

Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, SK

Lloyd Dayton Colvin, W6KG, who with his wife Iris, W6QL, visited and operated from hundreds of DX locations all over the world, is a Silent Key. He was 78.

After initially rallying, Lloyd succumbed to the effects of a stroke suffered in early December during a visit to Istanbul, Turkey with his wife. His death there was attributed to cardiac arrest.

First licensed in 1929 at age 12, Lloyd earned an electrical engineering degree from U.C. Berkeley. After graduation, he embarked upon a 23-year army career, retiring in 1961 as a lieutenant colonel. His service years had provided the opportunity to operate from many foreign countries, establishing the penchant for DX globetrotting that marked his later years. Issued WPX #1, he was featured on the cover of *CQ* in 1957.

Lloyd and Iris married in 1938, and Iris obtained her license in 1945, as W6DOD. By the mid-sixties, their



W6KG and W6QL at home in Richmond, CA, July 4, 1993

successful real estate investments and contracting business in Alaska and California had ensured financial independence for the Colvins. DX history was about to be made.

The Yasme Foundation had been established in 1961 to aid the worldwide sailboat DXpeditioning of Danny Weil, VP2VB, a young Englishman. By 1964, Weil had married, lost the last of five boats and abandoned his odyssey. The foundation had also sponsored several other DXpeditioners. Although it now had no funds, Yasme could provide licensing and QSL assistance to DXers who could pay their own way—as the Colvins could. Thus Yasme and the Colvins began a 30-year association.

The Colvins' Yasme saga began in the fall of 1965 on Saipan; the last completed trip—to Southeast Asia—was in 1992. They traveled to 221

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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



January Meeting to Feature "MediShare" Story

A leisurely Sunday morning roundtable between hams in three continents gave birth to "MediShare", a world-wide philanthropic program originated and operated solely by amateur radio operators. MediShare provides medical equipment, medicines and medical supplies to Third World hospitals and jungle clinics.

At the January dinner meeting of the Northern California DX Club, Dr. Robert C. ("Smitty") Smithwick, W6JZU, will tell the story of MediShare for the first time, with narrative, slides and pictures.

That's Friday, January 14, 1994, at *The Bold Knight Restaurant* in Sunnyvale. Attitude adjustment commences at six and

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dinner at seven, followed by the presentation and meeting. Prime Rib or Chicken Riganati (\$16); Chef's Salad (\$12). Contact Craig Smith, N6ITW for dinner reservations via packet or leave a message at (408) 777-0700.

KINKO PRINT

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: George Allan, WA6O
 Vice President: Craig Smith, N6ITW
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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.

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General Meeting

The year-end meeting of the NCDXC was held December 9th at *The Bold Knight* in Sunnyvale. with a substantial number of the Faithful in attendance. This was not a business meeting, but a festive holiday dinner with door prizes and entertainment. The announcement by Elliott Pisor, K6ILM, ré the health problems of, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG was a sobering moment.

Hors d'oeuvres were available in plenty before dinner. George Allan, WA6O, introduced Tom, KB6LUC, of Ham Radio Outlet, who showed some of the latest items available for enhancing the operation of a ham radio station.

Door prizes were presented to lucky drawing winners, with XYL's asking their OM's what they should choose.

Dessert service was preceded by a masterful display of culinary artistry by the very able chef. He lit *Crème de Menthe*, which was then applied with a strawberry topping to the dessert.

Songs were beautifully sung by the very able group, "Holiday Expressions." WA6O then adjourned the evening around 9:30 PM.

There was no Board of Directors meeting during December. The BOD will resume monthly meetings in January.

Ron Panton, W6VG

By George! de WA6O

By the time you read this message the Holidays will have come and gone. Here's hoping they were enjoyable for you and that all you good DX'ers had some nice goodies in your stockings.

The Holiday dinner at the Bold Knight was very fine. The food was excellent (as usual) and we had a good speaker and entertainment. Some deserving DXers and/or their spouses were treated to nice door prizes.

As the new year unfolds, we return to Club business. I regret that Chuck Vaughn, AA6G has resigned as Chairperson for the NCDXC 9BDXCC award. As a result, I will need to appoint a replacement for Chuck as quickly as possible. Chuck has agreed to continue until a replacement is found. I would like to thank him for his service to the Club in this capacity.

The Board has a full agenda:

- This month, the Board will appoint a Chairperson to head up the *DX'er of the Year* Committee. This is a most important job and the choice will be carefully made.
- We need to involve more members in Club activities throughout the year.
- We must move ahead with the budget immediately.

Finally, it is with deep regret and sadness that we note the passing of Lloyd Colvin, W6KG. We in the NCDXC and the entire DX community mourn the loss of this legendary DX'er. Lloyd's key is now silent, but his memory will live with us and in the DX world forever.

73 de George Allan, WA6O

Roster Changes

Change of Address

Sandy Lynch, WA6BXH
 1511 SW Park Avenue, Suite 707
 Portland, OR 97201
 H/B/F: (503) 274-1910
 (Sandy becomes an Absentee Member)

Robert L. (Bob) Sawyer, KM6ID
 2808 Park Estates Way
 San Jose, CA 95135-1215
 H: (408) 238-8960
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Dick Wilson, K6LRN
 Box 1582
 Clovis, Ca., 93613

W6KG, SK

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DXCC countries, operating in about two thirds of them, and generated over one million QSO's. Yasme volunteers answered over 750,000 QSL's, which are cata-logged and stored in the Colvin home—the world's largest QSL collection.

Lloyd and Iris frequently operated from countries—such as Abu Ail in 1982 and Burundi in 1991—which had seen no amateur operation for many

years. In 1989, *glasnost* brought the opportunity to tour all 15 Soviet republics, and to operate in all but Armenia.

Both Colvins were Life Members of the Northern California DX Club, and honorary members of many other DX organizations. On average, they were abroad for six months each year, and were rarely home for Christmas. When at home, they

frequently entertained traveling DXers they had met on their sojourns; their annual Fourth of July party was well-attended by local and visiting DXers.

In addition to Iris, Lloyd is survived by a daughter, Joy Gilcrease, formerly W4ZEW, and granddaughters Justine and Vanessa Gilcrease. His ashes have been scattered at sea.

Remembering Lloyd

As far as I am concerned, Lloyd and Iris Colvin were the most spectacular and most enduring team of DXers ever to show on the bands. They were the friends of every journeyman DXer and the passing of Lloyd will leave a void that possibly never can be filled. They were a DXing phenomenon which lasted so long that it often was taken for granted, something that would always naturally occur. It wasn't and it won't. Of all the qualities that should be remembered and admired, it was their always-openness with any DXer, and the total countries worked was not their criterion. If you were a DXer, you were a friend and the Colvins had friends. Always.

Members of the club may have their favorite story about the Colvins, some of which have been heard before, and some of which bear repeating. One which I have often retold is how Lloyd fell off the roof of their three-story home over by the edge of the bay in Richmond. This happened about twenty years ago. Years back, the Colvins had a home up atop the Berkeley Hills on Grizzly Boulevard. They sold that home and traveled the world DXing for some years. Returning to the Bay Area, they purchased property adjacent to present Interstate 580 and built a three story home. Most club members are familiar with the site: the poles for their low band antennas are often noted.

One morning upon arising, and when Iris was fixing breakfast, Lloyd said he

was going up to the flat rooftop of the structure to check the antennas. Up there he carefully studied the various arrays, edging backwards to get better angles for viewing or to check certain things. He kept moving back until his heel struck the low parapet around the rooftop, and Lloyd toppled over the side of the building. He hit the ground three stories down, fortunately hitting softened ground.

After a moment or two, maybe even three, of running through the peripheral check-list, Lloyd got to his feet and climbed back up the stairs to the kitchen on the upper floor. There Iris—still busily engaged—was astonished to see Lloyd come up the stairway. "Lloyd! I thought you were up on the roof," Iris said in surprise. "I was," was Lloyd's reply, "I was."

Some may have some reservations about this story. Some years ago, when writing for *CQ*, I wanted to use this item in a DX column and checked with Lloyd and Iris before sending off the copy. They confirmed that this is the way it happened. Absolutely!

It is a sad task to tell such things and to realize that they must be put in the past tense. But there are other factors. One eventually learns that one lives as long as one is remembered, and is dead when forgotten. For DXers, Lloyd Colvin will live a long time. A very long time.

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD



In their 30 years of DX travel, Lloyd and Iris Colvin had countless adventures, some of which have become folkloric. For the benefit of younger members, here are a few, as told by Rubin, WA6AHF.

His friends say Lloyd was loathe to spend money on fancy accommodations, and scrupulously avoided hotels. Once, in a nameless South American country, Lloyd and Iris arranged to stay a week at a "private boarding house" with very reasonable rates, where setting up the ham rig would present no problems.

Their first night proved sleepless, with a constant clamor, loud male voices, and a lot of coming and going. The next morning, they found that no men were present—all the other residents of the building were women. They quickly arrived at the correct assessment: they had moved into a brothel. Undaunted, they stayed the rest of the week!

On another occasion, in another third-world QTH, Lloyd and Iris were in the street. Suddenly, a man tore Iris' watch from her wrist and took off running. Lloyd took off in hot pursuit of the retreating figure, yelling for assistance as he chased the man into ever narrowing streets and alleys. Of course, no one spoke English, and few would have been inclined to help, in any case. Undaunted, Lloyd cornered his man in an apartment house, shook him violently, took his watch, and returned, breathless, to present the regained prize to Iris. Iris looked at the recovered valuable and said "Lloyd, that isn't my watch!"

Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Point and Counterpoint **On QSL's and Volunteers**

Editor's note: At year end I (and presumably other T suffices) received a package from the 6-land Bureau—the first in six months and the second since last January—accompanied by a note from "T", the letter manager. His note and my reply are excerpted here.

Mr. "T": Lest you think I have forgotten you, do not despair. I didn't forget you, but I 1) was busy, 2) had a glorious time, 3) was busy again, 4) played radio a lot and 5) and now back to Buro QSL chores. No apologies, just a few words of explanation...

He follows this opening with a considerably more detailed description of his travels, projects and contesting activities.

NI6T replies: In...correspondence with Archie, W6LPJ (6-land buro manager)...his major point was that, because QSL managers are volunteers, any service rendered—or not—is at the letter manager's pleasure. I disagree.

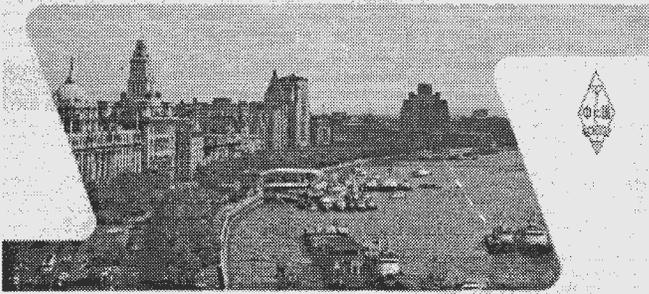
Amateur radio depends almost entirely upon volunteerism... However, it is not the *fact* of volunteerism that is essential, but the willingness of volunteers to complete their tasks with the same intensity and integrity brought to their regular, paid jobs. That is, unless the volunteer's task has some priority in his life, it will be done poorly, or not at all...

Your accompanying note indicates the low priority assigned to this responsibility: a distant seventh, behind your vacation home's deck project, a long RV trip, DX conventioning, house painting, contesting and even your own QSLing.

Like bureau people, club officers, ARRL section managers, Division directors, and all those who labor at Visalia, I am a volunteer because I wish to return something to amateur radio. I currently edit the (NCDXC) newsletter... It is a time-consuming task, but—like the bureau's service—worthwhile and personally satisfying. But here's the catch: there is an unspoken but binding commitment to publish regularly and dependably, which I honor without question. I do not skip months, nor send little notes explaining what a great time I had while *not* editing the newsletter. The holidays stress—but do not break—the cycle, nor do my personal projects or vacations.

I think you owe a little more to your constituency, Mr. "T". Or else, why bother?

shanghai china



◆ 中国无线电运动协会
◆ 上海市分会业余电台

BY4AA

AMATEUR RADIO STATION OF CRSA
SHANGHAI BRANCH

TO RADIO W6TSQ CFM OUR QSO/YOUR REPORT

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	RJT/GMT	BAND (MHZ)	MODE
13	10	1984	1237	75	2XSSB
RST		TX	RX	ANT	WX
59					

TNX/PSE YOUR QSL VY73: OP
RMKS: Hi Sam you are the first USA. *Wong*

中国无线电运动协会上海分会业余电台 P. O. BOX 205 SHANGHAI CHINA
+ 86 21 2858 20

Station to Work China
Since 1949. April - Any contact after is not approved by CHINA.

Speaking of QSL's...

Sam Canter, W6TSQ graciously shared this unique BY card with *The DXer*.

Confirming an October, 1984 QSO on 75m, the operator's note reads: "Hi Sam you are the first U.S.A. station to Work China since 1949. April—any contact after is not approved by CHINA." Happily, op Wong meant *QSO's after 1949 and before Sam*.

The DXer would love to see your rare and unusual cards. Send them to NI6T, who will scan them and return them to you—hopefully without drooling on them.

One Member's Opinion

Strike! The Iron is Hot—

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

Professor Cass jumps feet-first into the ongoing discussion of "Charlie" and W6TI—and looses a few salvos of his own...

With the amount of space devoted to the operation of the club's two-meter repeater in recent issues of *The DXer*, possibly it is time to give both a close look and a long range stare at the repeater, its usage, the coverage, and—most especially—the overall quality and value of the present operation.

Excellent points have been made by all those club members using *The DXer's* columns to point up the problem. Possibly it is even time to consider whether there might be something even more important than DXing! Possibly it is time to separate the intangible from the negligible. Briefly, let us first remember the early days on

our two-meter frequency, when the operation was with AM, there was no repeater, and the good news in those golden days of DXing was straight from the horses' mouths, from one DX club member to any others who could hear his signal. Those truly were the days, with those listening to their Clegg 22er's being the ones in the know.

The repeater was initially hailed as the great step forward. What it did was to expand the range of announcements. From its inception, on that site high in the Oakland hills, it spread the message throughout the whole Bay Area. Everywhere...except for those places in the radio shadow of intervening hills. For those who raised their voices in protest that they could not hear the repeater, that everlasting and still-heard advice was brusquely given: "move!" You can even now hear that advice! There is no balm in Gilead. Not yet, anyhow.

But there were problems at the Oakland site. Mostly, it was that the repeater broke down and, it being in the basement of a private dwelling, anxious DXers hammering on the door at the midnight hour quickly wore out their welcome. In

exasperation, and with scant appreciation of the ever-growing need of DXers to hear the always timely and valued DX activity reports (and to hear them *right now*), the advice was given: "move!"

The repeater was moved south to Black Mountain: a good site, and the signal is often heard at great distances—but not with full coverage. If you have a hill between you and Black Mountain, you have a problem. But every problem always has at least one good answer. And you have heard it: "move!"

Keep in mind that we are going back almost a quarter-century. To some of the venerated members of the club, that is just

Scratch an old fogey—usually the Tuesday luncheon variety and of that same generation—and he will tell you, admittedly guardedly, that the decline of DXing can be directly attributed to the influx of amateurs with electrical engineering or computer science degrees.

like it was yesterday. To the young and restless, it sounds like another WWII story: (you know, the war that came a couple of years after the Civil War.) Get your DXing time frame right and your perspective will be focused. Always keep focused!

Those were the golden years of DXing, when people who mattered both in DXing life and intellectual life dominated club activity, the days when—when someone spoke on the Club's repeater—everyone listened. Those were the days of real amateur radio, when all you needed to work all the bands was 13 wpm code speed and the luck to miss no more than 15 in a 50-question written test. Scratch an old fogey—usually the Tuesday luncheon variety and of that same generation—and he will tell you, admittedly guardedly, that the decline of DXing can be directly attributed to the influx of amateurs with electrical engineering or computer science degrees. "Hell!" they will growl, "we were real amateurs then, almost totally self-

taught. We did it the hard way!" And if you show any sympathy to their plaint, they will even tell you flat out: "no one with an electrical engineering or similar degree, or any degree in computer sciences, should be allowed in the DX Club. Not at all. They are not amateurs; they are professionals and want us to think and act just as they do, these over-educated purveyors of elitism. Not only over-educated, but lots of them bring viruses. Just watch a packet radio monitor and you will learn what they are: dangerous! Dangerous virus carriers.

One has to be careful in arousing these grouching club members. They may suffer in silence but they still suffer and can explode with but a slight irritation. Just be careful, and don't cross them! Ever! Some in the club want "Charlie"

to be censored so that he will only repeat the top of the needed country list: the top ten, the top twenty, or maybe a few more. But only those countries yet needed by those on the Honor Roll or close to it. The real DX and not all that rubbish that one hears. In short, to concentrate only upon the countries that will embellish the individual standings of those high on the DXCC list and nothing else. And these members want you always to keep in mind that those on the top of the DXCC ladder, and including none with a total less than 300 countries, are those who really deserve all the help that they can get. This has to be freely acknowledged. *They* are the needy! And with no regard at all for the risk of belaboring a worn and hoary cliché, they will in all self-justification demand of any and all: "isn't that what DXing is all about?" Ha!

Today we have club members who do not like automated reports. Often, voices

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Strike! The Iron is Hot...

are heard raised in protest. "Shoot 'Charlie'", and "let's save the repeater for rag-chewing," they say. And they will pound that thesis, often saying: "After all, isn't that what DXing is all about?" Others say that packet radio has been the ruin of the repeater: life was good before packet radio.

Some will urge others to forget 5BDXCC, WAZ and 5BWAZ. Forget that often those DX countries considered common in the higher frequencies are extremely difficult to work on the lower bands. Forget that—once one has attained the 300 DXCC country sticker—that for most DXers the future is but a desolate plain.

Just look at the DX high-rollers of past years, those once filled with enthusiasm, unrelenting drive and complete devotion to DXing and who lost the flame once they passed the 300 mark and found themselves facing a future of diminished expectations. Once a DXer has seen DXing in its many forms and knows the shape of it from memory, what is the joy—let alone the thrill—of working them all again for no good reason, they not counting for anything at all and hardly adding even a scintilla of glory to one's DX stature?

Some do look beyond the question and have raised a caution as to "what is 'rare DX'?" one of the eternal questions of DXing. In *The DXer* one writer points to "Charlie" as being a direct result of failure to implement the majority vote by the club membership to enhance and expand the area covered by the W6TI repeater: into the North Bay and over to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys; that the failure to implement that vote accelerated the deleterious onslaught of packet radio. In this case, it would seem that some of the responsibility for the derided "Charlie" and packet radio itself is rightly lodged in the failure of the club itself.

The problems with raising this question are manifold. First, while the whole membership was polled in this matter and voted in the affirmative (to expand the coverage), there were many who were

vociferously opposed to the idea. These—very logically to their thinking perspective—pointed out that the then-existing coverage worked very well in the Santa Clara Valley, and why fix something that was not broken? And, as the Santa Clara Valley was the heart as well as the eternal soul of the DX Club, if those club members out in the boonies could not hear the repeater, why didn't they just "move!" to where they could. Inasmuch as the matter of extending the coverage was mandated by a full membership mail vote and—while not implemented—has never been rescinded, there are some who say that the club even

And these members want you always to keep in mind that those on the top of the DXCC ladder...are those who really deserve all the help that they can get. This has to be freely acknowledged. They are the needy!

in this latter day is still obligated to expand the repeater coverage.

If one ventures far into the hinterlands and finds some who cannot read W6TI, one may quickly find oneself caught in a web of constitutional argument. One such advocate has said that his 14th Amendment rights of equal representation have been and still are being violated by the club failing to expand the coverage! Others will cite the principle of "Segregation de Facto," noting that they are prevented from enjoying club benefits because of their locale; and that the mandate given by the whole membership to correct this inequity has not been pursued. Questions of fiduciary responsibility, equal representation, the study and interpretation of the penumbra of implied rights emanating from the 14th Amendment are emphasized to make the point that there has not been sufficient effort, considering the present state of the radio art, for those distant DX club members to get their fair share of club services.

Some have raised the specter of "un-friendliness," even noting that the club has lost its fraternal fervor. Years back—a good quarter-century or more—I came to

a DX Club meeting for the first time. My joining *doubled* the number of NCDXC members in Marin County: there was no member north of me all the way along the coast to the Oregon border. I do recall one club member being in Winters, he being one who was voted a life membership when seriously ill in hope it would speed his recovery. He recovered, but no one ever heard from him again. There was also another up around Mt. Shasta. And that was it: I came as a stranger in a strange land.

W6GPB, one of the very earliest on the DXCC Honor Roll back when it was originated in the Thirties, brought me to the meeting as a new member. I still remember Dave Baker, W6WX, Jim Maxwell, W6CUF (now W6CF), and Jim Neiger, W7WJB (now N6TJ) going out of their way to meet and talk with me. I yet think that they tried to make me feel I belonged. I never looked back. In retrospect, I was fortunate. The club had but about 75 members in those days and usually only forty or so would show for the monthly sit-down dinner meeting at the *Fork and Cork* in San Mateo. I would have to wonder, from some of the things I have read lately, if that spirit of friendly fraternalism has been lost in these days of hi tech DXing and a "get lost, recruit, can't you see I'm busy?" attitude.

Over the years, I have come to consider the Colvins, Lloyd and Iris, as the epitome of all that is good in DXing: this from their willingness to meet and talk with *every* DXer, Honor Roll or otherwise. A country total has not been their criteria for acceptance, just that one was a DXer and one of the annointed. Lloyd and Iris! May their tribe increase and be long remembered. Enough!

Let us turn to the important things: the fairness of DXers and the goodness of the world. In short, if "Charlie" is not hailed, honored and esteemed, what might be the alternatives? The two-meter machine was originally established mainly as an alerting system for DX activity. It was the clarion call to bring club members to an alert

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status. Rag chewing has always been a problem, most times minor though usually more or less silently resented and decried. Few club members will accept the premise that the large increase in club dues imposed some years back to improve and maintain the repeater was to give someone a better opportunity to rag-chew and thereby occupy the frequency. In these instances the suggestion often was and still is heard: "move!" Perhaps now is the time to re-study repeater usage and clearly state whether the priority intent in its use is for DX-alerting or for rag-chewing. The dedicated usage of the machine should also be clarified in the area of what will be reported, automated or otherwise.

In short, what needs of the membership should be addressed? Should announcements be made only of the "ten most-wanted" countries (whatever that is supposed to

mean), or should the announcements be aimed at those, say, in the DXCC 150 to 250 segment, who can *most* benefit from the alerts? What, for the club, would be the best DXCC soil to till? This should be defined. Keep in mind that if the Top Ten are to be named as the Second Level of Nirvana for DXing, you might

...it would seem that some of the responsibility for the derided "Charlie" and packet radio itself is rightly lodged in the failure of the club itself.

as well shut down W6TI, as it will hardly be needed more than for the Thursday night meeting, or possibly for some good, old-fashioned and everlastingly mind-numbing rag-chewing. While there does seem to be the feeling that this problem is complicated by multi-faceted needs, hopes, and the everlasting burdens of tradition, it is not. It might even be considered a rather simple question, one that can

be easily resolved. In short: Is the repeater for rag-chewing or for DX alerts? Are automated reports wanted or only the live and somewhat human ones? For what area of club member needs should any broadcasts be programmed? And: are those club members beyond the present coverage of W6TI broadcasts being treated fairly?

Certainly it is time for the club's administration to appoint a committee to study and suggest a solution. This should not be a shallow study, but should be both deep and broad. And it should always adhere to our established traditions. And always with the understanding that the most harmonious and expeditious committees are those whose members agree in advance upon what conclusion they ought to reach. As most fathers learn, if a child wants to do something, it needs but a single reason, but if it does not there are thousands of reasons why it cannot.

A Letter From Jacky, 3B8CF

Many DXers noted that 3B8CF—a 40m mainstay—was absent from the bands all summer. Jack Troster, W6ISQ, shares this letter from Jacky Mandary, who again appears almost daily on 40 CW—and 80 CW as well (1435-1450Z, 3505-3507 kHz)!

Mauritius, 30 Sept. 93

Hello Jack,

Just a short note to let you know that I did have some serious health problems in June. I underwent a surgical operation and doctors have removed my left kidney and a large tumor which had grown on it. It was so serious that I thought that I would be SK and QRT forever.

Fortunately I feel OK now and I am QRV again. The tumor was slightly malignant and I have had a full session of radio (*sic*) therapy. I do hope that heavens give me a few more years to go. I will be 50 on the 4th of December!! OK OM. CUAGN on the air.

73

Jacky



CIS Mail Hint

Ed Kritsky, NT2X, published a piece in the NJDXA Newsletter on improving one's luck with DX mail to the C.I.S. Apparently, *everyone* sending mail to Russia and the former Soviet republics is having serious problems, not just hams!

A reader of a New York-based Russian language newspaper suggested the following approach to improve mail deliverability. On the outside of the envelope he writes in Russian "No valuable enclosures." He claims that his letters began to arrive at their destinations, whereas they previously disappeared without a trace. NT2X described how to modify latin characters to appear cyrillic, but I dug up a cyrillic bit-mapped font for my Mac, and came up with the following for "no valuables":

ЦЕННОСТЕЙ НЕТ

Ed also suggest that no SAE/SASE or dollar bills be enclosed: QSL cards only, or a single IRC for "those adventurous souls." He would appreciate hearing from those who try this successfully.

—N1GT

9BDXCC Tags Mailed

Chuck Vaughn, AA6G, outgoing 9BDXCC Award Manager, has mailed all of this year's endorsement tags.

Chuck wrote that there were no applications for new plaques this year, and that most members requesting endorsements wanted their tags mailed. Consequently, there will be no presentation at the January meeting.

—N1GT

Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday each month, Las Positas College Livermore, 7AM-noon
- Winterfest, January 15, Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey
- CQ WW 160m CW Contest, Jan 28-30
- ARRL DX Contest CW, February 19-20
- CQ WW 160m SSB Contest, Feb 26-27
- ARRL DX Contest Phone, Mar 5-6
- CQ WW WPX SSB Contest, Mar 26-27
- International DX Convention, April 15-17, Holiday Inn, Visalia

The Editor's Keyboard...de NI6T

Ante Up!

The December and January *DXers* each went to the printer about a week late—their nominal deadlines minor casualties of inexperience, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, the passing of W6KG, and three major contests. The February *DXer*, however, shall be in the mail before the end of January: no way will your Editor be pounding these keys with Peter I QRV! Accordingly, the editorial deadline is January 20, and shall remain the 20th henceforth.

There is, however, a small problem: the cupboard is bare. Every article, letter, photo and story has been published. In no month so far during my short tenure has there been what could be called an inventory—much less a surplus—of material, but now there is nothing, with only two weeks to deadline.

Now is the time for all good NCDXCers to come to the aid of *The DXer*. Stories, anecdotes, *DXer* profiles, letters, op ed pieces, tutorials, rare QSLs, interesting photos: all are grist for the mill. Stop right this moment, as you read this, and ask yourself not what *The DXer* can do for you, but what you can do for *The DXer*. And then do it!

One more time: this is your newsletter, and it will reflect your participation. I want to see six to ten pages each month—but four is a real possibility.

Credits

- Thank you, Iris, for the photo on the front page. We all love you and share your loss.
- The Christmas Party was planned and arranged by Craig Smith, N6ITW.
- Tom Server, KB6LUC, of HRO provided the new product demos.
- Christmas Party photography was by Gordon Girton, W6NLG. Asked by the Editor to shoot the party—at the last minute—he discovered his flash unit was dead. With the innovative spirit common to *DXers* and contesters, Gordon “pushed” the Tri-X and shot with available light. Tnx, Gordon!

—NI6T

Christmas Party 1993



RJ's Elf



Mr. & Mrs. Mike Alpha



Jolly old St. Pig-Heart



Former First Family



Present Pres Presenting



Notorious Brownie Connection



Dewey & Heartburn



Each thinks the other is paying...



Mrs. C. Smith with some guy...

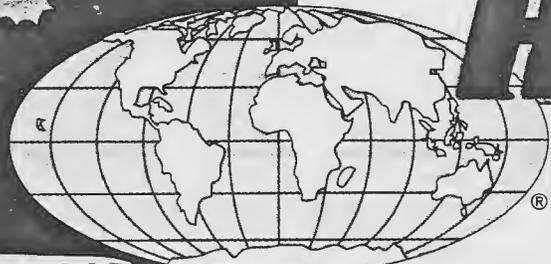


Discussing the last Novice Roundup



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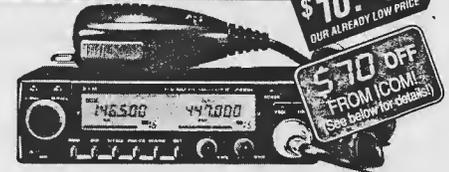
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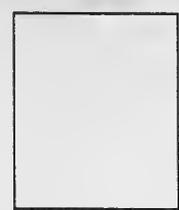


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DXer

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FIRST CLASS

January 1994

Issue No. 1