Northern California DX Club DXer



Volume XLIV - Number 2

February 1991

RON'S COMMENTS

You've probably heard the announcement hundreds of times on the Thursday night net about W6TI...owned and operated by the NCDXC for use by its members for the purpose of announcing DX and DX related subjects.

Visiting DX'ers are always welcome as well as anyone who wishes to make a DX announcement, member or not.

If you listen to the repeater very long you will hear people who don't meet this description.

- 1. Ex members who don't pay their dues.
- 2. Non-members who talk to memebers about DX or other subjects.
- 3. Non-members calling or in QSO with non-members.
- 4. You Uncle Marvin who usually calls you on W6TI because he knows you monitor here.

Please discourage people who don't belong on the repeater by ignoring them or requesting that they immediately QSY to another repeater. The rest of the Membership will thank you for it.

73 de NG6X



Let there be ZA's!

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NEXT MEETING

The gathering at the Sierra Inn in Sacramento. See previous issues for details. Drive carefully.

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 noted, permission to use any portion of this publication is hereby granted, provided credit is given to the DXer.

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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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

Board of Directors Meeting for January, 1991

There was no meeting of the B.O.D.

NCDXC Membership Meeting, January 11, 1991

Harry's Hoffbrau, Palo Alto

- Meeting opened by President, NG6X
- Program by AG6Q Seanet Convention and South East Asia trip by AG6Q, 1985
- · Membership reading

3 new applications for membership, First Reading:

NH6T - Reg Olson N6DVR - James Monty AD6E - Al Maenchen

2 Second readings; all approved for member ship K6AFL - Rowland Haegele KB6JXT - Todd Jonz

2 Life Membership readings; all approved: W8MEP - Gerald Griffen W6YFW - Glenn Koropp

- Convention report by W6MKM and K6ITL:
 Lots of prizes.
 No one scheduled to come to Visalia by ARRL.
 K6PU waiting for bus reservations requests for "Liquid Suspension Special" to Visalia.
 Call or Bus may be cancelled.
- A round of applause for Louise, KA6ING for completing 40 Zones on 10 Meters!

Respectfully submitted: Stan Kuhl, K6MA NCDXC Secretary Pat Whittle, AK6T, became a Silent Key on January 19, 1991. He started his activities in Amateur Radio in London before WW II by using a British non-radiating license. During the war, Pat served in the RAF and afterword used a British occupation force type of Amateur license in Germany. After coming to Danville 26 years ago, he received the call AK6T and operated in many multi-multi contests from K6ZM. He also operated from Barbados as 8P9AK during the WW SSB Contest in 1985. He was a member of both NCDXC and NCCC and was Editor of the Contest Jug at the present time! We have all lost a good Amateur Radio Operator and a very good friend. 73, Pat!

de Phil Frazier, K6ZM

TREASURERS REPORT

NCDXC Treasurers Report
December 1, 1990 to December 31, 1990

Checking Account Activing Nov. 30 EOM Balance Deposits from dues Other income	208.00 295.00	
Sub Total	23.00	503.00 63 7 3.99
Accounts Payable Balance EOM Dec. 31, 19	90	1454.37 4919.62
Savings Account Status B of A as of 12/18/90 (includes QSL reserves)		13367.57
American Savings Bank as of 12/22/90		9115.42

de Bob Wilson NQ6X

Repeater Fund a/o 10/31/90

Robert J. Gobrick WA6ERB P.O. Box 1591 Champlain, NY 12919-1591

John C. Naylor K6BR P.O. Box 770 Burlingame, CA 94010

John Hardin WA6LKM 1544 Debbra Way Manteca, CA 95336

(209) 239-9253

Scott Williams AE6U U.S. Embasy-Belize-VOA Washington, D.C. 20521-3050

New Members

Ronald D. Olson AA6PV 1739 Cape Coral Dr. San Jose, CA 95133

(408) 926-9753 H (415) 966-3524 W

Todd Jonz KB6JXT 312 Laurent St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(408) 423-0270 H (415) 960-1300 W

Rowland Haegle K6AFL 1005 Continental Dr. Menlo Park, CA 94025

(415) 854-6029

1788.03

Telegraphic Speed & Shortcuts by Donald K. deNeuf

Around the turn of the century, the semiautomatic key (or "bug") and the typewriter made the movement of traffic by the American Morse Telegraph Code considerably faster bhan the older method of sending with a straight key and copying by hand writing. The urge was always present to "move copy" faster .. especially in the press field.

Wlater philips, a crack operator for the Associated Press, devised a set of abbreviations even before the advent of the "bug" and typewriter, which went a long way in accomplishing greater speed. He published his "Philips Code" as early as 1879 and it bacame the standard abbreviation code in the U.S.A. and Canada for press message transmissions. "AB" stood for "about", "BC" stood for "because" and "CCN" for "conclusion". "WIT" meant witness, "RKZ" meant recognize, and so on.

There were nearly 6,000 such abbreviations. Skilled receiving operators using a typewriter could easily type out the abbreviated word in full and keep-up with the sender as fast as he could go. But they couldn't let their minds wander. "POX" was the code for "police". A news dispatch once referred to a breakout of smallpox. One absent-minded operator copied it as "a breakout of small police."

While many operators became familiar with his abbreviation code, few knew that in 1914, Phillips designed a modified Morse telegraph code which he felt would not violate the prevailing sentiment attached to the existing code and, at the same time, would dispose of the drawbacks of the "spaced dots" used in the letters C, O, R, Y, and Z, and the extralong dash signifying the letter L.

Despite occasional Morse telegraph errors caused by careless senders (as "seen" for "son", "sheep" for "shop", "tease" for "lease", etc.) Phillips' proposal never caught on .. habit is difficult to change and some operators felt strongly that the spaced-dot letters provided somewhat faster transmission than would the proposed code.

If Phillips had been able to present his proposed code somewhat earlier, it might have been the one eventually adopted internationally to

replace Morse's original code which was not satisfactory to many European countries for two principal reasone. The spaced-dots were not practical on sluggish "swinging needle" type circuits and submarine cable telegraphy. The other reason was that the code made no provisions for diacritically marked letters used in Europe.

Because of these problems, an International Telegraph Conference held in Berlin in 1851 devised and adopted the present-day "International" code which utilizes some of Morse's original signals but eliminates and spaced-dots and the long-L, and it provides for the accented letters.

Morse's original code remained the standard for landline telegraphy in North America despite the use of the International Code on overseas cable and radio circuits and in maritime wireless communication until the 1930's when it began to be phased out with the introduction of teleprinters which replaced manual Morse telegraphy.

From The Procedings of The Radio Club of America, Vol. 64, no. 1, May 1990 via W6CF.

DX LADDER

On the opening of the 102nd Congress, Representative Cooper of Tennessee introduced a bill called the "SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 1991". It is designated HR 73. This bill, if enacted into law would prohibit the FCC from removing spectrum from the Amateur Service and would require the FCC to provide equivalent replacement spectrum if a portion of Amateur Radio spectrum is reallocated after January 1, 1991.

Now is the time to get other members of the House of Representatives to support HR 73. Please write your Representative and ask for his or her support of HR 73. You should also ask your Representative to become a co-sponsor of the bill. We need 218 members of the House to become co-sponsors to insure passage of the bill.

Please send a copy of your letter to Perry Williams at ARRL Headquarters. He will work from the Washington office to help sign up the co-sponsors. It is very probably that a similar measure will be introduced in the Senate. When this happens, we will need to contact the Senators to urge their support and ask for co-sponsorship. Listen to W1AW for information. Read the March 1991 issue of QST for more information on this important effort for Amateur Radio.

There is considerable interest among Radio Amateurs in receiving Desert Storm military radio transmissions in the HF fixed and aeronautical bands. Amateurs are reminded that divulging or otherwise utilizing such communications may be a violation of Section 705 of the Communications Act, regarding unauthorized publication of communications. This is from Special Bulletin 3, January 26, 1991 on W1AW.

On February 14, 1991, Amateur Radio in the United States will welcome its first no-code Technician Class licensees into the Amateur Service. It is very important that all Amateurs welcome these new Amateurs into the service and give them all the assistance they may need to get started in Amateur Radio. We need to renew our efforts at mentoring these new Amateurs. Each of these new Amateurs will have something to offer to the service. Please give them help if they ask for it.

edited from a release by C.P. McConnell, W6DPD, Director, ARRL Pacific Division.

The next DX-Ladder and WAZ-Ladder Reports will be included in the March issue of the DXer. This is a reminder for those Club Members who want to update their figures for these reports. Send your new numbers to KD6XY at the address listed elsewhere in this issue.

de Larry, KD6XY

FLEAS

Foothill College Flea Market Schedule

Date

Sponsoring Organization

March 9 - Palo Alto Red Cross April 13 - SPECS May 11 - EMARC June 8 - PARA July 13 - FARS August 10 - Perham Foundation September 14 - SPECS Users Group

Other Buy and Sell Events

October 12 - PARA Ampex Auction

PROPAGATION

SOLAR TERRESTRIAL FORECAST AND REVIEW

--- January 20 to January 29, 1991

Report Based In-Part from Data Obtained from the Space Environment Services Center Boulder Colo.

Geomagnetic activity over the past week has been generally quiet to unsettled. The most active day of the period was on 17 January. Some high latitude magnetic observatories reported some brief minor to major storming. Middle and low latitudes remained quiet to unsettled with some brief periods of active conditions, particularly after 12:00 UT on 17 January.

Auroral activity likewise remained mostly dormant over the past week. Activity peaked on 17 January, when moderate auroral activity became visible over most high latitude locations. Activity declined to mostly low levels over middle and low latitudes.

HF propagation conditions this week were above normal. Quiet geomagnetic activity early in the week, together with the higher solar indices produced good, stable propagation conditions over most latitudes. The increased geomagnetic activity on 17 January did not significantly alter the propagation conditions over middle and low latitudes. However, high latitudes did experience increased noise, absorption and auroral flutter. Conditions quickly improved and by 19 January, conditions had improved back to above normal for most locations. The two major flares this week produced SID's/SWF's which may have temporarily disrupted communications over sunlit areas of the earth. The last major flare of 21 January did produce a SID/SWF over Sydney, Australia. The event began at 00:18 UT and ended at 00:50 UT on 21 January.

VHF propagation conditions were normal this week. The SID of 21 January may have enhanced VHF propagation enough to provide DX conditions over many sunlit areas. Confirmation of a VHF SID enhancement has not yet been received.

SHORT TERM SOLAR TERRESTRIAL FORECAST

With the rotation of Region 6444 beyond the western limb on 21 January, and the disappearance of Region 6447 behind the west limb on 22 January, solar indices are expected to begin dropping. The appearance of several active regions on the eastern limb will help offset this decline, and may in fact boost solar indices temporarily. However, a general decline is expected to begin later this week as the major centers of activity rotate off the western limb.

There is a possibility that Region 6455 could spawn another major flare over the next 72 hours. The risk for major flaring from this region is declining, but is still worthy of note. M-class flaring is likely this week from Region 6455, departing Region 6447, and the emerging regions on the eastern solar limb. Hence, solar activity will likely fluctuate between low and moderate levels this week.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be generally quiet to unsettled throughout the coming week. A slight increase in activity may be observed early in the period, but should decline to mostly quiet to unsettled conditions throughout the remainder of the period.

Auroral activity should also remain mostly dormant throughout the coming week. Some sporadic and isolated activity may be noted over higher latitudes, but in general, activity should remain generally dormant over middle and low latitudes. Any activity observed over higher latitudes will likely remain confined to low levels, with possible brief bursts of moderate activity early in the period.

HF propagation conditions are expected to be above normal to normal this week. There is a risk for daytime SWF's (short-wave fades). M-class flaring has increased recently and is expected to remain elevated for at least the next two to three days. MUF's may begin to decline somewhat near the latter part of the week as solar indices begin to drop. No significant recurrent geophysical activity is expected this week to hamper attempts at HF DX (barring any significant solar activity).

VHF propagation should remain normal throughout this week. There is a moderate possibility for experiencing some sporadic, relatively brief periods of enhanced propagation conditions on the sunlit side of the earth over middle and low latitudes in response to occassional M-class flaring. There are not expected to be any significant auroral backscatter opportunities this week for the VHFer.

SHORTWAVE

If you are interested in getting a 'well rounded' view of Middle Eastern affairs, try listening on the following frequencies.

The Gulf on Shortwave!! Broadcasting:- all AM

13.605 Voice of United Arab Emirates 13.610 Radio Kuwait 13.660 Radio Baghdad 21.605 Voice of United Arab Emirates 15.640 Israel Radio 15.095 Radio Damascus 9.022 Voice of Islamic Republic of Iran

News (BBC World Service) 7.325 6.045 9.410 12.095

Israel Radio External Service can be found on 7.465 9.435 11.585 11.655 17.575 this is extremely good listening.

Radio Dubai 11.795 Radio KOL Jerusalem 11.605 BBC world service 7.325 Radio Moscow 11.980

Radio Baghdad International 13.660...but not been heard on recently...I wonder why??

6.040 Voice of America Radio Teheran 15.085

7.458 USB Bulgaria Telegraph...50 baud RX REV off 18.123 USB TASS Newsagency RTTY

Radio Damascus Syria 12.085

8.216 around here?...American voices...(sounds like phone patch)

8.340 to 8.360 USB..a lot of commercial beacons of RTTY and Sitor around here.

BAGHDAD 11.83 / 13.66 ISRAEL 9.435/11.65 / 12.075/15.64 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 13.675 / 15.4/15.435 CAIRO 9.475/9.675

ALL FREQUENCIES IN MHZ

Above information courtesy of Usenet and rec.hamradio. ZX

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

YOUR CLASSIFIED COULD BE HERE Limited to radio stuff. Three Lines limit. Run in one issue only. Letter or card to K6ZX

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