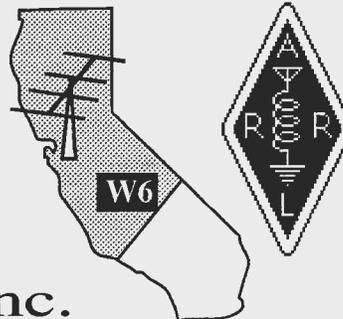


DXer



Northern California DX Club, Inc.

Prez Sez

World events have made August of 1991 an historic month throughout the world. In the world of DX, we also have an historic event; by the time you read this, you may have already made your first contact with 3W3RR's XZ team. Good luck to all.

At the August 9th meeting, we decided "Charlie" will no longer be homeless, but will reside at W6TI and be cared for by K6LLK (General Meeting, p6).

73 de W6TEX

Splitter Bidder Dithers to End Sept. 15

The club will accept bids on the remote-switched power splitter donated by NØXX (on behalf of DX Engineering) until September 15. The device, which will be available for inspection at the September meeting, is designed to handle 5 KW from 80 through 6 meters. It divides power equally between two antennas or, under remote control, steers all power to either antenna alone; that's handy for high and low yagis or other arrangements a big gun or contest station might employ. Sealed bids on the splitter, which retails for \$245, will be accepted from club members by Bill, W6TEX.

Dues Due . . . From You Too?

Dues deadline is September 30. Rates are: Regular: \$24, family: \$39 and associate: \$16. Please send your check to the club address or to NQ6X.

Dropping delinquents and re-instating them adds substantially to the workload of your secretary and treasurer. Most officer's duties are rewarding, because they seem worthwhile, but extra work to make up for someone else's sloth, just makes one feel badly used.

—ed.

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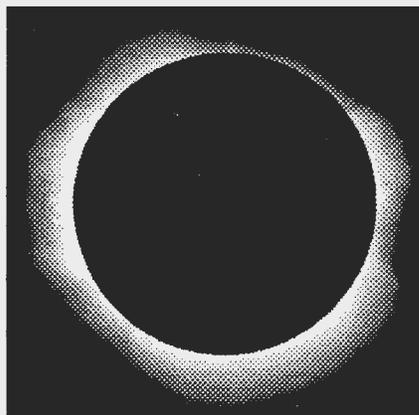
Meeting to Feature New Gizmo

Dave, WA6TJM, will introduce a new recording chip usable in a SSB "keyer" or for a female voice for breaking pileups. Dave will give away a few kits to ease such construction projects.

Mellowing and following starts at 6:00 at Harry's Hoffbrau in Palo Alto on Sept. 13. The meeting begins at 7:30.

Eclipse Viewed by club members

Chuck, AA6G, went with an RV tour group to Todos Santos, on Baja's Pacific coast, to view the eclipse. Offshore fog threatened, but he had clear weather. Chuck viewed and photographed through his 7-inch Astro-Physics refractor, operated at 1060



AA6G photo

mm, f/6. He said the visible corona extended three solar diameters north to south.

In a separate trip to Baja Gary, NI6T, experienced his first 6m mobile op. and his first solar eclipse.



NCDXC Info

NCDXC Officers:

President: Bill Fontes, W6TEX
 Vice President: Bob Artigo, KN6J
 Secretary: Stan Kuhl, K6MA
 Treasurer: Bob Wilson, NQ6X
 Director: Ron Rasmussen, NG6X
 Director: Eric Edberg, W6DU
 Director: George Allan, WA6O

DXer Editor: Dave Barton, AF6S

14842 Nelson Way
 San Jose, CA 95124
 (or via DX Packet Spotting Network)

DX Ladder: Larry Bloom, KD6XY

2520 Heather Lane
 San Bruno, CA 94066
 (or via DXPSN)

DXer Production: Ron Panton, W6VG

Member Data Base: John Cronin Jr., K6LLK

NCDXC Repeater, W6TI/R, (147.36+)

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
 Rptr. Comm. Chrmn: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
 Suggested club simplex: 147.54
 Thursday Net time: 8:00 PM local time.
 Net Manager: Knock Knochenhauer,

K6ITL

DX News: Dave Pugatch, KI6WF

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

W6TI DX 20- and 40-meter Bulletins:

Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 02:00z every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

The DXer is mailed to all NCDXC members. Unless otherwise noted, NCDXC permits re-use of any portion of this publication, provided source credit is given.

Club address: Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94026

B.O.D. Meeting, July 31

W6TEX, NG6X, NQ6X, W6DU and K6MA met at Harry's Hoffbrau in Palo Alto on July 31.

- They resolved to compliment new DXer editor, AF6S for his first issue.
- They were dismayed to learn that only 20% of members had submitted dues so far. The board agreed to send reminders with SAE's to those still delinquent August 31.
- W6VG and NG6X reviewed Procedures Manual revisions and the board authorized W6OAT to give these latest proposed changes a legal review.
- Finances: the club has "lots of reserve" (see financial report on p. 3) but it spent \$2000 more than it took in during the last year. One-time expenses were: club pins: \$500, CA Award certificates: \$500, and "Charlie:" \$400.
- The board authorized paying some of 3W3RR's travel costs from here to the East Coast.
- The joint NCDXC-NCCC picnic August 24th was mentioned.
- The board voted against a Christmas party, but agreed to bring the matter before the general.
- The board decided to sell the donated DX Engineering splitter to the highest bidder, rather than raffle it (details on p1-ed.).
- The need for a new sound system that could be used at Visalia and also in club meetings was discussed but the issue was tabled until the convention financial report had been submitted.

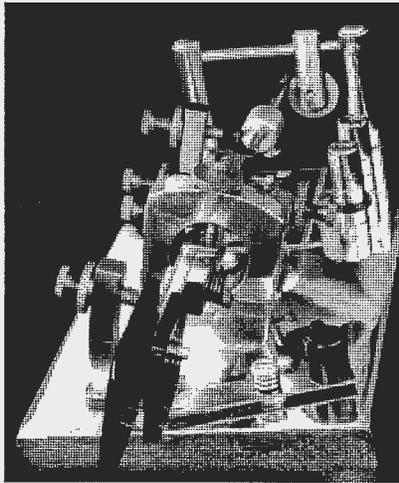
General Meeting, August 9

- W6TEX presided at the meeting in Palo Alto and began with introduction of guests.
- W6MKM presented a \$7097 check to Bill for NCDXC—the net proceeds from the Visalia convention. (loud, long applause)
- Hillar, N6HR, made an excellent slide presentation on his OY operation last May.
- Chuck, AA6G, showed some fine photographs he had made of July's solar eclipse in Baja Sur (story on p1-ed.).

continued on page 6

Weird Bugs by Knock, K6ITL, and AF6S

The photograph shows an unusual bug made by Dow-Key of Winnipeg, Canada. The paddle, bow and posts are angled about 20 degrees from the heavy, chrome-plated base. At a recent HRO Lunch Bunch, it created lots of interest. No one had seen this design before and none could do better than speculate on its origin. Sadly, the original owner is a silent key so it's impossible to get any background.



Knock suggested we make a puzzle of identifying it. It's a grand plan and, your editor would like to submit any believable answer—along with the photo—to *Morsum Magnificat*, a small British magazine for Morse enthusiasts. *MM* frequently runs stories on unusual keys. So if you know this thing's history, please send it in.

Early JA Bug Instructions

Knock also sent instructions for a '50s-era Japanese bug. He thought it might produce a smile as it did for the Lunch Bunch, who agreed even computer manuals are better (but not by much). The following text and drawing replicate the original, including the drawing's serious error.

SEMI AUTOMATIC KEY

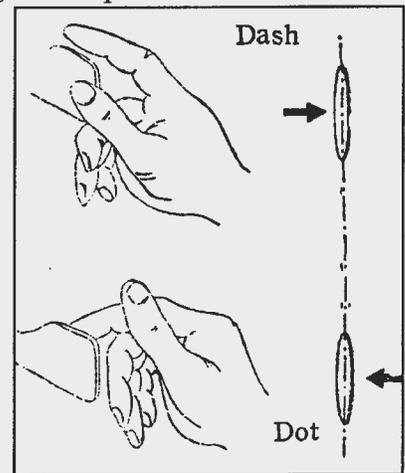
It is a telegraph Key equipped with an apparatus capable of striking out a dot signal in rapid succession automatically, called "Bug-Key" in common, and as it can in particular make out a machinery ordered dot signal in succession, a high-speed dot signal which needs an exquisite skill in keying can be made out in accuracy and in the easiest way. The only POINT in its operation is that a proficiency of the operation can be observed in dividing a dot signal made out successfully according to a necessary number and in the construction of a signal smoothly to combine with a dash signal. The difficulties like in operation of common telegraph keying, as a trembling in disformation of hand or an extreme dullness in movement of hand, make impossible in the operation of high-speed transmitting, but, with this key it can achieve not only a good result in high-speed transmitting but also a well-cutting in general and attractive SIGNAL within a certain possibility of easy

high-speed transmitting and so as the reason why the machine is getting popularity recently.

Exercise Remarks

It is needless to reiterate the necessity that an accurate signal composition (a ratio of dot to dash, intermission) must be in strict accordance with the auditory sense in one's exercise, but within one's capability of receiving, remarkable progress in short time can be observed.

Operation method is to be well understandable by the drawings: put hand on table in relaxe and strike comparatively hard on key with thumb in the case making out a dot signal, then you can operate accurately. It is a sense of timing at touch-on how many dot signals you are going to make out. You can strike it out naturally after well trained. It is in general that a dash signal is by fore-finger, but middle-finger be used as well and it is quite a choice of one's will. It feels rather difficult in dash signal by BUG-KEY than in dot signal, and a change-over operation between dot and dash signals for the first time is usually destined to be unnatural, so that you must take care of that points and try to make out a smooth signal according to the following instructions:



First: try to keep (V) signal and for the next, try (B) and then (period). After all of them, when you feel certain of transmitting them smoothly, the operation technics of BUG-KEY is considered to be well obtained.

Annual NCDXC Financial Report

(summary of NQ6X's full report)

Income:

Dues	8,049
Other	4,197
Total Income	12,246

Expenditures:

DXer	6,344
Awards	2,143
Activities	3,373
Other	4,235
Total Exp.	16,096

Assets:

Checking acct	525
Savings	23,849
Rptr fund	1,561
Total Assets	25,935

Becoming a DXer by AA6YD

My two-year-old daughter held the drought-ravaged remains of an expensive landscaping bush to her mouth and yelled, at the maximum of her tiny lungs, "Alpha Alpha Six Yankee Delta Five Nine Nine Q-S-L?"—DXing.

What's more frightening, my next-door neighbor who doesn't know about the miracle of electromagnetic radiation heard her. He doesn't know Maxwell's equations cause his living-room incandescents to wax and wane. He doesn't know the meaning of my callsign, either; but he does know he's heard similar words from his TV, telephone and Cuisinart. He thinks my daughter was mimicking the disposal!—DXing.

It's 12:32 Friday night. We've watched the rented videos and the kids are in bed. A Malpelo DXpedition is throwing juicy red 599's to the sharks. I've joined the feeding frenzy, after searching out his listening pattern. Blue corona radiates from my fingertips. I'm one with Heaviside, Maxwell, Lorentz and Faraday. Then my XYL arrives to remind me why we married in the first place. She mentions obligations, but my blood flows with Coulombs and they seem to suppress hormones. The DX is peaking and I cannot answer her. I'm a slave to some primordial instinct aroused by DX. My wife leaves, muttering nastiness. In two weeks she may speak to me again, but by then there'll probably be another DXpedition—DXing.

Perhaps you wonder, as I once did, "How does one get started as a DXer and why?" I'll try to explain. DX pioneers, early in this century, were people who enjoyed connecting themselves to high-voltage RF; they enjoyed glowing in the dark and turning their hair into flaming broom-heads. Also, most smoked, explaining why starting to DX is like starting that habit. At first, it hurts you and annoys everyone else. Later, it still annoys everyone else and you can't stop. You die a social outcast.

DX is a sport and DXers are sportspeople. Polevaulters may be slimmer but DXers vault oceans. My wife wonders why I consider screaming into a microphone or diddling a keyer paddle sporting. But she's not a DXer; how can she know the truth? The sweat, tension, and mental exercise are invisible. So are cunning, stamina, fortitude,

nerve and ego—perhaps heavy on the latter. The essence of DXing is getting someone far away to say your callsign when 10,000 other screaming maniacs are trying to do the same—first.

Its like Bob Barker saying, "come on down," before you win valuable prizes. Only you're never sure what's to be won. You can't brag to your friends about DXing; most haven't an inkling what you're talking about. Try saying: "I got Peter and Paul Rocks on 10 Meter CW last night." They'll look at you, speak among themselves and then say "Oh, that's good. By the way, how do you like that new car-wash down on Main Street?" They suspect you're on something and have conspired to distract you while one calls the cops.

DXers don't proselytize and none will teach you DXing. Elmers may help you build radios with big black knobs but they won't help you become a DXer. DXers don't want competition.

DXers sometimes gather for barbecues but seldom for companionship. They like to size up the competition, to see who'll fight hard in a pileup.

People who love you will steer you away from DXing, just as they'll help you avoid eating sushi, going on dangerous military missions, or listening to rap music. Why am I revealing these secrets? My physician made me do it.

Here's how you catch DXing (Oh yes, it is a disease). One day you're having a nice QSO with someone in Milwaukee. As you happily exchange information on the color of the sky and the power of your radios, hundreds suddenly start calling on your frequency. Who are they? Why didn't they ask if the frequency was in use? All you know is that not one courteous thought is expressed among them! You have lost contact with your Milwaukee friend before he could tell you the temperature (You were on the edge of your seat; right?). What are these idiots doing—to you? Is some conspiracy determined to drive you from the air?

No, you're just the innocent victim of a typical DX pileup. Stunning, relentless, even beautiful—it has perfect, if horrible, purity of purpose. The DX pileup is a most visceral invention—or did it evolve naturally? It's war, with radio waves for weapons, and you've been caught in no-man's land, where they blast you with RF Kilo-Watts from multi-element howitzers.

Your anger keeps you listening as you consider finding some of the jerks in the callbook and indulging in hate mail. Then you realize they're shouting at someone you can't hear—weak? You tune around and soon find a small voice just above the noise. The callsign is like none you've heard before. You've never talked to a ham in another country and you think the temperature over there might be more interesting than Milwaukee's. Why not ask? You call—on his frequency, of course—saying, "Five Alpha Nine Alpha, this is Alpha Alpha Six Yankee Delta."

Suddenly, a million voices attack, each full of venom and violence. You hear, "AA6YD, you LID! He's listening UP, jerk! Bastard son of a moron amoeba! Why don't you LISTEN?" The sharks have turned on you, teeth flashing. They consume your ears, then your arms and legs. You don't like being called a lid and the other things they said weren't nice, either! To avoid losing any more self-esteem, you flip the big switch.

The experience forces you to ponder what happened. First ill-mannered creeps drove you from a pleasant, relaxed QSO. Then, when you called the DX station, you were attacked by an angry mob. Curious, you check a DXCC country list and learn the station is in Libya. You imagine a little tent, hiding under a billboard of Quadaffi exhorting his true believers.

That's when something snaps in your head; you think, "Hey, that guy may not be around long. If I could show my friends a card from Libya, maybe they'd understand that my hobby is fun and not so crazy. Why fight it? I'll join the pileup, but just for a few minutes and then I'll quit. I won't let this become an obsession like those others have."

So you fire up the rig, find the station—setting up a split this time—and call until you can't hear him anymore. Then you call some more. Maybe he'll get louder when he hears your call, you think. After all, others are still calling. Finally, you give up.

Several days later you hear the chiming bell-like sound of hoards of stations calling on CW. Soon you find the same 5A, calling "up 5". You try too, sending DE AA6YD... AA6YD and listening. Nah, he got a number with lots of dashes. DE

AA6YD AA6YD Listen. Nah—a W4. DE AA6YD AA6YD Listen. Don't know what he sent, but it wasn't my call. AA6YD AA6YD Listen. Hey! Did he say AA6? Listen again 6Y 599 DE 6YB AABYG UR HNN 5NN TU

He sends...AA5YB TU and goes on to the next station. Then it hits you; you've just worked someone in Libya! For 10 seconds you had his attention. You earned the right to his card. You were lucky and you know it; he heard your 100 Watts and long-wire in the din of thousands. But he got your callsign wrong. You'll have to work him again!

And that's how you are chosen by eternal forces. Pride and avarice have made you a DXer. You'll can never again deny your true nature. You know you'll alienate your family and friends. You will turn away from Scientific American and Byte and read QST, CQ and DX Magazine. You'll dream of ever higher and bigger antennas. You'll need muscle-radios—Henrys, Alphas.

You're a DXer now and forever. You were chosen by God and the reason passes all understanding. And God help you—no one else will.

Hillar's reply to LY2BZ

N6HR replied to Vaidas' about his letter in the June DXer, complaining of poor QSLing by NCDXC members. Your editor has extracted the following from Hillar's letter:

If you sent me a QSL direct—stamp or no—you got one back, direct. If you sent one via the bureau, I sent one back via the bureau. I answer all QSL and SWL cards." Hill also stated he sends out between 3000 and 8000 QSLs per year.

Raising Caen

(from Herb Caen's Aug. 6 Chronicle column)

IN ONE EAR: The Fed'l Aviation Adm., observing (for some reason) the air controllers' strike, announces proudly that "fatal accident statistics continue in a downward spiral," and how's that for vivid writing?

Catperson Capers (by AF6S)

Catperson Q-SO'ed by ritty

With friends all over the city.

One day when her heat soared

She leaped to her keyboard;

Typed "Visit me Tom. . . yours, Kitty"

General Meeting

(cont. from page 2)

- Bob, KN6J, and John, K6LLK, described the development of "Charlie," the voice of the DX Packet Spotting Network on W6TI. They outlined planned enhancements, including the expected late-August debut of "Charlene?"—a professional female announcer's voice. KA6ING moved and WA6AHF seconded NCDXC funding of some of the equipment cost (\$700) and the measure was approved by a nearly unanimous vote of the membership present—only KE6OT and N6DJM opposed it.
- Paulo, I2UIY, presented slides of Italian contest stations. Some of the antennas shown are true monsters, including a 40-element 10-meter array and a side-by-side array of four six-element 20-meter yagis. Some of the 100 foot and up towers were made from the booms of old construction cranes.
- A new location for future meetings was discussed. Harry's now is imposing a \$100 fee on use of their place after 8:30 above the amount already collected for meals and drinks.
- **First Readings** were held for: Andrew Faber, AE6Y; Marc Willis, N6WCW; and Paul Hernandez, N4QJ.
- **Second Readings** were given for the following, new club members:

Robert C. (Bob) Smithson, W6HIB
10421 East Estates Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014
home: 408/257-3689
work: 415/424-4041

Joseph D. (Joe) Mastroianni, AA6YD
3451 Clover Oak Drive
San Jose, CA 95148
home: 408/274-3475
work: 408/987-5317

Ronald P. Luttringer, K6XC
1110 Via Media
Lafayette, CA 94549
home: 415/283-7872
work: 415/256-0606

• Membership Changes:

Rich Higgins, WX6M
Box 159
Vacaville, CA 95696-0159

Henry Stewart, KJ6LD
work: 408/395-6097

Ed Muns, WØYK
work: 408/447-5383

Robert Foster, N6RQ
no work phone (retired)

Soviet Ham Publication in English

The bulletin of the Prometheus Amateur Association, *Soviet Ham Press Digest*, edited by Alex Ulyanich, RB5IJ, is available c/o George Yankipolus, NA3O, 13 Glen Meadow Drive, Glen Mills, PA 19342. Annual subscription rate is \$12.

Glass Houses

People who live in glass houses
Should watch it while changing their trouziz,
Gerard Benson

Helen of Troy

She launched a thousand ships, no
less, from little craft to whalers;
You'd say that Helen must have got
on very well with sailors.
Stanley J. Sharpless

The Rime of the Ancient DXer

When I was young,
A song was sung
of love (and sex!)
and Rare DX.

Though youth has fled,
And the urge is dead,
There remains the mania
for rare Albania!

Garry Shapiro, NI6T

ZA and the Pirates

The ZA's not up when he said.
Must have problems keeping sked.
The void that leaves in DX hearts
Can't be filled by Pirates' arts.

AF6S

Ancient Modulation by Ray Griese, K6FD

CW: You turn on the transceiver—everything is normal. You hold down the key and the output meter registers a full 100 Watts into the antenna. Beautiful! So you hold down the key for 30 seconds and then listen. No one is calling; you couldn't communicate that way even with 100 KW. Results?—zero with the “key-down” method.

So you try with the key up for 30 seconds and listen. The response again is nil and the reason is simple: no one hears you. You're not “modulating the carrier” according to the internationally agreed-upon scheme called Morse Code.

It's an “on and off” coding method; a “dash” is the length of three “dots” and the space between dots and dashes is equal to the dot-length. The space between words or numerals is equal to five dots. The spaces convey as much information as the dots or dashes.

Unfortunately, we amateurs are human and it is difficult for us to send code that can be “read” by a computer. We habitually modify the code, imprinting it with what old timers call our “fist.” Electronic keyers send much better than we do but they all sound alike—no fist.

Some enjoy copying when it is all run together are a challenge!

SSB: You turn on the transceiver—everything is normal. You hold down the mike and say “Oh-laaaaaaaaa” and the output meter registers a full 100 Watts into the antenna. Beautiful! So you hold the “mike button” down for 30 seconds. pronouncing a grand “Oh-

laaaaaaaaaa,” and then listen. No one is calling; you couldn't communicate that way even with 100 KW. Results?—zero with the “mike button-down” method.

So you try with the mike button up for 30 seconds and listen. The response is again nil and the reason is simple: no one hears you. You're not “modulating the carrier” according to the internationally agreed-upon scheme called English language.

It's a vocal “on and off” coding scheme having amplitudes from “off” to “on,” including between those limits. There are no spaces between syllables that form words, but brief pauses do occur between words and sentences. The pauses convey as much information as the syllables.

Unfortunately, we amateurs are human and it is difficult for us to send English language that can be “read” by a computer. We habitually modify the code, imprinting it with what grammarians call an “accent.” Electronic voices are now becoming available. Maybe they will speak much better than we do, but maybe they will all sound alike—no accent. If all sounded alike would we enjoy communicating with each other?

What's wrong with AM? Nothing, really, what's wrong is how we modulate.

Standing Orders:

Ideas for future club programs: provide topic, contact name and telephone number to any club officer.

de W6TEX

Articles or other material for future DXer issues: typed text is preferred, on disk is even better, and pictures too.

de AF6S

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W				
1		B		U	D		L	O		A			C	A	L	L	S				U	A	Ø	S			
2	Z	E	P	P			S	W	R		L	U	N	A	R		O					L		L			
3	I	V				U		E		E	A		T			G					S	P		U			
4	T	E	R	M	A	N				K		Ø					W	O	U	F	F	H	O	N	G		
5		R		A			S	A	R	N	O	F	F									G	I		S		
6	M	A	C		Q					A						P	O	T				P	V	C			
7		G		4	U	I	I	T	U			A	L	T	A	I				K				H	F		
8	Z	E	N		A			C		S	P	R	A	T	L	Y		W	I	A	W			I	C		
9	A		7		D			O	T		E			A		A	4	E			E	R	P				
10		A	N	T		A	M		A	R	C	S			B	A	I	K	A	L		C		E			
11	B		G		S	F		I	C		I		S	A	M		F				C	A	R	P			
12	N				M				C		B			M	A	R	C	O	N	I		L		F	P		
13	C	L		M	A	G	N	E	T	R	O	N		A		U		C	O	A	X		S				
14		E	M	E				I	E				O	M		B	S			G		Y	F				
15	S	N		C	O	L	L	I	N	S					R		W	H	I	P		O	I	L	N		
16		I	C	H				I	S		U		T			W	I	N			R				O		
17	P	N		A			D	U			N	I	H			V	A				K	N	6	J	N		
18		S	I	N				J		E	S					T	I	N			O	P	A	M	P		
19	S	K			I	C	7	8	1		P			W	6	D	U			O	C			M	O		
20					C		3		S		O	L	A				S	L	O	W	S			M	A	L	
21			U	D	A				S		C	T		R	A	G				N		F		E	P	A	
22	A	G			L					J	O	B	S			M	U	M	M	Y		T	O	U	R	E	R

August's DX Cross-word Puzzle Solution