

Northern California DX Club DXer



Volume LXIII- Number 7

July, 1990

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the July edition of the DXer. There are the usual club information features. There is a nice report from some Soviet DXers on their DXpedition to Viet Nam. There are also two comments from domestic DXers concerning the bedlam on 20 meters during the 3Y5 and 7O1 operation.

You may agree or disagree with N6DJM's or K5YY's point of view, but the operative idea is that more than a few co-users of the spectrum space in question are very unhappy about the behavior shown during the two operations.

What I would like to see is your ideas on the subject. I will publish each reply received, over several issues, in an attempt to get some good thinking out in the open.

The problem is very complex. It is unlikely that any simple answer will provide relief.

Rusty's final comments will be published in the August issue. Time ran out, and vacation is calling for a couple of days. 73 de K6ZX

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th. The meeting will be held at the Royal Palace restaurant in Los Altos. The Address is 4320 El Camino Real near San Antonio Road. Attitude adjustment is 6:00 P.M. with dinner served promptly at 7:15. The program will be FBI Special Agent D.W. Szady, speaking on Electronic Surveillance. Club business will begin about 8:00.

CLUB INFORMATION

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: Rusty Epps, W6OAT
Vice President: Larry Souza, KG6GF
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Director: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G
Director: John Cronin, K6LLK

DX'er STAFF

Editor: Doug Beck, K6ZX
Production: Ron Panton, W6VG
DX Ladder: Larry Bloom, KD6XY
Data Base: Martin Oppenheimer, KB6BW
Send DX'er contributions to:
Doug Beck
995 Lundy Lane
Los Altos, CA 94024
-or- dbeck@unix.sri.com
Send DX ladder reports to:
Larry Bloom
2520 Heather Lane
San Bruno, CA 94066

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: Rich Hudgins, WX6M
Westlink: Dave Bottom, KD6AZ
Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
933 Robin Lane
Campbell, CA, 95008
408/374-0372

QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG. General interest broadcasts at 0200Z, Monday on 14.002 MHz and 7.015 Mhz

MEETING MINUTES

June, 1990 BOD meeting

There was no June, 1990 NCDXC BOD meeting.

June, 1990 General Meeting

The June general meeting was also held at the Royal Palace Restaurant, with president Rusty, W6OAT, presiding.

Items:

1. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, gave a short report on DXAC activity.
2. Kent Culler, WA6TWW, gave a fine presentation on NASA's SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) program.
3. A First Reading was held for:

Ed Schuller, WA6CTA
69 Cazneau Ave.
Sausalito, CA 94965
4. Second Readings, both voted affirmative, were held for:

Terry J. Hahn, WA2AGO
5460 Escover Lane
San Jose, CA 95118

Bob Wolbert, N6IP
3534 Pine Creek Drive
San Jose, CA 95132
5. Reinstated: Ken Day, W6YK
6. A general election, for next years club officers, was held. With only a single candidate for each of the offices except Director at Large, a voice vote was held for that entire group. A secret ballot was held to elect two of the three candidates for Director at Large. The candidates were: N6DJM, KG6GF and W8MEP, with N6DJM and KG6GF being elected. The resulting new-officer slate:

Office	Elected
President	Ron, NG6X
Vice President	Bill, W6TEX
Secretary	Stan, K6MA
Treasurer	Bob, NQ6X
Director at Large	Morris, N6DJM
Director at Large	Larry, KG6GF

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Barton, AF6S Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT

NCDXC Annual Treasurer's Report

Receipts: July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990

Item	Amount
Dues	\$9252.50
Life Memberships	1430.00
QSL Card Sales	1105.00
Activities	4279.00
Other	679.50

Total Receipts 16714.00

Expenditures: July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990

Item	Amount
DXer	6053.92
Awards	447.05
Badges	260.86
QSL Printing	444.45
Activities	4004.25
Fees	448.50
Administration	2448.29
Supplies	339.41
Other	763.40

Total Expenditures 15210.43

Summary:

Total Receipts	16714.00
Total Expenditures	(15210.43)

Sub Total 1503.57

Check Balance, End 1988/1989	1900.31
Check Balance, End 1989,1990	3374.88
BofA Savings as lf 6/19/90	12854.76
American Savings CD as of 6/23/90	8742.31
Repeater Fund	1759.14

NCDXC Treasurers Report
June 1 to June 30, 1990

Checking Account Activity

May 31 E.O.M. Balance	3273.50
Deposits from Dues	509.00
Other Income	149.50
Sub Total	3932.50
Accounts Payable	557.12
Current June 30 E.O.M Balance	3374.88

Savings Account Status

Bank of America 6/19/90	12854.76
Includes QSL reserves	
American Savings 6/23/90	8742.31
Repeater Fund	1759.14

Stan Ruhl K6MA, NCDXC Treasurer

COMMENT

To The Editor

I spent a lot of time listening to both the club repeater and the HF bands during the recent 70 operation. What I heard was far too often degrading to Amateur Radio, DXing and the NCDXC.

It's so easy to cast stones in the direction of others when things don't go your way. Yes, the operation was certainly not the best in terms of operator skill and knowledge. But when they finally found a propagation path on 15M they were indeed able to maintain a good QSO rate. They were certainly trying, since almost all hours of the day they seemed to be working some part of the world.

What is very disturbing is hearing club members sending all the criticism towards the DX. I am sure many of you listened to the pile-up as well. Isn't it truly amazing how many guys continue to shout their calls, when there is no relationship between their call and the call the DX is trying to extract. With many operators it just doesn't matter who he is working, they are shouting.

Some of this operation was carried out in the extra class portion of the band (21.205 and 14.160). A number of club members without extra class tickets were heard to call and in some cases work the operation in these sections of the band. (If you wish to check the class of a license you can call the FCC at 1-717-337-1212)

A suggestion was made on the repeater, that we should be focusing (together with other DX clubs) on finding and eliminating the sources of interference on the HF bands. I agree. But let's first focus on our own problems.

I take strong exception to the attitude that "DXing is just like WAR—anything goes". Club members are supposed to obey the DX club's Code of Ethics.

Section 1-105 Code of Ethics from the Bylaws and Procedures Manual of our club reads as follows:

a. Members of the NCDXC are expected to operate their stations in accordance with the following code of ethics:

1. Operations shall comply with all applicable FCC regulations.

2. Fair play, courtesy, and good sportsmanship shall be exhibited when operating.

I think it's time we started enforcing this code.

Morris Brown N6DJM

FEATURE

ON THE HOSPITABLE SOIL OF VIETNAM

by A. Chernykh, UL7PAE, Temirtau, Karagandinskaya Oblast

The idea of organizing an expedition of Vietnam was born almost three years ago. But serious work didn't begin until January 1988, after Viktor Grunskiy, RL7GK, scientific secretary of the Association of Young Scientists Attached to the Central Committee of the Komsomol of Kazakhstan, visited us at RL8PYL. It turns out that the Komsomol of Kazakhstan has an organization, the Union of Communist Youth Named After Ho Chi Minh in the province of Shongbe. There was now a real possibility of carrying out our expedition within the framework of businesslike cooperation between these two friendly organizations.

The international amateur radio organization INDEXA provided our expedition an FT-101-Z transceiver and a two-element TA33M (sic) antenna. Gennadiy Kolmakov, UA9MA was of great help in delivering this equipment to us. Soon an invitation was received, documents were drawn up and signed, tickets were bought, and everything was assembled and packed.

On January 23, 1989, A Lebedev UL7PCZ, Yu. Loparev, RL8PY, and the author set off to Alma-Ata and Moscow. After an 18-hour flight from Sheremet'yev-2 airport in Moscow and 4 stops our IL-86 landed in Ho Chi Minh City. Moscow saw us off with a freezing day, and the hospitable land of Vietnam greeted us with 35° (95°F) heat. Our Vietnamese friends greeted us no less warmly.

Upon arrival in Tkhudaomot (40 minutes north-west from Saigon), we installed ourselves in our hotel. In one room we set up the basic operating position with the FT-101-Z. In another, a second operating position with the "Meridian" and "Ural". We installed a tilted triangle for 7MHz and the TA33M antenna on the roof. We went on the air at 1900 local time. The 7 MHz band was so noisy that we only had a few contacts with Japan. But there was excellent propagation on 14 MHz; some gave us 5-9 +20dB.

A few minutes later many stations from North America, South America, Africa and Oceania began calling us. This was so unexpected that we gathered around the transceiver and couldn't believe our ears. Distant propagation to all continents, which continued on this band almost the whole night.

Over the next two days, we installed our 5-element 28 MHz Yagi, 4-element 21 MHz Yagi, tilted 7 MHz dipole and a 3.5 MHz inverted V. During the day we had friendly meetings, but we tried to leave at least one operator on the air.

A word about propagation. Basically Japan and Oceania were audible on 160M. Europe, but only Western Europe came through only two mornings. We had almost no QSO's with Soviet stations although we heard them and even called them. Here we should note the very good operation of UA1OLL and UA1OT (Franz Josef Land) whom we worked without difficulty on all six bands.

The situation was about the same on 80M on which as was also true of 40M there was a high noise level. On 20M, Europe often came through long path in the morning. On 15M there was extremely poor propagation to Europe, but this wasn't so for Japan and the USA. On 10M many QSO's were made with Soviet stations, but in the morning we heard North America well. Naturally there were very many QSO's with Japan. We also devoted a certain amount of attention to operating in nets. YB3CN, I8YCP, W7PHO — FAMILY, INDEXA — DX NET, RB5FF and so on.

Later analysis of the 3W0A log indicated that many Soviet radio amateurs evidently considered it their duty to have a QSO with us almost every day. This of course isn't a violation of ethical behavior, but as a result tens of other radio amateurs may have found it impossible to contact us at all.

The four final days we operated with the callsign 3W4KZ. We looked for satellites, but apparently the 21/28 MHz repeater wasn't switched on. sometimes the electricity went off two or three times a day. Nonetheless, operating with the callsigns 3W1A, 3W0A and 3W4KZ we had over 37,000 QSO's. The rate on SSB got up to three QSO's a minute, and on CW to two QSO's a minute.

We enjoyed operating RTTY with the callsign 3W1A. We used a "Radio-86PK" computer with a controller designed by DJ6HJ and a portable television set. Only operator UL7PCZ operated RTTY. On account of not having a narrowband filter in the transceiver during pile-ups, we couldn't have a great number of QSO's since up to 20 stations would immediately call us on frequencies that overlapped. As a result we made [only] about 1000 contacts with 50 countries of the world on 14, 21 and 28 MHz.

Twenty days flew by before we knew it. It

was sad to leave the hospitable land of Vietnam, but we flew off in hopes of many return visits.

We donated all of our equipment, antennas, and masts to the Vietnamese radio amateurs and hope to hear them on the air in the near future.

(From RADIO Magazine, January 1990, rough summary translation by Dexter Anderson W4KM, as published in May 1990 Auto-Call)

25 YEARS AGO

25 YEARS AGO—JULY, 1965

Meeting called to order at 10 pm (!) at Lou's Village, San Jose. 78 present. WA6SBO showed movies of HK0TY. K1IMP showed Caribbean slides.

"Ed Hoetzel unveiled a giant key for the big CW contest. The code was sent by beating the seat of the pants against an appropriate spot on the key, using the legs to propel the body in the necessary up and down motion to key the tone generator."

A few of the scores were:

WA6QGW	30 seconds	5 errors
KL7DTB/6	50 seconds	4 errors
W7WJB/6	27 seconds	3 errors
W6AM	46 seconds	6 errors
W6CBE	19 seconds	6 errors
W6ISQ	17 seconds	0 errors

"After a conference the judges concluded that the winner was W6ISQ (Note. I have zero recollection of this feature event! But remember I am still the reigning champion and would like a little more respect from you people!—ISQ) W6KG and KL7DTB/6 (Iris) announced YASME 's being reactivated and scheduled to "go on for a number of years and put many rare countries on the air". LLOYD and Iris plan to leave in late August on a "marathon DXpedition (may last 10 years)". Official news outlet will be the West Coast DX Bulletin.

DX on the air—W4BPD from YA. Don Miller, W9WNV, 5W1. Don is on a Pacific tour with Chuck Swain who will proceed to Asia to lay groundwork for Far East operations later.

NCDXC mixed standings: W6AM 312/339, W6ERS 247/263, W6RGG 141/172 + 37 zones. (Don't give up Bob. You will get there!).

73, de W6ISQ

CLASSIFIED

WANTED (Standing Order)

Ideas for future club programs. Provide topic, contact name and telephone number. Forward to any club officer. Thank you. de W6TEX

SK

It is with regret that the DXer records the passing of Giuseppe B. (Bepp) Costa, W6NEQ of 342 Ramona St. San Mateo, CA. Bepp was a feature on the bus ride to the Fresno Convention for many years, and was invariably of good cheer and humor.

SK & 73 de W6NPB

DUES

DUES ARE DUE! Annual dues are payable July 1.
Regular Member \$24.00
Family Member: Additional \$15.00
Absentee Member \$16.00 (outside NCDXC area)
PLEASE, send your dues (ASAP) to:

NCDXC Treasurer
P.O. Box 608
Menlo Park, CA 94026

Tnx de K6MA

COMMENT

Dr. San Hutson K5YY ex: K5QHS
P.O. Box 3600
Texarkana, Arkansas 75504

Fellow DXers,

I am not one to write and editorialize, but the recent 3Y and 701AA operations have pointed out the need to do something about the poor, unsavory, unethical, foul, vulgar and malicious interference during the more rare DXpeditions, usually occurring on the DX station's frequency. Like many others, I could write several pages of how I feel we should handle the problem, but to be quite frank, there is NO EASY SOLUTION. We certainly can't blame the DXpeditioner in most cases. I agree that some standard rules, if practiced by the DXpeditioner, would help to LESSEN the problem, but the ultimate way a guy handles his DXpedition is up to him (or the group). They are trying to maximize QSOs. Sometimes this requires having on several DXpeditions, under many different situations, before expertise is ingrained in an operator. I'm sure that Martii, Eric, Ron, Jim, Vince and others will agree with me. I have been on 10 DX trips involving all continents and over 35 countries, totaling about 100,000 QSOs, and I learn something on each trip, usually on a daily basis. I have briefly outlined the basic problem above without going into details that each of you knows. Now the possible solutions.

1) If you know who the QRMer is, beat the hell out of him . . .

2) Get the ARRL to set a maximum number for stickering the DXCC basic certificate. If 300 were the maximum allowable than the pileups would not be so great on EVERY rare one that showed up. The only reason guys stay home from work or stay up late day after day is to "keep up with the Jones' in the standings" . . .

3) Get the FCC to enforce regulations.

Recent QST data has shown that some wierdos have been fined steeply for their "games" on the air. All it would take is an all out effort to locate the perpetrators on the next "big one". It seems the SAME lids show up day after day. They are daring us to catch 'em!!

4) Get the DX operators to not break from habits that are expected from a good DXpedition. Habits expected would be to use a minimum frequency range, stick to equal time for each district, omit reprimanding tactics, give call and QSL info every few QSOs, don't make "exceptions" in mid-stream, just to mention a few. The frustrated DXer can be very much of a lid if he thinks he has been

cheated.

5) The last suggestion will work but some might not like it because they won't get the "glory" of hearing their call on the DXpedition frequency for "all the world" to hear". The system involves the DXpedition station shifting TRANSCEIVE frequency with the DXer doing the calling remaining on a frequency in the TRANSCEIVE mode. The DXpedition may have a coordination frequency to give info every 15 or 20 minutes but in between he will tune over a narrow range and come back to a guy on different TRANSCEIVE frequencies.

I have used the last system on some DX trips when one VFO would go out or when limited to a transceiver "on site" such as the first D6A operation in 1976. In that first Comoro operation my TR3 was putting out 15 watts and the antenna was one half of a driven element of an old TH3 beam. One MUST improvise in that type of a situation! The only problem is that the pileups can be so intense that the local QRMing from adjacent stations may prevent the calling station from hearing the weaker DX station. But, it sure beats not hearing anything due to 6 or 8 deliberate jammers on one known DXpedition frequency. One can still limit the pileups by announcing what call area you will be listening for before you start the TRANSCEIVE tuning. The 8Z4 operation a few years back had a similar idea but they never had a coordination frequency to tell everyone what they were doing. People were calling blindly for hours and using 14.200 to 14.300. I'll guarantee you that lid QRMers can't be on multiple frequencies at the same time and soon will give up his QRM endeavor! He no longer has a forum to perform his stunts. If the lid knows he is not interfering with EVERYONE then he loses his desire to keep up his sick "game" . . .

I could keep on but will stop here. I hope my brief thoughts above will stimulate some thinking as to how we should proceed with this problem. I have a genuine fear that something will be forced on us in the near future if we don't address the issue. DXing will never be the same as result of the 3Y and 701 operations showing us what will happen on ALL future rare or semi-rare DXpeditions. The fun is fast leaving the DX chasing aspects of the hobby.

San Hutson K5YY

DX Hall of Fame - 1983

Top Honor Roll - Phone and Mixed CW Honor Roll

Former DXAC Chairman - member DXAC 1979 - 86

DXpeditions 1969 - 1983

Honorary Member Northern California DX Club (1983)

INVITATION

INVITATION

I ask you NCDXCers who listened to the intentional jamming of the 701AA operation, didn't it make you wish sometimes that you were a certified rag chewer, or IOTA chaser, or even a County Hunter? The antics during the 701 operation were nothing to make us proud of ourselves as DXers, as amateurs or as human beings

Perhaps there is a challenging alternative. Why don't you become a Contester and join the Northern California Contest Club??? (Now I have on my hat as President of NCCC) You want the thrill of a good pile-up? We got pile-ups. You want new band/countries? Hunt your own on all bands in any contest—and you better do it soon on 10 meters. Why, you can make DXCC in a weekend in a good DX contest. Want to be part of one of the premier Contest Clubs in the World? Then please join NCCC. That way you could belong to the oldest and greatest DX club in the US of A and also a member of the feared, 20 year old NCCC. A double winning whammy.

Of course there is no alternative to DXing for the True Blue DXer—and I'm still a TBer myself! But both clubs would like each other's help in two contests we both would like to win. Many NCDXCers are already NCCC members and they have never found that contesting interferes with DXing. Recall that China, BY1PK, appeared for the first time on 15 meter CW in the middle of the CQWW fone contest! It was 26 October 1982 to be exact, that Rusty, W6OAT, contacted JA1KSO on phone who informed him that BY1PK would appear soon on 21150 and listen on 21050 with JA1BK at the key. W6TPH was the first QSO followed by W6OAT, Then the announcement on the CAT's net and everyone quit the phone contest, QSY'd to 15 CW, worked BY1PK, and then returned to the fone contest. Contesting and DXing are quite compatible!

By friendly arrangement NCCC and NCDXC have encouraged their members who are members of both clubs to submit scores for NCCC in the fall CQWW classic and for NCDXC in the spring ARRL classic. By joining forces like this, we can throw all our collective weight into one battle at a time, and we all stand a chance of being members of the winning team in two major contests rather than splitting the score. NCCC would have more members for the coming battles.

NCCC invites all NCDXC members who are not already NCCC members to join us and participate in the crusade to beat the world in CQWW this fall. And NCCC will join NCDXC next spring in the

ARRL competition to wallop SCDXC and the rest of the country.

1990 may be the last year for a while for 10 meters to be a good world-wide band. Therefore NCCC is proposing a major effort to win CQWW because we cannot compete with the mighty east coast clubs when 10 is dead and they have Europe in their backyards.

The NCCC repeater is 147.24/84. You will find Louese, KA6ING, there much of the time most days. She can answer your questions and direct you to our next meeting on the third Friday of the month. You are all cordially invited to attend a meeting and join.

W6OAT is writing a similar letter for NCDXC which will appear in THE JUG, the NCCC publication. When Rusty and I were discussing this exchange, Rusty reminded me that we had had a similar exchange about 15 years ago. At that time he was president of the NCCC and I was president of NCDXC! As the clichés would say, it is all that déjà vu going around and coming around all over again. Whatever, let's get together y'all.

73, de W6ISQ
President, NCCC

COMMENT

The following is a letter from KF7Z, reprinted by permission of the recipient, W6DU:

Dear Eric,
I am listening to you work G8KB on 21028 (1900Z). I just arrived here on Saturday night, and only have an IC-735 + 40' of wire up to listen on. NO TX yet, because the Kenya P&T has changed the rules while I was on my way here, and will not issue me a license (not yet anyway) until the U.S. signs a Reciprocal Agreement! I was told "no problem" when I applied in November. Si I may be stuck here for 3 year assignment with no Callsign. I have a meeting next week to discuss it, but it appears my permission to operate is being held hostage to the slow FCC/State Department bureaucracy. I wanted you to know I am listening. It was nice to hear an old friend the first night I was listening. Please QSL! Best 73 to the many friends in the NCDXC from Nairobi, Kenya and I hope my luck changes for the better.

Jim Henderson, KF7Z
American Embassy Box 411,
APO, New York, New York 09675

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