".

The booklet provides (1) English words and phrases for QSOs, accompanied by (2) the Russian translation and (3) the English transliteration, to assist you in pronouncing the Russian.

The syllabus follows the natural sequence of a QSO. There are additional sections on the Russian alphabet, phonetics, CW characters, numerals, and given names. Suggestions are made for addressing mail to the Soviet Union.

The author undertook this project out of a personal interest in improving the quality of his QSOs with Soviet hams and to enhance USA-USSR relations. This booklet is provided free of charge, with the first printing and mailing funded by Beyond War, an educational foundation to build global dialogue and cooperation. If it is useful, you may later

choose to make a contribution to help sustain this project.

Requests should be sent to:

Russian Phrases for Amateur Radio Len Traubman, W6HJK 1448 Cedarwood Drive San Mateo, CA 94403, USA

Where is W6TI?

Gentlemen:

I have recently renewed my interest in DX again after several years of absence. I have had the usual rude awakening of the call sign changes that has occurred over the past few years. At one time I thought KC4 was Antarctica!

Well, I finally was rudely awakened again recently with the fact that my QTH in Chinatown can hear the Club's repeater. For several years past, I have been guided by the respectable gospel of the DX Bulletin from the Club. Thus relying on the printed matter I have been receiving monthly, I have always believed that the repeater output frequency has always been 147.96 (This is published in the bulletin every month.) So I was led to believe that I cannot work the repeater since I have been using 147.36 as the repeater's input channel. Then last night, a newcomer to the area apprised me of the fact that the repeater OUTPUT is in fact 147.36 (the DX Bulletin states INPUT as 147.36 and the OUTPUT as 147.96). Low and behold, I finally was able to hear all the chatter and very few familiar calls for the first time. The information heard on the repeater was terrific. Keep up the good work. Now, I would like some input of the Club's Packet Net. So far, there has been no technical article in the Bulletin about it.

73, Vincent M. Chinn, K6KQN

New Bands with Old Alpha

The problem:

According to ETO, if you load up an Alpha 76-series linear amplifier on the new 24 MHz band, the RF choke will burn out. "What can I do?", I asked. The answer: "buy a new Alpha (for about \$3500), your old one is obsolete". Well, in my view, RF is RF and my old Alpha makes it just fine and as much as is legal. Instead, I decided to look for a way to make it operate on 24 MHz (an Alpha 76-will tune 18 MHz without modification, using the 21 MHz band position).

The tuning characteristics of any tube-type RF amplifier can be tested without even powering up the amplifier. You can observe its output impedance by driving its output coax connector with an external RF source and looking power reflected back toward that source. If a resistor similar in value to the plate resistance is connected from plate to ground, one should be able "null out" the reflected power by simply putting the tuning controls and band-switch at their usual settings for the frequency at which the test is performed. I tried it using a spectrum analyzer, its tracking generator and a directional coupler. Sure enough, a rather broad "dip" occurs at the frequency I tuned up for, and the accursed RF choke resonance shows up too, at about 25 MHz! This resonance is very high in "Q"; it moves around only slightly as the tuning controls are turned.

What can you do? Well, one solution, used by ETO in those new Alphas, is to use a relay to short out part of the RF choke when the higher frequency bands are selected. I looked for unused contacts on the band-switch, which might be used to tell a relay when to operate; there aren't any. Next, I decided that I would simply experiment, trying several ideas. Well, you don't want to know about all the ideas that didn't work, or were too complicated, so let's just jump to the final result.

A painless and cost-free solution:

Believe it or not, the fix is three inches of #14 solid copper wire and some plastic "disappearing" tape. I found that the resonance could be "pushed" upwards in frequency by various amounts, depending on the position of a shorted turn around the choke. The reason, of course, is that the shorted turn reduces the choke's inductance. So where should we put it? Why, on the CB band, of course! Some day, you may sell that amplifier and it might end up in the wrong hands. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it blew up the first time it was used by a CBer? I think so!

The resonance can be put at about 27 MHz, by positioning the center of the shorted turn wire about 0.3 inches down from the top terminal ring (see figure). I put two layers of "disappearing" tape around the choke, to insulate it from the ring. Next, I temporarily taped a strip of thin cardboard around the tape, to insulate the tape from the solder heat. Next, I bent the bare #14 wire tightly around the cardboard and soldered it to itself, forming a ring (you don't need to make a twisted splice; just overlap the ends a little and solder 'em up). After

removing the cardboard, two little dabs of silicone sealant were used to hold the ring in position. All of this was done without removing the RF choke from the Alpha, but it did help to remove the tube chimneys.

I had some worries that the choke or its ring might overheat when operated at full power at either 24 or 28 MHz, but it runs cool on both bands. The "Q" of the choke's resonance is so high that it doesn't absorb much energy even 500 KHz away from the resonance. Another concern was that the change in total inductance might be enough to affect tuning, particularly on 160 meters. The actual change, from about 80 to 75 micro-Henries, turned out to be insignificant.

So, there you are: with less than half of the \$2000 you saved, you can buy a log-periodic antenna, and really terrorize the new WARC-bands.

Ed note: A diagram of the Alpha choke with shorting turn follow the next article.

73, Dave Barton, AF6S

Extend Alpha Linear Tube life

The "inrush" current that occurs when you switch on a vacuum tube's heater is a major cause of tube failure. In the case of the three-8874 Alphas, peak inrush is about 35 Amps; four times the 9 Amp final value! When tubes were cheap, no-one this wasn't of much concern, but today, at almost \$400 per 8874, it's a whole new ball-game.

Negative temperature coefficient thermistors are available, made for inrush limiting. They are commonly used to protect the input rectifiers in computer switch-mode power supplies. A typical inrush thermistor looks like a large disk-style ceramic capacitor. The devices are rated for a range of "cold resistance", "hot resistance" and maximum current.

To control inrush to any load, a thermistor is simply connected in series. Its "cold resistance" limits the initial current and then, as the thermistor heats up, over a period of about one second, its resistance decreases toward its final "hot resistance" value. If one were available with the right ratings, it could solve our inrush problem all by itself.

Unfortunately, for the particular case of the three-8874 Alpha amplifiers, no thermistor with the right combination of specs is available. The closest, Digi-Key stock number KC001L-ND, with a maximum current rating of 12 Amps, and a cold

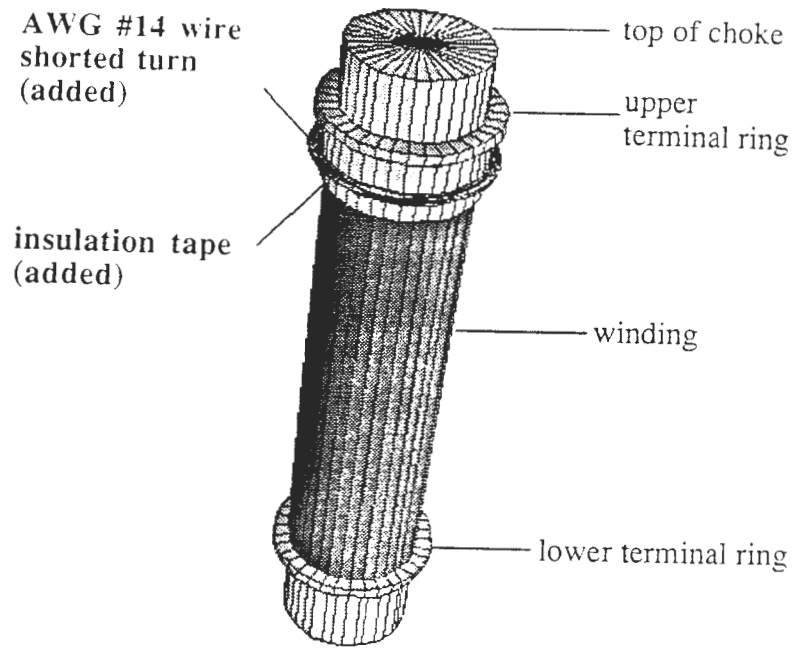
resistance of 0.7 Ohms is close. It will reduce inrush to less than 10 Amps, but its .030 Ohm "hot resistance" reduces the heater voltage from 5.95 to about 5.55 Volts (when AC line voltage is 240 VRMS). The Alpha already runs the heater voltage a little low of the 6.3 Volt tube spec; any further reduction might cause cathode damage.

Well, there's always a "work-around". In this case, if a relay contact can be made to short out the thermistor about one second after power-up, the thermistor can safely start the tube and the relay can prevent the loss of that last 300 milli-Volts. I found a relay in my junk-box which had a 24 VDC, 700-Ohm coil. Mine had a 4PDT contact arrangement; I connected all the normally-open contacts in parallel, to be sure of having an adequate contact current rating. If you can find a relay with a similar coil and a single "form-A" (normally-open) contact rated for 10 Amps, all the better. The relay was operated in the simple time-delay circuit shown in the figure, powered by the built-in 28 VDC supply in the Alpha. The exact timing is not critical. In fact, the only critical need is to be sure the transistor's "beta" is high enough that the final value of relay coil voltage reaches the vicinity of 24 Volts. If you have trouble finding an MPS3704 transistor, you could just try various NPNs until you find one that does the job. The transistor should have a BVceo rating of at least 30 Volts and a "DC Beta" of at least 35 at a collector current of 35 mA.

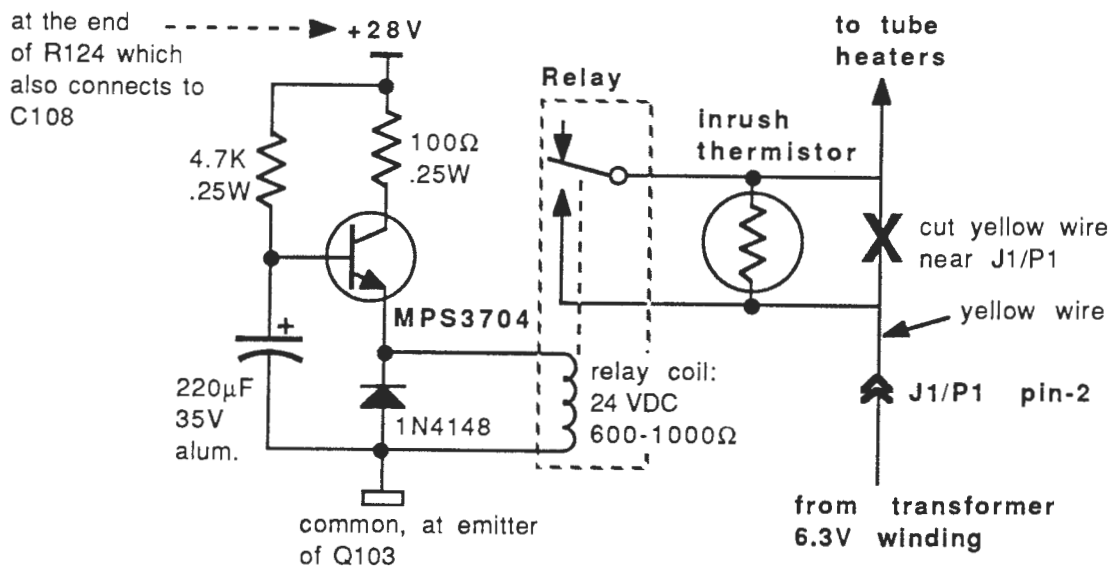
The relay I used has a rectangular plastic cover. The small parts were soldered directly to the relay's terminals and the relay was then mounted with epoxy adhesive to a bare area near the front left corner of the PC board behind the meters. I mounted it with the terminals up, for easy access. Small hook-up wire was used to connect to the 28V and common. You should refer to the Alpha's schematic and use an ohm-meter or continuity checker to be sure you're connecting to the right points on the PC board. 18-gauge stranded, insulated wire was used between the contacts and the cut ends of the yellow wire from J1/P1, which were also insulated with shrink-tubing after soldering. Be sure to secure the wires to the existing cable below the high-voltage interlock, using cable ties, to keep them away from the high voltage.

73, Dave Barton, AF6S

Diagrams for: Alpha on 24 Mhz and Alpha extended tube life.



Schematic:



THE TALKING DRUMS

By W. K. Dunbar

When I read Alex Haley's *Roots* (Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y. 1976), the accounts of the "talking drums" made an immediate and lasting impression on me. Here was a system closely akin to Morse telegraphy that was being widely used throughout Central and West Africa in the mid-18th century, and had been in use for no-one-knows how long. Although we are inclined to view the civilization and culture of those people at that time as primitive, it is apparent that this communication system was quite sophisticated.

Some excerpts from the book will illustrate the effectiveness of what we frequently term the Jungle Telegraph: "Rubbing at his eyes, which smarted from the smoke of the fire, Kunta remembered the times that drums talking at night from different villages had troubled his sleep. Awakening, he would lie there, listening hard; the sounds and rhythms were so like those of speech that he would finally understand some of the words, telling of a famine or a plague, or of the raiding and burning of some village, with its people killed or stolen away."

"Hanging on a branch of the baobab, beside the jaliba, was a goatskin inscribed with the marks that talk, written there in Arabic by the arafang. In the flickering firelight, Kunta watched as the jaliba began to beat the knobby elbows of his crooked sticks very rapidly and sharply against the different spots on the drum head. It was an urgent message for the nearest magic man to come to Juffure and drive out evil spirits." (Chapter 8.)

Sometime later in Kunta Kinte's life, having been told of his two uncles who were celebrated travelers, we read this: "And sometimes Kunta would even dream that he was traveling with his uncles to all the strange places, that he was talking with the people who looked and acted and lived so differently from the Mandinkas. He had only to hear the names of his uncles and his heart would quicken."

"A few days later, it happened that their names reached Juffure in a manner so exciting that Kunta could hardly contain himself. It was a hot, quiet afternoon, and just about everyone in the village was sitting outside his hut's doorway or in the shade of the baobab - when suddenly there came a sharp burst of drumtalk from the next village. Like the grown-ups, Kunta and Lamin cocked their heads intently to read

what the drum was saying. Lamin gasped aloud when he heard his own father's name. He wasn't old enough to understand the rest, so Kunta whispered the news it brought: Five days of walking in the way the sun rose, Janneh and Saloum Kinte were building a new village. And their brother Omoro was expected for the ceremonial blessing of the village on the second next new moon." (Chapter 17.)

In examining these passages again, a number of things are easily seen. First, "readers" of drum talk hear words instead of the individual percussive sounds made by the drummer; proficient telegraphers never hear dots, dashes or individual letters. Instead, words seem to form in the mind and are transcribed on paper or retained in the memory. Second, the drum sounds convey ideas and concepts quite clearly, e.g. famine, plague, raids and requests for aid. Third, these communications easily conveyed specific details such as numbers, directions, time spans and proper names. Finally, when distances to be covered were too great, the messages were relayed until they could be heard by the intended recipient village. Neither landline nor radio telegraphy can boast much greater efficiency than this, the principal differences being in the use of electricity to extend the distances spanned and in the instruments employed.

In February of this year, Mr. Haley visited Illinois State University on a speaking engagement, and I sent a note to him expressing interest in the talking drum communication system and asking permission to quote from the book. A short time later his secretary, Ms. Ann Klebenow, telephoned to acknowledge my note and grant permission to quote. I had a few more questions about the system which she was unable to answer so she promised to obtain the information from Mr. Haley for me. About three weeks after that call, she again telephoned saying that Mr. Haley wanted to speak with me about my requests, and in a very enjoyable conversation he shed further light on the use of drum communications. Needless to say, I deeply appreciate the kindness and assistance of both Mr. Haley and Ms. Klebenow.

The most noticeable quality of the sounds made by the drums, Mr. Haley said, was a deep, throbbing beat. We may assume, I believe, that changes in level, pitch, tempo and combinations of beats accomplish the purpose of indicating specific details and ideas. It is possible, also that since the sounds are akin to speech, there could be considerable difference in the

"code" among peoples of different language groups. The letters p-a-i-n mean an ache or hurt in English, while they signify bread to a Frenchman, for example.

Mr. Haley told of witnessing a demonstration of the talking drums while on visit to West Africa, and his account sounded precisely like some of our own M.T.C. members staging a Morse telegraph demonstration! A word or phrase would be selected by a person picked at random, and that person then whispered it to the drummer to be "transmitted." A third person would then interpret the sounds into words, which were precisely what the first person had whispered to the drummer.

Asked if each village would have a specific designation which would correspond to call letters, Mr. Haley said that was not the case, that the transmissions were sent out "broadcast" style, and as already noted, were relayed in the proper direction should the addressee be beyond earshot.

As an example of how the system might be utilized, Mr. Haley referred to the method employed by this culture to punish wrongdoers. The prison to which they were sent was without walls or fences - it was an open area, away from society, and amounted to a sort of domestic exile. Occasionally a prisoner would decide to return home before his sentence was up, and just walk away. When this was discovered, a message would go out over the drum system reporting the fact with the escapee's name. Upon hearing this, he would return to prison, not wanting to bring shame on his family by publicly violating the terms of his imprisonment.

The "Talking Drums" were usable day or night, and were omni-directional. They were therefore superior to other early systems such as semaphores, smoke signals and heliographs, and in this regard superior to Morse telegraphy - you didn't have to stay in the office to get the message! We telegraphers have been proud of being able to answer "yes" to the question in Job 38:35: "Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, here we are?" and have assumed we were true pioneers. Aside from the lightning part, however, we may have been following a trail already blazed.

(Reprinted with permission from *Dots and Dashes*, the Journal of the Morse Telegraph Club, April, 1986.)

Procedures Manual

A copy of the procedures manual update as required the bylaws are included in the last pages of the DXer.

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.

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NCDXC REPEATER W6TI/R

Output 147.36 Mhz, Input 147.96 Mhz
Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Repeater Committee Chairman:
Smitty Smithwick, W6JZU
Suggested simplex freq.: 147.54 Mhz

NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

On W6TI/R Thursday at 8:00 PM local time.
Operations Manager: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
DX News: Bob Artigo, KN6J
Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ
Contest News: Bob Dorse, K4UVT
Westlink: Dave Bottom, KD6AZ

Northern California DX Club DXer

Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
933 Robin Lane
Campbell, CA, 95008
408/374-0372

QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY
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Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
W6TI, the NCDXC memorial station broadcasts
DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST (Monday
0200 UTC) on or about 7.015 Mhz and 14.002
MHZ.

A review of the NCDXC Procedures Manual, required by the Bylaws, Section 7, paragraph 2, Article IV was made by the board of directors. Changes and additions approved by the board of directors, May 12, 1989 are hereby incorporated into the Procedures Manual as Revision 12:

Introduction Page 1, paragraph 3..CHANGE: last sentence to read: Such changes, when duly authorized by the board and/or membership, shall be published in the club publication.

Page 9, 3-101a. CHANGE: the first sentence to read: Appoints the following chairmen and managers:

Page 11, 3-102 f. DELETE in entirety.

3-102 i. DELETE and TRANSFER duty to the historian and archivist page 29, 3-113 c.

Page 15, 3-105.2 ADD: new subparagraphs g. and h. as follows:

g. Coordinate with the club publication editor to assure timely receipt of each month's "print ready" copy of the DXer. Arrange for the printing, collating, folding and stapling of the publication in sufficient quantities to satisfy distribution requirements.

h. Perform affixation of stamps, labels and other mailing functions. Deliver the DXers to the post office as expeditiously as possible to ensure delivery in advance of the next scheduled club meeting.

Relabel existing g. to i. and h. to j.

Page 17, 3-103 k. DELETE: in entirety.

Page 24, 3-109.1 CHANGE: Operations Manager to Net Operations Manager

3-109.1 a. ADD: before start of first sentence: The president shall appoint a net operations manager whose...

INSERT: a new subparagraph c.1. to read: Appoints assistants and managers to administer and conduct the various programs of the Thursday night two meter net. This includes, but is not limited to, swap shop, west link, QSL information, contest news, etc. Renumber all succeeding subparagraphs in numerical order.

3-109.1 c.1. (original) DELETE:.....up to six....

Page 24a, 3-109.2 Swap Shop (ADD: The following new procedure)

a. The net operations manager shall appoint a swap shop manager whose duties will be to conduct the swap shop portion of the NCDXC Thursday night two meter net. The conduct of these responsibilities shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth herein. The swap shop manager shall:

b. Arrange, in advance, a substitute, in the event he is unable to conduct the swap shop portion of the net. c.

c. Maintain appropriate records of items listed for sale or wanted.

d. Assure that all items listed for sale or wanted are of direct interest to radio amateurs. Criterion for this judgment are:

1. Radio equipment, assemblies, parts, antennas, cable,

test equipment, and items normally used by radio amateurs

2. Computer items will not be acceptable unless there is

a direct relationship to amateur radio, ie; packet,

ASCII, RTTY, AMTDR or other digital communications

authorized for use by radio amateur operators.

3. Vintage or collectors" items must be useable and in

workable condition and capable of on-the-air performance

within present day standards.

e. Conduct the swap shop in accordance with the following:

1. Radio equipment, assemblies, parts, antennas, cable,

test equipment, and items normally used by radio amateurs

2. Computer items will not be acceptable unless there is

a direct relationship to amateur radio, ie; packet,

ASCII, RTTY, AMTDR or other digital communications

authorized for use by radio amateurs operators.

3. Vintage or collectors' items must be useable and in workable condition and capable of on-the-air performance within present day standards.
- e. Conduct the swap shop in accordance with the following:
 1. The swap shop will be open to all licensed radio amateurs, however, preference will be given to members of the NCDXC.
 2. All items for sale must have a suggested price to be acceptable as a listing.
 3. All items that are sold, traded or otherwise disposed shall be deleted from the list.
 4. Items listed for sale or wanted shall remain on the active list for four consecutive readings, if no responses received the items shall be deleted.
 5. Persons logging into the swap shop will be required to furnish their call sign, name and complete phone number.
- f. Develop a protocol to standardize the format for the conduct of the swap shop.
- g. Exercise the prerogative to accept or reject any listing deemed not to meet the foregoing criterion. Any items contested or requiring further resolution shall be forwarded to the board of directors for action.
- h. It is the policy of the NCDXC not to warrant, guarantee, or assume any responsibility for items sold, traded or wanted under the swap shop program.

Page 25, 3-110 c. ADD: 5. Upon completion of each issue of the DXer he will immediately forward a "print ready" copy to the publications manager (3-105.2) who will arrange for the printing and perform the mailing functions.

Page 28, 3-112 b. The word "contgest" incorrect CHANGE: to "contest"
e. Last sentence CHANGE: to read: This appointment shall be made by August to allow sufficient time for long range planning.

f. 2. first sentence CHANGE: to read: Arrange or delegate authority to subcommittee chairmen, for etc
Page 30, 3-114 c.1. CHANGE to read: Design a certificate appropriate for this award and submit to the board of directors for approval.

c.6. CHANGE to read: Furnish awards issuance information to the DXer editor for publication in the July and January issues of the DXer.

Page 31, 3-115 b. second sentence, CHANGE to read: The plaque shall be engraved with the recipient's name, call sign and the calendar year immediately preceding the award.

after i. ADD new subparagraph j. to read: After the award is made, it shall be the responsibility of the chairman to prepare an article for submission to the club publication detailing the name of the recipient, reasons for the selection and other information appropriate to this award...Reletter subsequent subparagraphs.

Page 32, 3-115 j.1. CHANGE sentence to read:maintaining liaison with, coordinating and participating in Expeditions.....

m. DELETE and REPLACE with new sentence: Members of the committee, if nominated for the award, shall be withdrawn from the committee and replace by members not nominated.

Page 39, 4-101 j. DELETE the word "future" and replace with "in the next DXer."

Page 50, 7-102 h. DELETE the first sentence and REPLACE with: Total countries worked for each band during the years ending October 10 shall be submitted to the awards chairman by November 1st.

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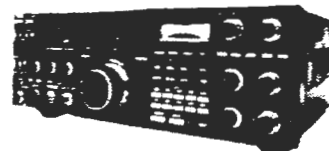
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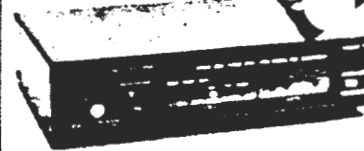
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