

DXer

N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C L U B



Spratley in the News

by Dave Barton, AF6S

At a ten-nation meeting in Jakarta June 29, Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alastas said, "We cannot avoid the apprehension that the next flashpoint in Southeast Asia after Cambodia might involve those small islands strewn all over the South China Sea." He referred to the Spratley Islands, a collection of 105 partly submerged atolls and reefs. All or part of the Spratley Islands are claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei. All but Brunei have troops there.

China and Vietnam have fought two battles over Spratley within the last 18 years, and Western analysts expect more fighting now that the superpowers have disengaged and left a power vacuum.

A war over the Spratleys would damage more than just the combatants. Mobil Oil Company has found an estimated 600 million barrels of oil in Vietnam's offshore Big Bear Field, only a few miles from the disputed area.

Just last year, the claimants agreed to settle the dispute peacefully and sign a treaty on joint exploration and development was expected. Since then the Soviet Union collapsed and withdrew from its base at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam and the U.S. presence in the Philippines is winding down. Some countries, particularly China, are eager to fill the vacuum. In February China's legislature authorized the People's Liberation Army to take the entire chain, using force if necessary.

continued on page 11

California QSO Party Oct. 3-4

The Northern California Contest Club's California QSO Party begins at 1600 zulu October 3 and ends at 2200 zulu the next day. The object for stations outside California is to work as many W6s as possible, and California counties are multipliers. Californians can work anyone. The more W6 stations in the contest, the better it is for those outside the state.

The exchange is QSO number and your county. Stations not in California send QSO number and their state, province, or country.

The contest takes place on all bands from 160 through 2 meters, except the WARC

continued on page 11

WASABE

To: JE1CKA
From: W6QHS
Re: WASABE!

Hello Tack:

Your friends in the Northern California Contest Club have missed the participation of many JA stations in CQWW. To encourage more of you to enter this year, we are offering a bonus award—the Worked All Sixth Area Bonus Event award.

Anyone who works 50 U.S. Sixth-Area QSOs will receive a WASABE certificate. Those who work 500 will get an imprinted award T-shirt. Valid QSOs are as defined in the CQWW rules—one for each band/mode.

continued on page 4

Inside

Meeting Minutes	2
Roster Changes	2
It's 9B DXCC Time—AA6G	4
9BDXCC Standings—AA6G	5
Computer-Daffy	5
Raising a Tower—AB6KF	6
Biz Restrictions—K5DZE	7
The Amateurs—Edgar Guest	7
The DXCC Backlog—W5YI	8
K4JBI SK—W4IYT	9
McMurdo Sound—W6REC	9
Green Hams—KD7IK	9
HDTV Coming	9
Electric "Gas" Station	9
Didja Know?—WB6WKM	10
K6WR on Radio Politics	10
FCC Enforcement	10
Visalia Patch Contest	11
Party Line—WØCCT	11
Treasurer's Report	11

Meeting at Harry's

We'll meet Oct. 9 at Harry's Hoffbrau in Palo Alto. Please check the Thursday Night Net on W6TI/R for info on the October program. Attitude adjustment begins at 6, the meeting at 7.

Coming Soon:

- Livermore Swap Meet: 1st Sunday of month, 7 A.M. to noon. Contact N7TVE.
- Amateur Radio Awareness Day (page 3).
- California QSO Party: Oct. 3-4. N6TV.
- Sierra Hamfest and Computer Faire: Oct. 10 at Minden, Nevada. Contact W6FFT.
- Pacifcon '92, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention: Oct. 16-18 at the Concord Hilton, Concord. Contact N6QGN.

N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C L U B

Club Officers:

President: Bob Artigo, KN6J
 Vice President: George Allan, WA6O
 Secretary: Garry Shapiro, NI6T
 Treasurer: Melissa Thomas, AA6TD
 Director: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Director: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
 Director: Bill Fontes, W6TEX

DXer:

Editor: Dave Barton, AF6S
 14842 Nelson Way
 San Jose, CA 95124
 (or via DXPSN)

Printing, Mailing: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Art Consultant: Kenneth R. Barton
 DX Ladder: Larry Bloom, KD6XY
 2520 Heather Lane
 San Bruno, CA 94066
 (or via DXPSN)

Membership Data: John Cronin Jr., K6LLK

Club Repeater,

W6TI/R, (147.36+)
 Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
 Comm. Chairman: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
 Club simplex: 147.54 (suggested)
 Thurs. Net QTR: 8 p.m. local time.
 Net Manager: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
 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 Bulletins:

W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 2:00 zulu every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

Club address: Box 608
 Menlo Park, CA
 94026-0608

The DXer is published Monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members.

Unless otherwise noted, NCDXC permits re-use of any portion of this publication, provided source credit is given.

Board of Directors Meeting

9 September 1992

President Bob Artigo, KN6J presided. Also attending: KG6AM, WA6O, AG6Q, NI6T, and W6TEX

- The sole agenda item was the DXer of the Year Award. A committee chaired by W6FAH had submitted a report and recommendations. BOD consensus was that the committee report was limited in scope. Discussion centered on redefining the award as well as selection procedures.
- KN6J put forward a concept of two awards: DXer of the Year, to be awarded for close-in achievements (less than 18 months), and a new NCDXC Hall of Fame, for significant long-term achievement. Nomination criteria would be similar for both. Five to seven nominations would be solicited for each. If more were received, the BOD would make an initial reduction. Nominees would be profiled in The DXer, and the awards would be made at Visalia. The BOD would make final selections.
- Each Director offered comments. All are concerned about the partial secrecy of the current process. KG6AM thinks some secrecy is beneficial. W6TEX suggested coordination with SCDXC, but is ambivalent about having two awards. AG6Q likes the idea of dual awards, but wants a strong, self-perpetuating procedure. WA6O favors the concept and wants an open process. NI6T also favors an open process and dual awards.
- Nominations would be solicited and accepted until February. Selection will be completed in March, for presentation at Visalia in April.
- BOD voted to develop the idea for presentation to the membership.

General Meeting

The general meeting was held September 11 at Harry'sHoffbrau in Palo Alto. Bob, KN6J, presided.

- Introduced guests included Jim, ZL2BHF (president of NZART); and Brad, K6WR (Pacific Division ARRL Vice-Director), who spoke briefly about the SAREX mission, the upcoming Pacific Division Convention (16-18 October) and the need to support the Spectrum Protection Act, now moving through Congress. Write letters! Dave, AF6S, has a ready-made letter you can customize. Ask him about it by packet.
- Jim, WD6CJB, told of his successful legal battle to overcome Foster City's sweeping antenna restrictions. He thanked Rusty, W6OAT, and Kip, W6SZN, for their time and counsel—the edge that brought victory.
- Jim, W6CF, reported "20 meters is being cleaned and refurbished now by the FCC, who expect to put it back in service by the end of the month."

Roster Changes

License Upgrade:

Doyle Souders, KG6MY,
 was Advanced, now Extra

Reinstatement:

Harley (Harley) Licht, WA6ISX
 1390 Pritchett Court
 Los Altos, CA 94024
 H: 415/968-8001
 W: 415/960-3880

Prepared for Anything

"I always keep two documents up to date: my will and my resumé—the first in case I die, and the second in case I don't.

—Peter Olguin, Personal Training Systems

Roster Changes (continued from page 2)

New Members:

Philip (Phil) Graham, KJ6NN (Extra)
723 Berkshire Place
Milpitas, CA 95035
H: 408/262-4593
W: 415/691-2636

Carl H. (Skip) Amme III, N6OND
5533 Mission Street #205
San Francisco, CA 94112
H: 415/337-8141
W: 415/337-8141

Krishnan Yegnashankaran, N6ZPX
777-40 San Antonio Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303 (Extra Class)
H: 408/493-1963
W: 415/5506-2555

Election Computer Viruses

George Bush Virus: Doesn't do anything, but you can't get rid of it 'til November.

Bill Clinton Virus: Mutates from region to region; who knows what it will do?

Dan Quale Virus: Plays "PGA Tour" on your computer 6 days a week.

Richard Nixon Virus: You can wipe it out but it comes right back.

H. Ross Perot Virus: Threatens to take over your computer, then disappears.

Ted Kennedy Virus: Crashes your hard disk, then denies it.

Congress Virus: Overdraws your hard disk space, then borrows another disk drive.

QRP Buffs Roll Their Own

by George Franklin, WØAV

All over the world, QRP enthusiasts pursue their version of ham radio. They "get their jollies" by communicating with power outputs of five Watts or less—in some cases a few milli-Watts.

Human nature leads those who expose themselves to a common struggle to band together. Some QRP clubs are well organized, while others, with only a few members, just meet to swap stories (lies?) about accomplishments with puny transmitters and low-performance receivers.

QRPers thrive on home-brew lash-ups. Sometimes the reason is financial, but often just the idea of "making something from nothing" drives them. Many enjoy using their humble creations to astound others by snatching DX from the jaws of kilowatts.

There are QRP clubs in the CIS (formerly USSR), Germany, France, Holland, England, Indonesia, and many other places. At least two major clubs are active in the US: QRP Amateur Radio Club International (ARCI) and Michigan QRP Club (MQRP).

These organizations run nets, both on CW and SSB, and schedule annual contests. They publish quarterly bulletins packed with QRP stories, pictures, schematics, and much more.

The outstanding overseas QRP group is G-QRP in the UK. G-QRP's quarterly, *SPRAT*, averages 40 pages. It's a fabulous source of ideas and ingenious circuits devoted to pushing the "performance envelope" using low-cost components. Many of the innovations are best described as simple but elegant. The ads in *SPRAT* are fascinating too.

I would very much like to learn of other QRP organizations that publish newsletters. If you know of any, please send the info to me via KAØKSI at PHD News.

Many famous writers inhabit the world of QRP, including W7ZOI, KH6CP/1, W9SCH, W5HKA, WA8MCQ, KN1H, WB8VGE, and of course W1FB, the author of the ARRL QRP Handbook. Reading an article by any of them makes me mentally search my junk box for the parts needed to try one of their creations.

But beware! The QRP material I've mentioned could be dangerous to your *modus vivendi*. Read just a few articles and you might end up taking The QRP Oath ("I promise to run five Watts or less").

Here's more information on the groups mentioned:

QRP Amateur Radio Club, Int. (ARCI)
c/o Mike Kilgore, KG5F
2046 Ash Hill Road
Carrollton, TX 75007

or, in the U.K.:

QRP Amateur Radio Club, Int. (ARCI)
c/o Dick Pascoe, GØBPS
3 Limes Road
Folkestone, Kent CT19 4AU

The annual dues rate, including the cost of QRP Quarterly, is \$12 in the U.S. and \$14 for DX; renewals are \$10 and \$12 respectively.

Michigan QRP Club (M-QRP)
Box 80804
Lansing, MI 48908-0804

MQRP's annual dues are \$5 for U.S. or \$10 for DX, plus a \$2 "initiation fee," including the quarterly, *The Five Watter*.

G-QRP Club
c/o Luke Dodds, W5HKA
2852 Oak Forest
Grapevine, TX 76051

(Dues of \$12 are payable to QRP ARCI, not G-QRP Club. Members receive the quarterly *SPRAT*.)

Thanks are due WØAV for the addresses and for permission to reprint material from his article in the May '92 'PHD News,' newsletter of the PHD Amateur Radio Association of Liberty, Missouri (near Kansas City)—KAØKSI Editor.

Attention:

It's 9BDXCC Submission Time

It's submission time again in the NCDXC's 9-Band DXCC program. "What is a 9BDXCC?" Well, have you worked 100 countries on any one of the nine HF bands? Would you like a nice plaque that shows your DX achievements, to hang on your wall? Do you feel you've worked hard for those countries, yet no one has said, "Good job, congratulations"? Then the 9BDXCC is for you.

The fifth NCDXC 9BDXCC award year is almost over. I hope you have already crossed off the countries you've worked—on your check-off sheets. If not, and you need a check-off sheet, we've included one with this DXer.

Here is a review of the 9BDXCC rules:

1. Purpose: To promote continued interest in DXing by all club members on all HF bands and to recognize DXing achievements by club members.
2. To be eligible, work at least 100 countries on any **one** band since October 10, 1987—or since you joined the NCDXC if that was after October 10, 1987.
3. Bands: 160–10 meters, including WARC bands.
4. Use NCDXC check-off sheet to track countries worked.
5. Country-total tags for the plaque are issued for the following levels: 100, 150, 200, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290 and 300.

6. The 9BDXCC program relies on the honor system—no QSLs required.

From time to time I have heard misconceptions voiced about 9BDXCC. Here are examples of some of the more common statements I've heard:

1. "I'll never qualify for this award because I can't work 100 countries on all 9 bands." That guy had it *all wrong*. You only need 100 countries on one band to qualify.
2. "I'll never win this award because I can't compete with the big guns." That's wrong too. In the 9BDXCC program, you don't compete with anyone. 9BDXCC recognizes what *you* do in DXing. Your award isn't affected in any way by what someone else, with a big antenna or without, accomplishes.

The club anniversary, October 10, is the cutoff date for working countries each year. After October 10, you have until November 10 to submit your entry summary to me. In your submission, state how many countries (over 100) you worked on each band (just the total, not a list of countries).

Also send enough money to cover the one-time cost of your plaque, the cost of your engraved country-total tags and the mailing cost—if you don't intend to pick up your plaque or country-total tags at the awards meeting.

If you already have the plaque, you need only apply for the additional tags you have earned. The awards presentation is planned for the January 1993 meeting.


Here is the information you need to calculate how much to send in with your submission:

9BDXCC Plaque (one time)	\$35.00
Per-Band Country-Total Tag (each)	.75
Surface Mail - U.S.	5.00
Surface Mail - Foreign	7.00
Airmail - Foreign	20.00

To determine the number of tags, compare your totals with the list in rule number 5. For example, if you worked 110 countries on 40 meters, 190 on 20 meters, and 125 on 15 meters, you earned four country-total tags—a 100-tag for 40m, 100- and 150-tags for 20m and a 100-tag for 15m.

Send your band country totals summary and your check payable to the NCDXC (in U.S. Funds) to my address:

Chuck Vaughn, AA6G
4387 Othello Dr.
Fremont, CA 94555

The attractive plaque will spruce up your shack. And you can add country-tags for many years. If you haven't entered before, give it a try. I look forward to handing you your plaque at the awards meeting. 

8875s Needed

Bob, KN6J, and Dave, AF6S:

I got the following message in a note from Walter, DJ6QT—which came with his request for ZA1A QSLs. I wrote him that I don't have access to any 8875s, but said I'd pass his note on to the NCDXC in case any members can help him. Any chance we might get this included in The DXer?

Rusty, W6OAT

Dear Rusty:

As you know, I have been on travel more than 25 years. That [included] 55 DX

operations with 188,000 QSOs and I never asked any club for help.

But when I was operating 9L1SL, I was unlucky. During the WAE RTTY contest, I killed both final-tubes in the linear (two 8875s). I use the Dentron MLA 2500 linear because of its small size.

[Is there any chance] your club can help me in getting new tubes? Perhaps someone has good connection to Eimac. I would like to hear if there is any chance from your end.

Best regards and thanks in advance!

Walter, DJ6QT
(17 Sept. 92)

WASABE

from page 1

We hope to make this an annual event and we will encourage our members to support it by improving their QSLing of JA stations.

Submitted lists or logs, including only U.S. Sixth Area contacts, should be mailed to me using my Callbook address.

Details are still being finalized by N6IP, N6TV, WZ6Z, W6OAT, and myself, but I wanted to let you know in time for your magazines and newsletters.

73 de Dave, W6QHS

from the September Northern California Contest Club 'Jug'—W6ISQ Editor

Current 9BDXCC Standings:

CALL	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m
N6AN	0	0	100	0	200	100	150	0	150
K6CBL	0	0	0	150	100	150	0	100	0
WA6CTA	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	100
N6DJM	0	0	0	0	270	0	260	0	200
N6EK	0	0	150	0	200	0	200	0	150
AA6G	0	0	150	0	150	150	200	150	200
NT6G	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	0
K6ILM	0	100	150	100	200	100	200	100	100
KA6ING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
K6ITL	0	0	0	0	280	0	270	0	250
N6JV	0	100	150	150	290	200	250	150	200
W6KQK	0	0	0	0	150	0	150	0	0
AI6L	0	100	200	100	290	200	250	150	200
AA6LF	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
WA8LLY	0	0	0	0	200	0	200	100	200
K6MA	0	0	150	0	280	160	200	100	200
AA6PG	0	0	140	0	200	0	150	0	200
K6RK	0	0	150	0	150	0	100	0	100
DJ6RX	0	100	150	100	150	100	150	100	150
K6SIK	0	0	0	0	150	0	150	0	150
WA6SLO	0	0	150	0	100	0	200	0	200
NI6T	0	100	200	100	250	150	200	100	200
K6TMB	0	0	0	0	150	0	100	0	100
KI6WF	0	0	150	0	300	0	280	0	250
W6YHM	0	0	100	0	250	0	200	0	100
W6ZKM	0	0	0	0	150	0	100	0	150

Computer-Daffy

Apple	seduction device, has display, mouse, and keyboard	Bubble Memory	"bubble-head"		in and usually checks out—but not always
Bar Chart	list of places to go when it's Miller time	Chips	small crunchy objects computer users eat to avoid leaving their keyboards for meals	Floppy	computer user's stomach resulting from junk food (see chips) and no exercise
Binary	having friends of both sexes	Closed Loop	termination device, now defunct except in Iran	Hardware	lawnmower, rake, ... any heavy equipment you've ignored since getting your computer
Bipolar	see binary	Cursor	four-letter word expert	IBM	missile your family would like to drop on your computer
Bit	describes computers, as in "My computer cost a bit."	Disk	goes out in your back if you bend over a keyboard all day	Interface	opposite of "getoutamaface"
Boot	what people give you when you talk computers	Error	what happens on your first visit to a computer store	K	used in employment adds to obscure how much they are willing to pay you
		File	where computer work checks		

continued on page 7

Raising a Tower, A Drama in Five Acts

Writer: Harry Mills, AB6KF
Producer: Kathy Mills (financial support)
Director: Harry Mills

Cast:

Monkey #1: Larry Fletcher, KC6VRK
Monkey #2: Jim MacKenzie, KD6IRH
Monkey #3: Duane Ayers, NS6A
Grunt #1: Bill Walters, WA2IBM
Grunt #2: Larry Bilderback, KD6IRI
Grunt #3: Mike Bilderback, KD6IRJ
Grunt #4: Ken Sakamoto, KC6HNB
Grunt #5: Pete Szabo KJ6QM

Act One: Into the Slime

I call the Saratoga Planning Commission to check on tower restrictions. When the lady who answered tells me the maximum height of a ground-mounted antenna tower is 35 ft, I started to cry. "Unless you are an FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operator," she says. "In that case you can go to 65 ft." She says I have to get a permit if I go over 35 ft. "But it's no big deal."

Larry, KD6IRI, advises me what a site plan is and helps me put one together. Then I dig a 2-foot square hole 4-1/2 feet deep for the tower footing. Next, the planning commission says, "No good. It must go over there behind the main structure." Fine, I muse, I'm a little wiser now. This time I will get the plans approved before I dig the hole.

After the third trip to the planning commissioner, with my site plan and all the ROHN tower specs, I get their blessing. Okay, dig another hole. Be careful on dimensions, because the building inspector has to come out and look at the hole. It sounds dumb—inspecting an empty hole—but I know he will, so I am careful to get everything just right.

I go to San Jose Re-bar and have them cut the 3/4-inch by 4-foot uprights and form the number-3 lateral ties. Great work.

KD6IRI helps me again. We set the re-bar in the hole and place the forms around the top. After we finish, I call to schedule another inspection. Then, on tenterhooks I wait. The inspector arrives on time and asks

for the "job copy" of the plans. He glances at them, walks to the hole, gives it a two-second once-over, signs off the work, and leaves. So much for careful.

Three days later, KD6IRI and I pour concrete. We place the anchor bolts and fill their holes with concrete too.

Act Two: Just Can't Wait

The following Wednesday, I remove the forms and attempt to place the base-plate on the anchor bolts. Bummer! One too many bolts. Have you ever tried to cut a 5/8 bolt with just the hacksaw blade, because the whole hack saw won't fit? Forty five sweaty minutes later, I fit the base plate. I wait ten more days and bolt it down. Perfect.

It's a tilt-base so, with the added help of my wife Kathy, we put two 10-foot sections of tower together and walk it up. It looks great, I think. When Larry comes by, we lower it, put on another 10-foot section, and raise it again. That looks even better.

Act Three: Decision Time

Sunday, August 30, 1992 at 10 A.M. The cast and supporting crew are arriving. Duane, NS6A, is first—though he threatens to leave if the dogs get out. After the last person arrives, we discuss who will do the "high steel" work. Since Larry, KC6VRK, and Jim, KD6IRH, are the only volunteers showing any enthusiasm, they get the job.

Act Four: Up She Goes

Thirty feet of tower are up, but without guy wires. And the Planning Commission's chosen location means one of the guy wires must go over the house.

No problem. We will guy the first thirty feet with ropes, put up the fourth section, then run the first set of guy wires. We calculate the guy wire lengths and mount the first anchor bracket on the tower. The ground crew cuts the cable to length and passes the three wires to the tower crew, who attach them to the anchor bracket. We rout the other ends down to their ground anchors.

Whoops. The guy wire over the house does not clear the roof-ridge. Bummer, but no big deal. Just add another tower section, raise the brackets and extend the guys at the turnbuckles. It works, but I'm sure glad I bought 500 feet of guy wire.

We eventually get all 60 feet of tower up and guyed. We put the rotator in the top section before we raise it.

Act Five: Slide Baby, Slide

Only the beam is still on the ground. Duane Ayers hatches a grand plan—to make a guideway from an 8-foot 2-by-4 with a hole bored in each end and some rope. We pass a 150-foot rope through each end and raise the 2-by-4 to the top of the tower. We anchor the bottom ends of the ropes so they are taut and 8 feet apart. Then we lay the beam on the ropes. By pulling on another rope, we just slide the beam up the guide-ropes.

"Great idea, Duane," I say. "Look at that baby climb!" All the tower crew has to do is rotate it 90 degrees and bolt it onto the mast, right? Wrong! The raising rope is over the top of the beam and that rope keeps us from pulling the beam all the way to the mast.

The tower crew struggles. They say a few words not for publication, too. But they clear the rope, mount the beam, attach the coax and tie it off—making everything ship-shape.

When I turn on the radio, all I hear is noise. What could make so much racket? Silly me. It was signals! They had been there all along but, the rinky-dink G5RV I had been using for eight months had taught me to expect signals to be weak. Now all the stations in radio land just waited for me to call.

September 11, 1992 15:30 zulu:

The tower passes final inspection. Hot dog! Time for the curtain call. Time to thank my cast and crew. Without their help none of the wonders you've heard here could have been accomplished.



Business Restrictions

by Bob Patterson, K5DZE

I fear another genie is about to escape the bottle. It seems to me the ARRL's effort to give hams more flexibility in the business area is honest, and I appreciate the FCC's accepting attitude toward their proposal.

I just wish I believed it would work. I don't. I anticipate this area of "deregulation" getting out of control once it begins.

One reason for doubt is the stated ARRL/FCC belief that we hams still have "self-regulation" such that Amateurs won't "push the limits," whatever rules are established. I think they engage in wishful thinking, as if we behaved as we did in the '50s.

Not so long ago, you could fire up the rig for a non-ham guest, perhaps a wild-eyed child, without fearing what they would hear. Today, with obscenities so common on the bands, you can no longer point to our service and boast how self-disciplined we are.

Amateurs today have little ability to self-regulate what happens, except at their own stations. The FCC continues to relax the rules, and we have no way to enforce standards against a vocal, uncooperative minority. Worse, FCC Commissioner Quello has blamed us for the problem!¹

At a recent hamfest an AMSAT representative who presented at a seminar commented that the satellite service was one of the few areas in ham radio where foul language was not heard on a regular basis—a sad but true observation.

Relaxing the rules on the very foundation of Amateur Radio will put a crack in the last dam holding back the flood. If it comes to pass we will soon find ourselves defending our status as Amateurs. The black and white will become gray.

Easing license requirements—Excuse me, I mean relaxing the rules in the interest of freedom for people to "do their thing," coupled with scant FCC enforcement will surely lead ham radio to become just another CB service. Meanwhile we congratulate ourselves on how fast our service is growing.

Unfortunately, I think our comments to the League and to the FCC are falling on deaf ears. It's probably a done deal.

¹"The Amateur Service was a well-disciplined service ... But we're getting more and more complaints on obscenity and indecency over the air. Some of it is very raunchy."—FCC Commissioner James Quello.

from the September '92 'Magnolia Report'—K5QNE Editor

The Amateurs

There's something about them
you've got to admire;
They work for the love of the task,
not for hire.
Every one of them has
the heart of a boy;
What's a job to the drudge,
to them is a joy.
While we our regular
schedules are keeping,
Amateurs do without eating or sleeping.

They worry their spouses,
so short seems their day,
They don't get to bed when they should—
they just stay—
Sending their calls,
catching calls from afar.
And I think as I hear them
how patient they are.
How much better *we'd* work,
if only we knew it—
That Amateur spirit of wanting to do it.

Professionals worry and
sometimes they shirk.
'Cause they're paid to perform,
they see it as work.
They begin with reluctance,
they're glad when they're through,
And they measure in money
whatever they do.
But the Amateur never
begrudges a minute;
He tackles the job for the joy that is in it.

So here's to the hams—
that brave-hearted throng—
Though short be their waves,
may their lives all be long.
May the wisdom they gain and
the joys that they reap
Make up for the nights
when they go without sleep.
And may we, in that spirit
of deep understanding
Of work and its joy,
keep our Amateur standing.

—Edgar A. Guest

from the September '92 Sussex County (New Jersey) ARC 'Newsletter'—WB2LHY Editor

Daffy

from page 5

- MegaHertz** a really big car rental company
- Menu** something computer users never see because they can't afford restaurants
- Monitor** what the FBI does to your phone data-line when your bank balance increases every time you write a check
- Network** occupation of fisherfolk
- Program** mental health procedure to bring you back from computer addiction
- RAM** male sheep
- Real Time** here and now, as opposed to fake time—now and then
- Return** what some do with their computers after just one week

- ROM** RAM after a delicate operation
- Semiconductor** a non-degreed orchestra leader
- Software** silk nighties, etc., opposite of hardware
- Terminal** place for buses or trains
- Transistor** opposite of transbrother
- Vacuum Tube** derogatory term, similar to "bubble memory"
- Window** place you heave computer after it loses three days of your work

from the 'Amador County ARC Newsletter and ARCS News' via the June '92 Sacramento ARC 'Mike and Key'—WA6YZD Editor

The DXCC Backlog

Time to Stop the Bleeding?

by Fred Maia, W5YI

It's baaaack! The DXCC backlog. Is the ARRL-sponsored program spiraling out of control like a welfare entitlement program? Should DXCC be downsized? Is the non-DXing "silent majority" of League members being short-changed by hemorrhaging DXCC expenditures?

With the processing backlog again growing geometrically, the question is: Will the Board of Directors and ARRL top management be courageous enough to deal with the problem other than by throwing more money at it?

Reportedly, the Board directed Executive VP Sumner, K1ZZ, to "fix it" in their July meeting. The previous "fix" was to terminate two senior staff personnel. Will more heads now roll?

Of course the DXCC backlog has always paralleled the sunspots. The major DXCC retooling in 1988, near cycle-22's peak, undoubtedly showed the best intentions—pleasing DX aficionados. The League expanded the DXCC program by authorizing new 80-, 40-, and 10-meter single-band awards and by making all DXCCs fully endorsable.

The 10-meter plan epitomizes the problem, so it's particularly instructive. The staff had recommended that all QSOs that count be those made after March 21, 1987, giving newcomers and veterans a level playing field. Since that is the date Novice Enhancement was implemented, it would also provide an opportunity for the League to welcome Novices to phone operation.

Unfortunately, as if caving in to a political action committee, the Board didn't say no to the myopic DX Advisory Committee (DXAC). It overrode the staff recommendation, making the retroactive date for all the new single-band awards November 15, 1945. The result: those with the biggest shoeboxes of old cards could leap to the head of the class.

The Board also failed to address or verify long-term funding requirements of the expanded program. They created a monster for which they have refused to take responsibility. That monster has 12 separate DXCC awards, all incrementally endorsable above the 100-country level.

In years gone by, *ad hoc* weekend "card parties" addressed temporary DXCC backlogs. Now League management has elevated the card party concept to new heights. When the processing backlog reached unacceptable proportions in late 1990, they responded by demoting and then terminating Communications Manager John Lindholm, W1XX. (DXCC Manager Don Search would meet a similar fate in 1992.)

Clearly the computerization hasn't been the panacea hoped for and trumpeted.

The League's mission, preserving and promoting Amateur Radio, goes well beyond checking QSL cards. Yet 50 percent of the headquarters workforce were engaged in DXCC processing at one time or another in 1991. The real cost of the program may be double or triple the \$100,000 annual budget, in view of this massive deployment of personnel.

The July 25, 1991 *ARRL Letter* reported DXCC backlog to be "essentially a thing of the past" and that computerization would begin October 1, 1991.

By July 10, 1992—according *The DX Bulletin*—DXCC processing had fallen far behind again. Chod Harris, the *Bulletin's* editor, wrote that on June 26 the DXCC Desk was processing applications received in February. Harris said the DXCC Desk had 3718 pending applications with over 200,000 cards to check and enter into the DXCC database.

Clearly the computerization hasn't been the panacea hoped for and trumpeted. Sumner reportedly told the Board the

backlog's re-emergence was caused by the original paperwork being faulty. The real cause may be the opposite: labor-intensive computer data-entry.

For a while, the League permitted applicants to submit their DXCC records on disk. The method abruptly terminated; evidently members made too many errors.

If DXers made too many errors, how well could a non-ham secretary or clerk be expected to perform? Our sources say the records are a shambles.

The Board and top ARRL management continue to treat the symptoms by the unfocused throwing of money and manpower, rather than by giving the program a comprehensive review.

Is the average League member, who isn't a DXCC participant, getting his or her money's worth? Or is he or she being hoodwinked by having so much allocated to the DXCC program—amounts way out of proportion to the number of active DXers?

It appears the League is offering too much to too few members. The solution is to downsize. The Board needs to move boldly to reduce the program to something manageable. That probably means a general, mixed-mode DXCC award only, and

If DXers made too many errors, how well could a non-ham secretary ... perform?

sunsetting single-band and single-mode awards.

Whether the ARRL Board can stand up to a vocal special-interest group and implement a desperately needed cutback is uncertain—a problem not unlike that of the U.S. Congress. Like Congress, the League's Board has moved tentatively on controversial issues, preferring to point fingers. [Sorry if I'm overly controversial on this matter. Comments are welcome. Fred, W5YI; DXCC Mixed No. 16653 and CW No. 220.]

condensed from an editorial in the Aug. 1, 1992 'W5YI Report', submitted by WA6SLO

K4JBI, SK Well-Known Ham Author

Robert Hertzberg of Boca Raton, Florida died June 30, 1992 in Brooklyn, New York at 87. Formerly W2DJJ, Bob was a life-long technical writer and editor.

He joined Brooklyn's Stuyvesant High School Radio Club in the early 1920s and soon became 2ABK. While still in high school, he began publishing articles on building shortwave radios.

In the late '20s he helped develop the "Super Wasp," a famous Pilot Radio Company receiver, and began early television experiments. In the '30s, in the Army Signal Corps, he experimented in aircraft and mobile two-way radio.

After Pearl Harbor he was assigned to General Omar Bradley's staff in England, where he helped organize a training school for radio operators.

After the war, Bob became a freelance technical writer and authored the well-known book *So You Want to be a Ham*, published by Howard W. Sams in 1956 and updated through the '60s.

Later, on the staff of Fawcett Publications, Hertzberg became editor of *Mechanix Illustrated*, and went on to found *Electronics Illustrated*.

Bob leaves his son Paul, K2DUX, his wife Beatrice, WA2RST, and four grandchildren.

source: 'The ARRL Letter' via 'Florida Skip' (Sept. '92)—W4IYT Editor/Publisher.

Twenty Weeks at McMurdo

by Duane Ausherman, W6REC

For years I have wanted to travel to Antarctica, and I tried in vain in 1984 and 1989. But this July I received word of my acceptance for twenty weeks of employment at McMurdo Sound.

McMurdo is a scientific research base operated by the United States. During the southern hemisphere summer, November through February, McMurdo's population grows to over 1000—one-third Navy, one-third scientists, and one-third support staff.

A private company provides water, electricity, food, housing, waste management, and equipment under contract.

My job will be to supervise the equipment service facility, which has over 250 items, including trucks, cranes, Caterpillars, and one hovercraft and 33 on-site people.

The staff works six nine-hour days a week, but we'll all live within a three-minute walk. I plan to operate the Amateur Radio station.

My scheduled arrival date is October 1. Look for me on the air—the usual CW frequencies and 14180-190 and 7175 SSB.

My mailing address until February 1, 1993 will be:

Duane Ausherman, W6REC
Antarctic Support Associates
Box 700 McMurdo
FPO AP 96601-6010



Green Hams

by Randy Brink, KD7IK

When a Greek tanker spilled heavy crude off Australia's west coast in the fall of '91, a ham was the first to let the world know.

Hams often become the first line of defense against environmental disasters, natural and otherwise. They broadcast word of toxic spills, tornadoes, and shipwrecks before the press or the authorities finish breakfast.

So it shouldn't surprise anyone that many hams are environmentally inclined. Their love of international communications, of technical fiddling, and their self-reliance all point that way.

Robert Wilderman, K3SRO, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania hopes to build on that propensity through PLA/NET, an international environmental radio network he founded. PLA/NET, an open net—not a list operation, meets Saturdays on 14.330 at 1830 zulu.

Bob has high ambitions for PLA/NET. He plans to have experts in environment-related fields available to answer questions on the air. He plans a global information clearinghouse, a computer data-base, and a global crisis-alert network.

So join us, the worldwide community of Amateurs Bob is assembling to respond to the needs of the planet we all share.

from the August '92 'USAF MARS-Kentucky Newsletter'—AFA2OQ Editor.

Coming soon: HDTV

The FCC plans to phase out the NTSC television format by the year 2008. High Definition Television (HDTV) will replace NTSC, now the standard for U.S. and Canadian TV broadcasting, but the HDTV standard hasn't yet been set.

The FCC is now evaluating five HDTV systems, one analog and four digital. None of the five are compatible with NTSC receivers.

The FCC's plan calls for selection of a standard before the end of 1993 and issuance of two-year HDTV licenses to existing

stations. After that two-year period, anyone can apply for a license. The FCC will stop issuing new NTSC licenses in 1995, but existing stations will have three to five years to begin HDTV operation after they receive their HDTV licenses.

Stations will be allowed to broadcast both NTSC and HDTV signals until the 2008 cutoff date, when NTSC will no longer be allowed.

from the Summer '92 'ATV Quarterly,' via the September '92 Copper County 'The Landline'—WB8WKN Editor

Electric "Gas" Station

Hughes Aircraft and Pacific Gas and Electric have signed an agreement to install and test a service station for electric vehicles at PG&E's Northern California R&D center.

The station will "refuel" electric vehicles in much the same way conventional service stations do so for conventional vehicles. With 30-Amp 220-Volt service, the Hughes-patented "pumps" will recharge electric vehicles' batteries in about the same time it takes a gas pump to fill a tank.

continued on page 10

Didja Know?

by Dick Letrich, WB6WKM


Last spring, when H. Ross Perot was a presidential contender, I kept thinking, "I have heard of him before, but darned if I can remember just how." I was aware of his rescue of his employees and of his many trips to the Orient, of course, but something else tugged at my memory.

I enjoy reading history, and my favorite subject is radio history. But I tend to forget details after a year or two, so I sometimes re-read the same books. I took a short vacation in August, and I packed a few books and magazines to read during the trip.

One, which I had been planning to read for some time, was *The First 50 Years*, a history of the Collins Radio Company and—later—of the Collins Division of Rockwell International.

When I reached chapter 10, titled *Troubled Times*, there it was—the story of the hostile takeover attempt by H. Ross Perot. I'll leave out the details, in case you would like to read of those events of 1969. But the book details the stress Mr. Perot's action caused Art Collins, as he strove to save his company.

Collins remained loyal to his employees; the Rockwell deal included guarantees of proper treatment of his faithful workers, and of their town—Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Art Collins passed away February 26, 1987. Born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, he lived most of his life in Cedar Rapids. You probably know of his contributions to Amateur Radio and communications technology, but if you would like to know more of his life, his ham roots, and the company he founded, read *The First 50 Years*. 

Electric Gas Station from p9

Hughes is a subsidiary of General Motors. GM plans to market its Impact electric car sometime soon. The Impact will be built at the former Reatta Craft Center in Lansing, Michigan.

from the 4/24/92 issue of GM's PR Newswire (reprinted in the 8-9/92 Current Events, the newsletter of the Electric Auto Assn.—Paul Brasch Editor (408/371-5969)

Brad Wyatt Speaks

Brad, K6WR, newly elected Vice Director for the ARRL Pacific Division, discussed issues affecting Amateur Radio at the September NCDXC meeting. He started by saying, "This is the third meeting I've been to this week."


Brad described the most important pending legislation concerning Amateur Radio: the Spectrum Protection Act. He said 213 congressmen have signed up as co-sponsors now, the highest number to co-sponsor a bill in history. We're not doing as well on the Senate side, though—only 33 senators so far.

He said Dick Fasio of Sacramento County recently signed up. Those who haven't signed on or committed their support: Barbara Boxer, Nancy Pelosi, Tom Landau of San Mateo, and Tom Campbell of western Santa Clara county. He asked everyone who is a constituent of any of these people to please write or call them. (I have letters that you can modify

to cut typing time. Just send a disk and 58¢ return postage, and tell me your format—ed.)

Senator Cranston is a co-sponsor of the Spectrum Protection Act but Senator Seymour dithers. So let Senator Seymour know where you stand.

Brad also mentioned Senate Bill 218. The Department of Defense is releasing 250 MHz of spectrum above 400 MHz and this bill calls for auctioning it off—"to reduce the federal deficit." The problem is that Amateurs shared some of that spectrum and now it could be sold out from under us—becoming exclusive property of whoever bids highest. Brad said, "The League is working behind the scenes now; it's not yet letter-writing time, but get ready."

Brad announced that Jim, W6CF, is giving a talk on DX at the Pacific Division Convention in Concord Oct 16, 17, and 18. "Please come," he said. 

Non-Ham Fined For 2-meter Repeater Use

The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to one Gino A. Turrella, of Kent, Washington on July 9. Turrella was the target of "numerous complaints" for transmitting profane language and threatening Amateurs "on various repeaters throughout western Washington," according to the FCC's Kirkland field office.

Citing Turrella for "willful violations of Section 310 of the Communications Act, the FCC held him liable for \$10,000 forfeiture, \$2,000 more than its base amount because the transmissions were repeated and "consisted of profanity and threats."

from the Aug. '92 ARRL Letter

VE Fraud Alleged

On June 29 the FCC fined Technician Class Amateur Russell D. Hutchings, NØQMZ, \$1,500 for fraud in connection with a license application.

Hutchings, of Ashland, Missouri is accused of submitting an altered Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to volunteer examiners at a test session held September 10, 1991.

"The CSCE at issue," the FCC letter to Mr. Hutchings said, "was altered to indicate you passed Element 1B (13 WPM code). You stated to a Commission staff member [on the telephone] that you innocently circled element 1B because you needed to pass the element.

"It appears that this alteration was an attempt to obtain a license by fraudulent means."

from the Aug. '92 ARRL Letter

Patch Design Contest for Visalia-93


by "Knock," K6ITL (1993 Convention Chairman)

Here's some fun for would-be artists. We're having a contest for the best patch for the '93 International DX Convention in Visalia.

All NCDXC members are eligible, as are their non-member family members. The patch must be no larger than 3-1/2 inches in any dimension, should use no more than four colors, and must include the figure 1993. If you wish, you can include the location, "NCDXC," and "44th International DX Convention."

You may enter as many times as you wish. The winner will receive a set of 1993 Callbooks or pre-registration for one person to the convention.

A impartial panel of artists from the College of San Mateo's Art Department will judge the entries.

Send your designs to Steve, W6MKM. He's in the roster. 

Spratley

from page 1

Then, on May 8, China retained Denver-based Crestone Energy to explore for oil and gas in a 9,700 square mile swath of sea claimed by both Beijing and Hanoi. Crestone's president, Randall Thompson, claims China has promised to protect and defend Americans working there.

Vietnam protested the Crestone deal, but China planted another marker on a reef in the area and its spokesman, Wu Jianmin, said, "The islands have been China's since ancient times."

"China is merely living up to historical expectations ... flexing its muscle," Philippines Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said. He warned that China would probably become even more assertive.

Meanwhile, according to Pentagon sources, Vietnam is continuing its military build-up. With about 1000 troops on the Spratleys, Vietnamese forces current

CA QSO Party

from page 1

bands. On CW use 1805 KHz or 40 KHz up from the lower band edge. On SSB, use 1815, 3850, 7230, 14250, 21300, and 28450 KHz. Novices can try 10 KHz up from their lower band edge on CW and 28450 MHz.


Awards include certificates for top single-operator in each California county, each state, each Canadian province, and each DX country—but all winners must have logged at least 100 QSOs.

The top three non-California single-op entries will receive trophies, as will the top three California single-ops, the top California multi-op, the top California multi-multi. There will also be trophies for the top single- and multi-op California expeditions to rare counties.

The NCCC even gives away wine. The top 20 California and the top 20 non-California entries will each receive a bottle of NCCC Private Reserve. There are special pairs of trophies—one for best in California and one for best outside California—for the most CW QSOs, the best mobile single-op or team, the top low power entry (under 200 Watts), and the top Novice or Technician entries.

That's a lot of awards, and you could win one of 'em. There are a few other rules:

- Single-op entrants are limited to 24 hours of operating time, with 15-minute breaks or longer clearly marked in the log.
- Stations may be worked once on CW and once on SSB on each band.
- Single- and Multi-Single entries can have only one transmit signal at any time.
- All CW contacts must be in the CW subbands.
- Split-frequency operation is not allowed.
- A California station that changes counties starts over as a new entry whenever it moves across a county line. However, others can then contact it again for the new multiplier.

The contest program CT (version 8) includes the California QSO party. You can submit your logs on disk in its format, along with a signed hardcopy summary sheet, to Ken Anderson, K6PU. For more information, contact NCCC President Bob Wilson, N6TV (both Ken and Bob are in the NCDXC roster). 

Heard on the Party Line


by Charley Vorderberg, WØCCT

- Gossip is usually something told to just one person at a time—on the air.
- In the library, tall stories should be kept on the top shelf, with books an antennas.
- With some OMs, "putting in your two

outnumber the Chinese there by three-to-one. Vietnam has also succeeded in mobilizing opposition to China. On June 5, Malaysia agreed to jointly develop the area with Vietnam.

Desperate for hard currency, Vietnam wants production to start in its Big Bear field in 1994. The confrontation with China may wreck those plans.

It looks like the silence from Spratley on the ham bands may continue. Lucky are they who can say, "Who needs it?"

source: an article in the July 20 (Peninsula) Times, submitted by KA6ING 

cents worth" is inflationary.

- Some QSOs are like horns on cattle—points far apart and a lot of bull between.
- Two hypochondriacs in QSO—pain pals.

NCDXC Treasurer's Report

August 1 through August 31, 1992

Checking Account activity:

July 31 EOM Balance	\$5,613.23
Receipts	2,544.25
Sub Total	8,157.48
Expenditures	<1,346.81>
August 31 EOM Balance	\$6,810.67

Savings Account Activity:

Life Membership Fund,	
Eureka Bank 8/31/82	\$10,175.04
C.D.,	
Eureka Bank 7/31/92	\$14,997.79

Repeater Fund: 6/30/92 \$1,270.36



FIRST CLASS

P. O. BOX 608
 MENTLO PARK, CA
 94026-0608

DXER

— 11 STORE BUYING POWER —

ICOM

IC-765



100W HF Transceiver
 General Coverage Receiver
 Maximum Operation Flexibility
SALE! CALL FOR PRICE
KENWOOD

TS-450S

HF Transceiver



12v 100W, Gen. Cov. Receiver
 100 mems. • 108DB Dynamic Range
 DDS • DSP Optional • Dual VFO
 Optional Built-in Auto Antenna Tuner

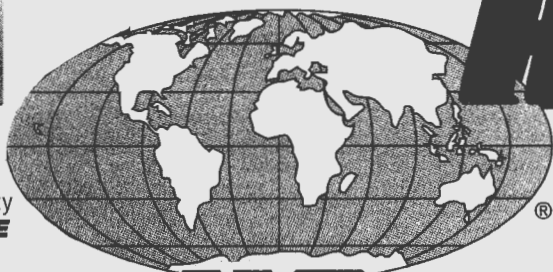
TS-950SDX

RM-1 Included



(Shown with optional SM-230 & SW-2100)

NEW 150W MOSFET Finals • Voice Keyer Optional
NEW DSP on RX + TX • **NEW** CW Memory Keyer
NEW CW Filter in Sub-Band Receiver
NEW RM-1 Included • **NEW** S Meter for Sub-Band
 General Coverage RX • Built-In AC Supply



TOWER CORPORATION

HAM RADIO OUTLET
 WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Bob Ferrero W6RJ
 President/Owner

Jim Rafferty N6RJ
 Vice President

YAESU

FT-990



100W HF Gen Cov Transceiver
 DDS, QSK • 500Hz CW Filter included
CALL FOR LOW PRICE

MA-40

40' Tubular Tower

REG. \$809 **SALE \$629**

MA-550

55' Tubular Tower

Handles 10 sq. ft. at 50 mph
 Pleases neighbors with
 tubular streamlined look
 REG. \$1369 **SALE \$999**

TX-455 Sale \$1389

55' Freestanding Crank-Up
 Handles 18 sq. ft. at 50 mph
 No guying required
 Extra-strength construction
 Can add raising and
 motor drive accessories

Towers Rated to EIA Specifications
 Other Models at Great Prices!



SHOWN WITH
 OPTIONAL
 ROTOR BASE

SUNNYVALE, CA 94086
 510 Lawrence Expwy. #102
 (408) 736-9496
 (800) 854-6046
 Tom, KB6LUC, Mgr.
 Lawrence Expwy.
 So. from Hwy. 101

OAKLAND, CA 94606
 2210 Livingston St.
 (510) 534-5757
 (800) 854-6046
 Rich, WA9WYB, Mgr.
 I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp