
Northern California DX Club DXer



Volume XLIII - Number 8

August, 1990

RUSTY'S RAMBLINGS

Congratulations to NCDXC's 1990-91 slate of officers-elect: Ron, NG6X, President; Bill, W6TEX, Veep; Stan, K6MA, Secretary; Bob, NQ6X, Treasurer; and Morris, N6DJM and Larry, KG6GF, Directors. There's a wealth of talent represented by this group. NCDXC is in good hands!

A big thank you also is due to the retiring Board: KG6GF, K6MA, AF6S, AA6G, K6LLK and W8MEP. Thanks, too, to all of you who helped the club with the other tasks: The DXer editors and staff, the Repeater Committee, the Thursday night net, the California Award, the Roster/Data Base committee, the Awards committee, the Summer Picnic committee and all the others out there who pitched in to help with the individual tasks which make a club such as NCDXC what it is today.

Steve, W6MKM and his committee already are hard at work planning the 1991 International DX Convention in Visalia. Lots of details will be forthcoming as the various events get pinned down, but even now it's clear that you'll want to be in Visalia by late Friday afternoon, April 12, if you can get away from work that early. Ken, K6PU is reviving the famous (maybe infamous?) NCDXC bus to carry the faithful to Visalia on Friday morning, and after the traditional cocktail party Friday evening there will be a new event: an outdoor barbecue in the Holiday Inn parking lot.

While on the subject of the Visalia convention, most of you know by now that all 225 available rooms at the Holiday Inn were snapped up within a week or so of the time we announced next year's convention dates. There still are plenty of rooms left in Visalia because the other hotels and motels are picking up the overflow and we're arranging shuttle service, but still it's nice to be right there at the Holiday Inn if at all possible. We've checked with the Inn's reservation staff and confirmed that nobody is holding a large block of rooms. However, if you are one of those folks who reserved a couple of "extra" rooms

just in case you discover new friends come next April, please consider releasing them as there still are lots of the convention regulars who have been unable to get reservations at all.

The World Radiosport Team Competition ("WRTC") event in the Seattle Goodwill Games has shaped up very nicely. At last count, there were 22 confirmed teams representing 15 nations. This event should be a

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th. The meeting will be held at Harrys Hofbrau in Palo Alto. Attitude adjustment is 6:00 P.M. with dinner served promptly at 7:15. The program will be N6TCF, Gary Kuusisto speaking on batteries and their applications. 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.

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Vice President: Bill Fontes, W6TEX
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Director: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G
Director: Larry Souza, KG6GF

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-or- dbeck@unix.sri.com

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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:
Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
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: Craig Smith, N6ITW
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 1800Z Sunday and 0200Z Monday on 14.002 MHz and 7.016 Mhz

MEETING MINUTES

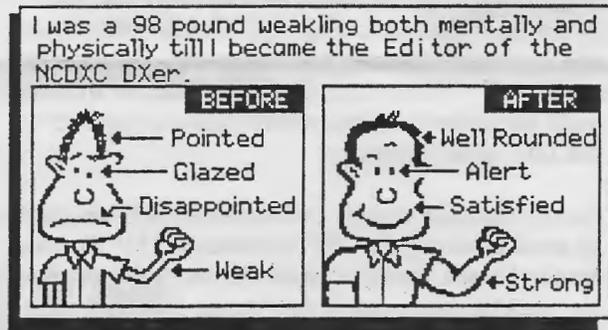
(Meeting minutes and Treasurers report ran into difficulty. They will be included in the September issue. Thank you for your patience. k6zx)

EDITORIAL

Visited DXer Eric, W6DU in Stanford Hospital where he had received a new hip. He appeared quite pleased with the results, and is now recovering at home.

I also encountered DXer Taylor, N6DYS at Stanford Hospital, where he was in the process of picking up wife and new baby girl. Congratulations and good DXing OM.

73 de k6zx



ADDRESS CHANGES

Steve Munro KZ6Z
1301 Portal Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226
(206) 647-1899

(continued from page 1)

public relations bonanza for amateur radio, so be sure to get on the air on Friday, July 20 to work all the stations signing "/WG" (for "World Games") after their callsigns. Rules for the competition were published on page 83 of the June issue of QST Magazine. We're expecting lots of the WRTC operators to visit the Bay Area after the Games, so be sure to see the article elsewhere in this issue of The DXer for a run down on the schedule of events.

Finally, in my last "official" act as NCDXC's lame duck President, I personally want to thank each of you who pitched in to make my job easier and more enjoyable this past year. It's been quite an experience to have served as President of this great organization and to have been selected its DXer of the Year. Both are great honors for me. I want you all to know how much I appreciate them.
73 and SK, de Rusty, W6OAT

GOODWILL GAMES

ARRL BULLETIN 25 ARLB025 FROM ARRL HEAD-
QUARTERS NEWINGTON CT JULY 25, 1990 TO
ALL RADIO AMATEURS

Here are the official results, in order of finish, of the World RadioSport Team Championship, held July 21 in Seattle.

K1AR and K1DG, W9RE and K7JA
KR0Y and KQ2M, VE7SV and VE7CC
DL5XX and DJ6QT, LZ2PO and LZ1MS
G3YDV and G4BUO, EA5BRA and EA9EO
UW9AR and UA9AM, W7EJ and AA4NC
UA1DZ and RB5IM, I2UYI and IK2DVG
OH1XX and OH8PF, OK1RI and OK2FD
YT3AA and YU1RL, HA0MM and HA6NY
UA9SA and UW3AA, UW0CN and UW0CA
JE1JKL and JE1CKA, PY5EG and PY4OD
FD1NYQ and F2CW, JM3JOW and JJ3UJS.

In addition, UW9AR and UA9AM received the Murphy Award. They were plagued for four hours by a noisy power line. The award for the top CW score went to the German team, while the number two overall team of K7JA and W9RE also garnered the Top SSB award.

VE7CC won most accurate CW operator and I2UYI took home the most accurate SSB plaque. Each team operated from a local Seattle ham's home, using

stations as similar as possible, tribanders, low band dipoles, ICOM IC-765 transceivers and IC-735 spotting receivers.

A multinational group of amateurs acted as judges, working nearly around the clock to determine the final places. A full story on this event will appear soon in QST.

ANNOUNCEMENT

ISRAEL SHORTENS "BANNED LIST" (From The ARRL Letter, June 1, 1990)

On March 25, 1990, the Israel Ministry of Communications rescinded its prohibition on contacting neighboring countries with whom peace treaties have not been conducted. Consequently, Israeli amateurs now may legally contact amateurs in Algeria, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and both North and South Yemen.

Receiver Intermodulation and Noise Measurements

Dave Leeson, W6QHS

Intermodulation and Noise — Intermodulation between two or more large signals in the receiver front end is often heard in transceivers under crowded contest conditions. Degradation of the receiver filter passband for very large signals generally reflects the presence of frequency or phase noise due to the receiver oscillators.

Measurement of Intermods and Noise — The small portable test set shown in Figure 1, containing two independent crystal oscillators, a resistive mixer and a precision step attenuator, is a convenient means of measuring intermods and phase noise performance. The crystal oscillators are low phase noise signal sources that can each be switched on or off so that one or two signals can be introduced into the receiver under test. In the particular unit I use, the two oscillators are spaced in frequency by 12.5 kHz. All measurements are made with 500 Hz IF filters.

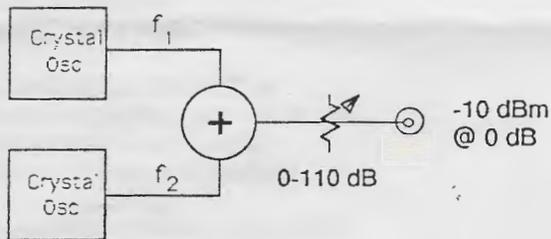


Figure 1 — Simple Intermod and Noise Test Set

Using this test set, measurements of intermodulation, phase noise and receiver sensitivity are made using the substitution method to interpret noise or signal level readings on the S-meter or, for very low levels, an audio voltmeter plugged into the headphone jack.

Some Comparisons — I measured several transceivers, including two I have used for a number of years, to aid my choice of new transceivers. I measured the rigs listed in the figures below, without (Figure 2) and with (Figure 3) high gain preamps if they had them.

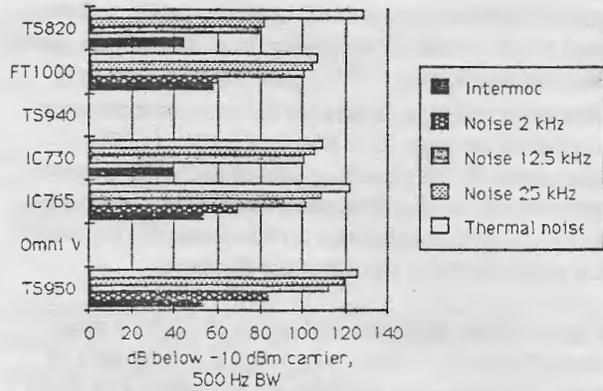


Figure 2 — Comparison of Receivers in High Intercept Mode

I did not measure the IC781, but I am told the receiver in the IC765 is similar. I believe there is an error of as much as 6 to 10 dB in the measurements on the FT1000, because the audio output on thermal noise was not enough to bring my audio voltmeter to standard level. I measured only one example of each rig, but I believe the results are typical.

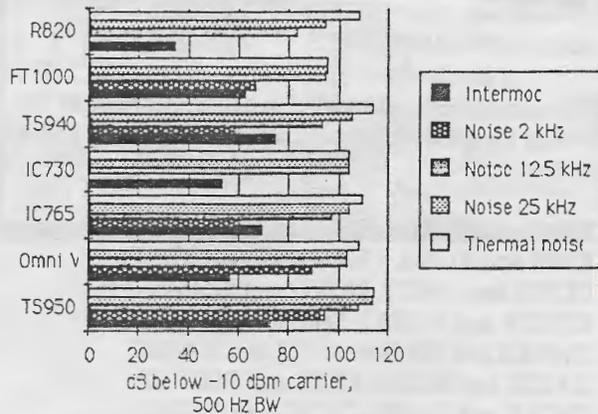


Figure 3 — Comparison of Transceivers in High Gain Mode

I regret that in our litigious society I must disclaim any responsibility whatsoever for measurement inaccuracies or for any use made of this material.

BUS BULL

Plans are coming together for the return of the NCDXC Bus to Visalia. The bus will depart the Bay Area on Friday 12 April 91 and return Sunday 14 April 91.

Current plans are to originate the bus north of the Golden Gate, possible as far north as Santa Rosa depending upon the desires of the riders. Pickup stops will be made in the North and along the Peninsula with the last stop being San Jose at approximately noon on Friday. Return will be along the same route with a Visalia departure approximately 13:00 Sunday.

Price is anticipated to be in the \$55 to \$65 range (Bus companies are reluctant to quote fixed prices this far in advance due to unknown fuel and labor costs). The price will include a selection of Napa Valley Wines and Imported Beers with a Deli-style lunch of your choice on the way to Visalia. Soft drinks, juices and mixes will also be available. The bus will be non-smoking.

Seats will be limited to 45. I've already received a number of inquiries from out of town DXers so it's not too early to book. If interested, contact:

Ken Anderson, K6PU
Box 934
Los Gatos, CA 95031

Phone:
408-473-4342 Day
408-353-4466 Night(before 2100 local)

BUS BULL

So what did I choose, and why? Well, I am enjoying my new TS950, which I chose for its operating controls, variable bandwidth, low noise, and the satisfaction I have had with my TS820 and R820 combination. It is a pleasure to have so many good units to choose among today. See you in the pileups!

1 Leeson, D.B., "A Simple Model of Feedback Oscillator Noise Spectrum," Proc. IEEE, Vol. 54, No. 2, February, 1966

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LETTERS

Dear DXer Editor,

W6OAT's comments in "Rusty's Ramblings" (May, 1990) was right on the money. I'm getting very frustrated by stations who knowingly call when they know the DX station is trying to work another station. During the recent S21U DXpedition, they tried to work KD6GC. The operator came back with the partial call — the station with 6GC. This reduced the pileup to only about 100 stations of whom 75 had a 6 in the call but only one had either a G or a C! It actually took 7 minutes for S21U to work KD6GC through this mess. Fortunately, the S21U op made it very clear that he would not work the others until he made a QSO with 6GC. How do we break such bad practices? A number of the offenders were connected on the DXPSN. When I asked them why they persisted in the practice, I was told they would work DX any way they wanted to! (I guess they didn't notice that they failed to work S21U!) It seems that the guys with the bigger antennas and amplifiers are the worst offenders. I guess it's some kind of ego trip. Personally, I find these lids worse than the jammers.

73,

Steve Lund, WA8LLY

25 YEARS AGO

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGOAugust 1965

Meeting held at Taddys Steak House San Mateo. Excerpts of August meeting reported by W6RGG as follows:

W1WPO was honored guest and speaker (Would you young squirts like to guess who that was?).

W6ZMW reported the DXer editorship was open to anyone. i.e. Curt had to resign due to work pressures. Also that NCDXC is paying for 6 pages but only publishing 4. So urged members to send in articles, editorials (so what's new?). W6RGG tentatively agreed to handle the "DX News Page" to report DX QTHs managers, etc.

W6BHY (recognize that call?) reported W6TI inactive due to K6VVA's (W6TI custodian) long hours at the cannery.

WA6TGY (Tall Green Yankee, Joe Reisert, now W1JR) reported a surplus of \$29.17 from Convention expenses.

Q&A period with W1WPO, guest speaker. Subjects discussed = DXCC record keeping, size of Honor Roll, Multi band DXCC and country status as follows: 4X1 = unknown, Singapore = unknown, AC4 (Gus Browning) = OK, VP2 = all crown colonies, ZA = "acceptable contacts have been made by various EU operators visiting there, PK = Don Miller OK by FCC, no objections from ARRL, BY = any American to operate in China will need the permission of the USA and Chinese governments. New country possibilities or status: Rockall, St Peter & St Paul, Ebon (Ecuador), Comoran (Costa Rica), UN New York (US license).

DXCC members standing: W6AM leads both Mixed (313/339) and Fone only (308/335). Next in Mixed = W6CYV (308/326), W6GPB (306/327), W6KEV (304/326). Next in fone = K6VVA (265/279), W6LCF (262/274), K6ERV (234/250). W6RGG has moved up to (157/187) with 39 zones. W6KG leads WPX with 650/700.

P.S. W1WPO was Bob White head of ARRL DXCC desk. An honorary member of NCDXC and now W1CW living in Florida with XYL Ellen White, W1YL. Ellen also Honorary member of NCDXC.

73, de W6ISQ

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

In case you've just returned from an expedition somewhere, I was elected your new president while you were gone.

I have been secretary 1978-79 and Vice President 1979-1980 when I held the call K6OP. Outside of that its pretty much a Dan Quail set of qualifications. Seriously though, I will work with our Board of Directors which this year is an outstanding group, to try and maintain our standing as the "Greatest DX Club in the World".

There are a number of issues that have been discussed "in the bar" or mumbled under our breaths which we are going to get out in the open and deal with in the coming year. Maybe one of them is your favorite "problem with the club".

K6ZM after 20 years of heading up the California Award has decided to retire. The NCDXC will be presenting Phil with an award for his efforts if we can ever track Phil down. Thanks a lot for your 20 years of work Phil!

The new Calif. Award Chairman is that endangered California bird (Turkey) Rubin Hughes WA6AHF. Rubin is a holder of the Calif. Award, so he should know what its all about.

The Calif. Award incidently has been somewhat of a well kept secret in some parts of the World. W6VG, Ron Panton, hopes to solve that problem by collecting a list of all the DX clubs in the World and sending them the Calif. Award information. If you have information on any foreign DX clubs please make sure W6VG hears from you; it might be a "new one" for him.

Repeater Comittee Chairman Smitty, W6JZU, has also decided to retire to the shack full time. The new Chairman will be AG6Q, Ralp Hunt. Last seen Ralp was in Mountaineering attire setting out for an expedition to find the repeater.

Normally the month of September sees the NCDXC holding the annual picnic, however since Rusty did such a good job with the picnic on July 28th for the foreign DX'ers, we are going to call that the annual picnic for this year. September will be a regular meeting month.

Last but not least, you've probably heard that the next meeting will be back at Harry's at the Palo Alto golf course. This is planned to be a regular monthly occurrence from now on unless we have an occasional meeting somewhere else (like in the East Bay). For those of you who insist on Chinese food, well I guess you'll have to eat before you come to the meeting.....
73's Ron NG6X.

VISALIA

There will be a meeting of the Visalia Convention Committee and other interested persons at the home of W6VG, August the 8th at 1900 hours. The Committee is still looking for just one good person to serve as program chairman.

This years convention patch design competition is open. A suitable prize is being offered for the winning patch.

Planning for the bus to the convention is well under way. K6PU will have information available at the next meeting. 73 de Steve, W6MKM

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

WANTED

Feature items for future DXer issues. One to two pages of text plus illustrations is the best size. Any subject of interest to DXers that will not involve Tipper Gore is acceptable. de K6ZX

TECH INFO

Ham Gear Manufacturers Address and Phone Numbers from Ham New Outlet and NFARS Balanced Modulator

Yaesu U.S.A. Service Dept. (213) 404-4884 17210 Edwards Rd. Cerritos, CA 90701

Note: Turn around time is 8-10 weeks.

Labor rate is \$50 per hour.

Customer Service Parts Dept.: (800) 633-4455

Literature: (800) 999-2070

Alternate Yaesu Source: Fox Tango Parts; 747 S. Macedo Blvd.; Pt. St. Sueie, FL 34983
(404) 879-6868 FAX (407) 878-8856

Icom America Service & Parts: (206) 454-8155 Bellevue, WA

Note: Labor rate is \$55 per hour.

Trio-Kenwood Communications Service Dept.: (213) 639-7140 1111 W. Walnut St.; Compton, CA 90220

MFJ Enterprises Parts & Service (800) 647-1800 (orders only) (601) 323-5869 (other) Box 494; (921 Louisville Rd. ;) Mississippi State, Miss. 39762

Heath Co. Tech Info: (616) 982-3296
Parts: (616) 982-3497 or 3571

AEA Customer Service: (206) 775-7373
Alinco Customer Service: (213) 618-8616
FAX (213) 618-8758

Ameritron Service: (419) 531-3024
Azden Customer Service: (404) 769-8706
Repair (2-4pm only) (404) 769-8706

B & W Customer Service: (215) 778-5581
Butternut Service: (512) 398-7117 also parts and tech info.

Cushcraft Service: (603) 627-7859 also parts and tech info.

ETO Customer Service: (719) 260-1191
FAX (719) 260-0395

Hy GainRotor Parts: (402) 465-7021
Antenna/Tower: (402) 465-7022
JRC Customer Service: (212) 355-1180

COMMENT

DXCC FROM AFAR (Reprinted from "The ARRL Letter," May 4, 1990)

Field checking of QSL cards for DXCC is favored by a majority of DXers, a show of hands at the Dayton HamVention DX Forum indicated. But there are reservations.

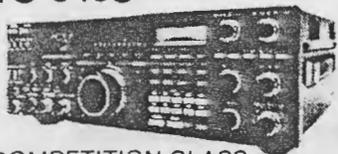
The Membership Services Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors, following a discussion in Dayton, will write a preliminary proposal for such a system, to include:

- Maintaining the integrity of the DXCC program;
- Reducing processing time;
- Reducing costs;
- Involving only highly qualified field checkers in the process.

The committee favors having highly motivated DX clubs provide the remote checking of QSLs, with stringent requirements for appointment. Field checking could be limited to a short list of "more common countries," to avoid questions of accreditation.

The MSC discussions were directed by the ARRL Board at its January, 1990 meeting, and will continue.

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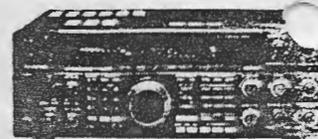
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