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# Northern California DX Club DXer



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Volume XLIII - Number 11

November, 1990

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## RON'S COMMENTS

DXer K6DR has been busy in Sacramento planning our Feb. meeting. The indications are that a number of members would be arriving Friday PM for the meeting and staying overnight rather than make the trip home after the meeting. Tony, K6DR, has talked to the owner of the Santa Fe Inn (where the meeting will be held) and he will give us a good deal on rooms if we can book 10 or 15 rooms in advance. (see article Page 6).

We would like to get an idea of how many people might be going at the next meeting so please give it some thought.

Second subject; ARCHIVIST... "One who has charge of Archives". W6VG has resigned as Club Archivist and we would like someone to offer to take over this job. The files are presently stored in a storage facility in Menlo Park. The job consists of getting into the files every couple of months to put something in or retrieve something. Its not a real high stress job but one that can help the Club...please give me a call or send a message to me on packet if you would like to help by taking this job... 73's and see you at Harry's Ron NG6X

## ANNOUNCEMENT

DXer John Gibson, N6OM wishes it to be known that he will be operating from Rarotonga, South Cook Islands for the period of 17 November to 29 December, 1990. He has requested the call ZK1OM, however the final assignment has not been made. Activity will take place using an ICOM IC-751 transceiver and Cushcraft AP8 multiband vertical which covers 10 through 80 meters, including WARC bands. Results from "MultiProp" are being used to plan operation. The location is at the Edgewater Resort Hotel, on the southwest corner of the island. Contacts with NCDXC, NCCC and SPARK members will be welcome, both during and after CQWW. de N6OM.

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## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9th. 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. PROGRAM; USAF Captain Gary Wells Subject; Solar Terrestrial Effects on HF Propagatio

## 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. Unless otherwise  
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### NCDXC OFFICERS

President: Ron Rasmussen, NG6X  
Vice President: Bill Fontes, W6TEX  
Secretary: Stan Kuhl, K6MA  
Treasurer: Bob Wilson, NQ6X  
Director: Morris Brown, N6DJM  
Director: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G  
Director: Larry Souza, KG6GF

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Send DX ladder reports to:

Larry Bloom  
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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

September 1990 BOD Meeting, Harry's Hoffbrau,  
Mtn. View

Present: NQ6X, NG6X, W6OAT, W6TEX, N6DJM,  
K6MA

1. December Christmas Party/Meeting  
- For Stanford Faculty Club, 75 Minimum guarantee  
required.

- Club to vote at next membership meeting  
- Program and/or entertainment TBD after club vote.

2. October 12th meeting

- Belmont Holiday Inn  
- 75 minimum guarantee required  
- Firm count and menu selection needed week  
before meeting  
- ~45 advance purchases so far  
- Program is Jim Smith at A51JS - Bhutan

3. Archives

- Storage locker full, W6VG requests review of  
document by someone to purge unneeded material.  
NG6X to appoint a volunteer.

4. Febr. Mtg.

- Proposed mtg in Sacramento being investigated.  
W6TEX to coordinate with Saco group. Antenna  
program proposed.

5. Rusty proposed NCDXC to request North & South  
Korea country clarification.

- Presently only listed as "Korea" in DXCC listings.  
- BOD gave go-ahead to assemble information of  
North/South sovereignty, customs, stamps, currency,  
etc.  
- W6OAT to assemble research material and make  
proposal to membership at a future date.

6. Extensive discussion on operating ethics with  
respect to parag. 1-105a2 of Procedures Manual as  
applicable to multiple QSO's. Agreed offending  
individuals will be warned in writing.

7. Short discussion on DX activity (or lack of it) of  
many members. Perhaps membership criteria needs  
review to maintain membership. More club DX  
activity and congeniality should be encouraged on  
repeater.

Respectfully submitted, Stan Kuhl K6MA, NCDXC  
Secretary

## MEETING MINUTES

NCDXC Membership Dinner / Meeting - October 12, 1990

- Held at Belmont Holiday Inn

1. Ron NG6X opened the meeting, introducing Jim Smith VK9NS.

2. Jim's presentation was his DXpedition to Bhutan operating as A51JS. slides showed how difficult propagation conditions must have been with his QTH at the bottom of what looked like a 5000 ft gorge. No wonder he was so weak on the west coast. His talk and slides were very informative.

3. The Living Legend, Bud Bane - W6WB was honored by Jim Maxwell W6CF and the Club.  
- Bud pioneered Spark, 10 Meters, DX in the 20's and 30's.

- Bud wrote the first DX Column.  
- Bud was Editor for Radio Magazine.  
- Bud wrote over 200 articles.  
- A standing ovation for Bud - a legend in our time.

4. 3 new applications for membership. First Reading  
- WB6JJJ, Bill Maurer  
- N6SSM, Bob Board  
- WA6AVU, Henry Scarlett

5. 2 Second Readings, not presented.  
- WA6ERB, Bob Gobrick  
- NI6T, Garry Shapiro  
Since none of the sponsors were present.

6. Proposed that NCDXC sponsor proposal for clarification of North Korea and South Korea country status. W6OAT has most of the research information but could not be at the meeting due to schedule conflict. Motion was tabled until the next meeting.

7. Meeting adjourned 11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Stan Kuhl K6MA, NCDXC Secretary.

## MARATHON

The race is on ...

I guess I should say the race is over, and everyone is a winner, that is everyone who participated in the 1990 DX Club Marathon.

The bands were good from June 1 to September 1, as you can see by the results. One all time record in the mixed mode of 245 countries set by W6BIP in 1980 was broken this year by Morris N6DJM with 248 countries followed very closely by Frank K6RQ with 239 followed by Bip W6BIP with 203.

Competition was also fierce in the phone mode with Larry KG6GF checking in with a whopping score of 241 (a possible new record) followed by Mac W6BSY with 230 followed by Walt WD6EKR with 148.

In the CW mode Don W6YHM took first place with 167 which was a photo finish with second place winner, Bob N6EA who checked in with 165 followed by Stan K6MA with 97.

Placques and certificates will be presented at a club meeting as soon as they are completed, or they will be awarded at Visalia. Please see line scores below and thanks to everyone who participated! 73 and good DXing, Rich WX6M.

<u>Name and Call</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>CW</u>
Morris N6DJM	248		
Larry KG6GF		241	
Frank K6RQ	239		
Mac W6BSY		230	
Bip W6BIP	203		
Jerry AI6L	192		
Don W6YHM			167
Bob N6EA			165
Walt WD6EKR		148	
John N6JM	146		
Hal N6AN	108		
Stan K6MA			97
Jerry K6SMH			52

We had a visitor during the summer months, a shirt-tail relative from over the mountains and beyond the Great American Desert. Actually, an east coast type, if you know what I mean. This one had never before been exposed to amateur radio. He even had to ask what DX meant. This one really was from the east. You know what I mean.

He was also literate. Had some type of a degree and was always dropping strange words. That was bad enough but it seemed that every time he said something he would have to add: "You know what I mean?" Of course we did. Most times anyway.

He liked to listen to the two-meter box. He acted like he had discovered something previously unknown to the scientific world. That is, his scientific world. DXers are known to know most everything. He soon found that out.

"I am amazed at the depth of knowledge that these fellows display", he told us one day. "I hear them talking about places and countries of which I had previously never even heard. Some of them sound like my geography professor back at State College. Yesterday I heard them talking about Tuvalu, I think I pronounced that right, about Kiribati and about Bujumbura and the Comoros. It was not only the countries they talked about, it was the territories and areas in those countries. Who are these DXers anyhow?"

How does one answer questions like that? "Just some of the locals", we said, "fellows that I meet down at the local club gatherings. Just ordinary Californians—like myself for example". It was obvious that he was not ready to accept ordinary Californians on the western edge as equals to the elitist crowd he knew back home. Not yet, anyhow. But we also knew we had his attention. You know what I mean.

Then he started keeping a notebook, listening on 147.36 and jotting notes in a pad. Something had caught his attention, we did wonder what it was. Eventually we learned.

"Are you aware," he asked one early Fall morning, "that almost all of those on, you call it the two-meter box, that most of them show definite signs of sesquipedalianism."

"What!" we roared. Then we realized that this called for calm words and careful thinking, and we continued: "Maybe. Maybe there is a little of that around. You know how things are these days." Then we had to know more but did not want to ask questions. It could be something we might not want to discuss. This reticence hardly slowed this visitor at all.

"Oh, definitely!", he said. "I hear the same stations, same call signs, I think that is the term you use, I hear them daily and they very obviously are sesquipedalians. Some seem to have been for years. You can tell by listening to their words and their speech as they talk. Haven't you noticed it?"

If we had we did not remember. That was for sure. We did know of one club president years back who had shown up to preside at a meeting wearing a Nehru jacket. But we have seen neither him nor the Nehru Jacket for years. "Anyone in particular," we asked, hopefully casting out a line with a hook on it. It worked.

"Oh, certainly", was the quick reply. "But certainly you must already know. It's so obvious". It might be to him but it was not to us. We definitely had to know. "You mean—", we started in, and having to open the package, said: "You mean Rubin? WA6AHF? Him?"

The visitor nodded his head. But he said nothing. all he did was look in his book and check off a name. Then he looked again at us. We knew we were expected to continue. The bad part was that we did not really know what we were talking about. We even thought it possible that this one did. Unfortunately.

But we were not stumped—yet. Long ago, in an age now far, far away, we had learned the rules. "Toss the ball into the air and shout: 'Catch!'" had been Rule #1. So we tossed names into the air and watched for the check marks. We got them. Actually, more than we wished.

"W6SYL", we murmured and the name was checked off. We plunged on, every name brought a check-off. We called out as fast as we could and the check marks followed. "W6BIP—W6BSY—W6TSQ—K6MA—W6JBZ—WA6AUE—W6CF—WB6ZUC—W6PHF—W6OAT—W6ERS—K6ITL". We called them, he checked them. Every single one we called. Then we started to run short of calls, but he had not. He looked questioningly at us, pencil poised, but we had run dry. Actually, we were starting to feel some anxiety. It was a confusing experience. Most everyone had this thing and we no idea what it was. Or

what it looked like. You know what I mean.

We had known the feeling before. It was like the time a DXer had donated his custom-built station to the Foundation, and the panic that ensued when it was found that the station could be rated at a cool 30KW. "If the FCC finds we have this, we will all lose our licenses!" one alarmed one had shouted. It turned out that no one lost their license because the station was hurriedly shipped out of the country. Our licenses, hopefully, would not be in jeopardy if the corpus delicti could not be found. Come to think of it, it did, as we recall, go to some place in northern Europe. Some place named Chernobyl or something like that. It was in some country far, far away. Far from the FCC that is.

We did not want to say another callsign. We had had enough. Later when this nosy one had left the state we called up W6TSQ. "Sam", we said cautiously, "we have to talk with you. We saw a list and you call is there, right on the list". If we thought Sam would be worried, we had a surprise coming.

We got a roar of indignation. "On a list", came the strangled cry, "I've never been on a list. Never!" We had to pause and think for a moment. Possibly our memories were not in sync, then we realized that Sam was thinking of something else. Obviously.

"No, not a DX list", we quickly said, "it's another kind of a list. You know. A list of people—well, let's say with possible problems. It might be something—you know what I mean." It did not take long to know that confusion reigned on all fronts. After a bit Sam found his voice again. "Tell 'em I gave at Washington", was his brusque comment and that was it. All of it. And he would listen no more to our worried words.

Somehow, we knew something was gone, all gone. Gone! Gone were all the remembered days of our youth and the joys of DXing. And we were left with that eternal night that surrounds the sorrowing human heart. And all we could say was: Why? Why them? Why?

You know what I mean, don't you?

de WA6AUD Hugh Cassidy, with heartfelt thank you's from all of us.

## WE GET LETTERS

---

Malawi, Africa  
30 September 1990

Dear Friends,

We have just finished our DXpedition in Malawi. We stayed in the Capital City Motel in the Capital of Lilongwe. It was a good choice because the food and accommodations were excellent, and there was a great high place to erect our antenna. We ended up with a total of 7000 QSOs, and we contacted amateurs in 155 countries. We were on the air from 13 September to 29 September 1990. The call was rare and it was one of our better operations. Our call was 7Q7KG.

We obtained our licenses in the city of Blantyre, a distance of 352 Kilometers from Lilongwe. The licenses were issued promptly, and the licensing authorities were most friendly and cooperative. We did, however, have to pay the most we have ever paid for our permits to operate. The cost was \$115 U.S. for each of our licenses.

As we write, we are not sure of our next stop. We hope that it will be in Africa at some place that we have never operated.

73 es 88, Lloyd and Iris Colvin, W6KG W6QL

## TREASURERS REPORT

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NCDXC Treasurers Report 9/1 - 9/30/90	
Checking Account Activity	
Aug. 31 E.O.M. Balance	4532.95
Deposits from Dues	1778.00
Other Income	<u>947.51</u>
Sub Total	7258.46
Accounts Payable	1324.60
Balance 9/30/90	5933.86

Savings Account Status	
B of A a/o 9/18/90 (incl QSL reserves)	
	13041.13
American Savings Bank a/o 9/22/90	
	8928.07
Repeater Fund Wells Fargo a/o eom 9/90	
	1808.03

Bob Wilson NQ6X NCDXC Treasurer

## ANNOUNCEMENT

---

At the April 1989 meeting of the NCDXC BOD, approval was granted to hold the February 8, 1991 regular meeting in Sacramento.

The primary purpose is to permit NCDXC members in the Sacramento Valley to attend without the inconvenience of frequent long drives to the Palo Alto area. Additionally this meeting would provide an occasional opportunity to enjoy the club dinner and fellowship and participate in the business functions of the NCDXC.

Necessary arrangements for a suitable meeting place with the required hotel, dining and conference space which are conveniently located have now been finalized. Remaining or incomplete details will be smoothed out in the following weeks.

The NCDXC board will conduct a normal business meeting. The Sacramento committee members will provide necessary support details and local publicity to insure a good attendance from the Sacramento area.

The full support of the Bay area members is a prime and essential requirement to promote and achieve a successful meeting and turn out.

The meeting will be held at the Santa Fe Inn, 2600 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, Ca. 95821. Telephone (916) 482-4770 or (800) 848-7744. The Santa Fe Inn may be reached from Highway Business 80 at the Fulton Avenue off ramp at Auburn Blvd. You will see the Santa Fe Inn easily at this intersection, across the street. Ask the registration desk for the special reduced rates:

- Single Occupancy ... \$38 plus tax.
- Each additional person ... \$5

Complimentary full breakfast for each person, with plenty of free parking.

For the meeting dinner, the cost will be \$15 per person, including tax and tip. Entree choices are:

- Breast of Chicken Tarragon
- Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus
- Vegetarian

Dinners (except Vegarian) include garden salad (choice of three dressings), hot rolls, coffee, tea and dessert.

The program for the meeting will include:

- NCDXC member Peter Onnigian, W6QEU speaking on "What's new in Yagi Amateur Radio Antennas". He is a recognized designer of commercial TV and FM broadcast antennas and will introduce his new "Ham Pro" antenna product line.

- NCDXC member Jay O'Brien, W6GO, will make a short presentation of "Today's New Developments in Packet Cluster".

For those persons remaining overnight, Jay and Jan O'Brien have invited any and all to visit their Antenna Farm, Packet installation and their QSL Manager Publication, W6GO/K6HHD List facility in Rio Linda.

There will be Golf! Starting times will be obtained for all interested Divot Diggers at the nearby Haggin Oaks Municipal courses. An 18 hole and two nine hole facilities are almost directly across the street from the Santa Fe Inn. The Sacramento Sand Baggers foresee no difficulty in winning both the Low Net and Low Gross prizes. Send reservations to John Van Blitter, K6NM or phone (916) 756-3700 by January 1 or earlier. Green fees currently are:

- 18 Holes ... \$14
- Golf Cart ... \$16
- Prize fund ProRata ... \$2

Staying overnight is recommended. Driving can be hazardous in February. It is suggested that you make your reservations not later than January 8.

Please submit dinner and meeting reservations, with prepayment to:

Ed Merritt KF6EN  
2512 Cambon Way  
Sacramento, Ca 95821 (916) 489-2285

Those registering by January 8, 1991 will be eligible for the Early Registration Door Prize, which is a Ham-Pro 15 Element Two Meter Yagi, Model H144-15 (value \$225). Other prizes will be offered at the meeting. See you there!

## PROPAGATION

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 42 arlp042 from Ed Tilton, w1hdq Wethersfield CT October 15, 1990 to all radio amateurs

During the first half of October the solar flux rose at a fairly rapid rate. As of Sunday night the flux had reached 220, ten points above the September peak. Combined with the expected improvement in propagation at this time of year, the second half of the month should bring improved dx conditions, especially on 28 and 50 mhz.

As to the latter band, we already have reports of transatlantic dx on 50 mhz in recent days. The rest of this year and the early months of 1991 should be good times for users of 21 mhz and higher frequencies up through 50 mhz. The peak is likely to come in late November. The conditions most important to 50 mhz are the increased occupancy and the vastly improved performance of solid state gear for this band.

Since late September and through most of October, the author of these bulletins has been visiting friends and relatives in Connecticut and Massachusetts. We expect to be back in Spring Hill, Florida, before the end of October. We operate mainly on 21 through 144 mhz, but are set up for all bands from 3.8 to 432 mhz. Our mailing address is PO box 5529, Spring Hill, FL 34606.

American sunspot numbers for October 4 through 10 were 152, 123, 113, 149, 169, 134 and 152 respectively, with a mean figure of 141.7. Solar flux numbers as reported by WWV for the same time period were 184, 169, 169, 168, 179, 182 and 192, with a mean figure of 177.6. Ar

## 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. If you don't come through, you will be faced with more ARRL Letter reprints. de K6ZX

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 1991 Callbooks

The cover price for the two books is \$59.90. For \$56, we will send you both books via UPS. Send your order NOW so that you can have your books in early December. Add \$10 (\$66 total) if you want the supplement sent to you in June 1991. (Prices include tax and shipping.) This is also a good time to start or renew your subscription to the W6GO/K6HHD QSL Manager list. Add \$20 for one year or \$40 for 25 issues. All prices are for USA addresses.

Jay & Jan O'Brien  
The W6GO/K6HHD List  
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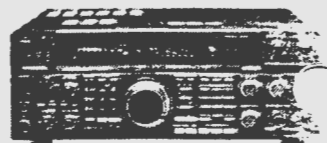
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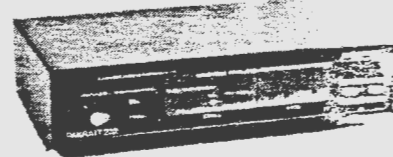
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