

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



The Editor's Keyboard

As I sit here tapping away, it is but a few days to the expected beginning of what is touted to be the Mother of All Pileups—at least for *this* year. Peter I Island is #1 on Chod's (and almost everyone else's) List of the Most Wanted, both overall and from every DX region. This long-planned DXpedition is eagerly awaited by all—except perhaps by those jaded unfortunates who were around the last time Peter I was QRV—which was the also the first time—and got through! Even these DX monoliths will undoubtedly be in the pileups, either to reassert their “rightful” positions as legends in their own minds, or to add a few band-countries to their swollen totals.

As a born-again DXer who discovered quite by accident in 1989 that it was possible to work DX from this improbable QTH, I am one of the eager aspirants for whom Peter I is a great, gaping hole in the dog-eared List of Lists.

Am I prepared for this momentous DX occasion? Hardly! The current roster of multiband vertical and wire antennas boasts no entry capable of substantial gain to the south-southeast, where the steep slope of the canyon is barely more surmountable than in the direction of the dreaded Long Path.

Yet there is a shred of hope! A new Force 12 beam sits assembled and waiting—on the roof! Coax and control cables are winging from South Carolina, and baluns from San Diego. A mast, Rohn 25 section and top-shelf await mating to a custom-built steel tree-mount, now nearing completion. Mast fixtures, gin-poles, pulleys and rope are being gathered. A human fly has been contracted to climb, and a redwood has been topped at 105 feet. Weather reports are being anxiously scanned, and this issue of *The DXer* will hopefully be put to bed in time to deal with this event within an event...and perhaps even get to operate in the 160m contest, as well.

Will my first beam in 30 years be hoisted in time to where it can do some good? Beats me! At this point, given the Pacific storms, I would not bet on it, but the challenge is exciting, and I have received and will receive generous help from DXer friends who well understand the passion. Who could ask for more? Please pass the aspirin.

—N16T

KH9 DXpedition at Feb Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of The Northern California DX Club will again be held on Friday, February 11, at *The Bold Knight* in Sunnyvale. The meeting will feature a presentation by Javier Campos, AH6MM/6, on the recent Cal Poly/Wake Island DXpedition.

Members of the California Polytechnic State University Amateur Radio Club operated from KH9 from August 31 to September 10, 1992. Javier's presentation was well received previously at the Southern California DX Club.

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Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday each month, Las Positas College, Livermore, 7 AM-noon
- EA RTTY Contest, February 12-13
- Dutch “PACC” Contest, February 12-13
- ARRL DX Contest CW, February 19-20
- CQ WW 160m SSB Contest, February 26-27
- ARRL DX Contest Phone, March 5-6
- CQ WW WPX SSB Contest, Mar 26-27
- International DX Convention, April 15 -17, Holiday Inn, Visalia
- CQ WW WPX CW Contest, May 28-29

Dinner selections are Prime Rib, Filet of Salmon, and Mediterranean Chicken Salad. The beef and fish are \$16 and the salad is \$11. Note that there will *not* be reservations in advance: pay at the door!

Attitude adjustment commences at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 7:15, the presentation, and the meeting.



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
 Secretary: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Treasurer: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Director: Bob Arrigo, KN6J
 Director: Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL
 Director: Louise Bloom, KA6ING

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 Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGC
 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, K16WF
 Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RO
 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 article in this publication—provided the DXer and the article's author are credited.

Board of Directors Meeting

On January 19, the BoD met at the home of W6VG. Present were KA6ING, WA6O, N6ITW, K6ITL, KG6AM, and W6VG and the meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. The budget and financial condition of the NCDXC was discussed at great length: we must keep our expenses down at this time. In this regard, the Board discussed pruning the cost of the DXer, cutting down the number of pages overall, and reducing the size of the DX Ladder. We will go with the *Bold Knight* minimum of 35. After the initial 35 arrive and have paid for their dinners, the minimum will have been met, and the rest will order their dinners when they pay KG6AM at the door.

After much discussion regarding "Charlie," the Secretary was asked to write K6LLK and ask John to turn "Charlie" off during the Thursday night net.

DXer of the Year chair and committee members were discussed and chosen and will be announced by President George Allan, WA6O, at the February club meeting.

Gordon Girton, W6NLG, and others requested changes in the Thursday night net format. The net will now be formally closed just before the swap shop takes over.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM. Next BoD meeting will convene February 9th, 7:30 P.M. at the home of W6VG.

—Ron Panton W6VG

General Meeting

The monthly meeting of the NCDXC was held at the *Bold Knight Restaurant* in Sunnyvale on January 14. After the happy hour, dinner was served. The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by President George Allan, WA6O, and guests were introduced. Among the guests were Luis, XE1L, and Bob, KK6EK, both members of the upcoming Peter I Island DXpedition, who spoke briefly, and left early to begin their long journey. Brad Wyatt, K6WR, now Division Director, spoke briefly on ARRL FCC affairs including the proposed vanity calls. Brad has named Steve Stuntz, K6FS, as an Assistant Director.

Smitty Smithwick, W6JZU, gave a very fine presentation on MARCO, with which he has long been associated. This medical ham net has provided important assistance to many foreign countries, and helped obtain, renovate and deliver a large amount of used, but usable medical equipment. Slides were also part of Smitty's presentation.

The Secretary presented 4 reinstatements of former members: Mickey Driver, AK5Q, Verne Anderson, W6LPM, Donald Batten, W6RMM, and Val Quinn, WN6R. A second reading was held for Charles Linn, K6IQY, who was voted into membership. Welcome, K6IQY: now upgrade to Extra!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

—Ron Panton, W6VG

By George! de WA6O

Last month I erroneously reported that the Board would be appointing a Chairperson for the DXer of the Year Committee. The President makes that appointment! The Board then appoints two members; then these three appoint two more members for a total of five. As of this writing, the Chairperson and the two Board appointees have been selected and will have been contacted. This task is on schedule and in accordance with the procedure.

We are trying to pin down an east Bay location for the March meeting. W6TEX is doing the leg work on this and we're hoping to find a place in the Fremont area. Stay tuned to the repeater—and packet—for up-to-the-minute details.

Due to popular demand (and continuous castigation), I am trying to get my packet station on the air. Hopefully, that will be accomplished by the time you read this! look forward to seeing you February 11 at the *Bold Knight*.

—73 deGeorge, WA6O.

Roster Changes

Silent Key

Glenn Koropp, W6YFW
1980 Santa Maria Way
Sacramento, CA 95864

New Member

Charles Linn, K6IQY (T)
1834 Doris Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
H (415) 325-7041

Change of Address

Happy Scott Martin, W7SW
c/o Ralph Martin
7847 SW 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97219-4303

Hillar Raamat, N6HR
P.O. Box 213
Greenbank, WA 98253
H (206) 678-3408

Hillar is now an Absentee Member.

Reinstatements

Mickey A. Driver, AK5Q
9 Woodsborough Circle
Houston, TX 77055

H (713) 984-9880
W (713) 754-2285

Verne W. (Andy) Anderson, W6LPM
482 W. Latimore
Campbell, CA 95008

Donald L. (Don) Batten, W6RMM
29 Mercury Avenue
Tiburon, CA 94920
H (415) 435-1714

Val D. Quinn, WN6R
1130 Needham Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
H (707) 446-7866
W (510) 603-1231



Save Your Plates!

A few months ago, I decided to sell my old pickup truck, which had had call-letter license plates on it for several years. I placed a "For Sale" sign on it and parked it in the street in front of my house. Several days later, a young man came by and, after some looking and negotiating, agreed on a price. He had the cash in hand, so I told him I would take off the license plates and sign off the pink slip. He said, "No, I can't take the truck without license plates on it." I assured him that he could obtain new plates from the DMV, but he was adamant, and the deal was off!

I did not want to lose the plates because, a few years earlier, I had had a hassle with a 1976 Pinto, which I had sold with call-letter plates attached. The buyer lived close by and had promised to return the plates as soon as he obtained replacements. When I did not hear from him, I went to see him; he said he had turned in the plates to DMV when they issued his replacements. When I queried DMV, I was told that tired-in plates are never kept, but are sent to Sacramento and destroyed! Oh, well!

The following Saturday, another potential buyer knocked at my door. There followed more negotiating, kicking of tires, etc. He, too, had cash in hand. He, too, did not want the plates removed from the truck! I told him I would accompany him to DMV on Monday morning with the registration and pink slip to get the license plates replaced. He agreed and said he would call me the next day to arrange to meet. Of course, I never heard from him again!

That was enough for me! I went directly to the DMV with the registration slip and obtained new standard plates for the truck, and was on my way home in ten minutes. Best of all, (1) there was no charge for the new plates, (2) I got to keep my call-letter plates for my replacement vehicle, and (3) a few days later, another buyer gave me \$100 more than either of the previous buyers had agreed to pay!

The "bottom line"? If you decide to sell your car and it has "ham" plates, replace them *first!*

—Dave Bottom, KD6AZ

—Mac McHenry, W6BSY

Across the Pond

In 1991, I found myself attending a trade show at the NEC in the U.K. Finally, I had a break from work to take a look around at other things going on at the Exhibit Centre. Among other things, there was an upcoming convention of manufacturers of various commercial communications equipment, including mobile radio, broadcast and satellite gear. It sounded interesting, until I saw that the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) annual convention was in progress! I opted for that, instead.

It was an interesting convention. I found a familiar yet unique approach to ham radio. It even seemed like these fellows really enjoyed home-brew, experimenting, lots of QRP gear and the like. I joined the RSGB, which, among other things brings each month a copy of their publication *RADio COMmunications*. This publication offers—like their convention—some fresh approaches to radio communications. There are equipment reviews that contrast sharply with those in our domestic ham radio magazines. They are always filled with complete and detailed testing, results and comparisons. There are lots of articles on gear to build, like the QRP stuff seen at the convention, packet gear, software, antennas and more. All in all, it is a very worthwhile publication, and at least for me fills that void left by the departure of *Ham Radio* magazine and its fine technical articles.

RADio COMmunications can be reached for more information at:

Radio Communication
The Journal of the Radio Society of Great Britain
Lambda House, Cranborne Road
Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3JE

Letters to The DXer

Reflections

I read with interest the article regarding the DX Club repeater in the January issue of the DXer, and couldn't resist the urge to respond.

I have had a love affair with electronics and radio that started 36 years ago at age 9. I finally managed to get my first ticket when I was 13 and since then it has been one of the most enjoyable hobbies I could imagine.

What has always been a big attraction of ham radio is the open exchange of ideas with those with a similar addiction. I was immediately attracted to the 147.36 repeater in 1980 when I got back on the air after a long absence. Why? There was actually intelligent life there! The things I heard on 40 meter SSB just about caused me to put the gear on the shelf and turn the light off in the ham shack for good. But here on the DX repeater was a group of amateurs that talked about their radios, improvements to them, operating techniques, antennas, propagation, plus a wealth of information and experience to help the fellow ham who's persuasion was chasing DX.

I immediately set about rebuilding a track to DXCC. It took me six months of modest effort (my wife will laugh at that), and I was occasionally late for work, but otherwise as a DX weekend warrior, to achieve that. I was really excited, coming to the first meeting with my 100 cards and my new DXer friends Lou, K6TMB and Ron, N6AUV.

Like everyone who knew Ron, his passing was a great loss. Ron was a participant in the activities on the DX club repeater that attracted me in the first place. I for one miss those inspiring discussions. Yes, the repeater provided the means to announce that latest DX activity, but — much more—it was the intercom for the club membership. It was a magnet for newly addicted DXers like myself.

I never understood why that changed. There we were at the peak of the sunspot cycle of 1979 and 1980, with all of this activity on the repeater. I don't recall a DX spot being missed. In fact, since the

apparent uproar by some that caused DXers to move off to simplex frequencies to carry on the discussions I so enjoyed, I found myself trying to monitor several frequencies so as not to miss one of the announcements in my absence. I suspect I still missed some.

Since 1989, I've been one of those that sits at the base of a mountain blocking my path to W6TI. On occasion, signals are good enough to copy the Thursday night net. I enjoyed both listening to and participating in WestLink when I lived in the Bay Area. Yes, there is the DX Packet Cluster, thankfully, for those out here to keep in touch, but it does not have the free flow of ideas which were the life of the DX repeater and attracted me to the club.

So how does the club intend to attract new members? Are we who have been at this endeavor 10, 20, 30 or more years satisfied to be the last of the greatest DX club ever? How do we attract and encourage the DXers that will be our club's life blood when we are no longer able? Who will inherit and carry on the traditions? Have we set the squelch too tight?

It seems the excitement for some of us has gone with the bright glow on the wall. Solid-state linears and 100-amp 12 volt supplies may have replaced our ham shack heaters waiting for that next new one, but we shouldn't let the best part of the DX repeater's glow go out. We need that idea-exchanging intercom between members that attracted me to the club. I am sure we still could have those same inspiring discussions, without interruption by DX announcements.

Today, as a part of the greying NCDXC membership, I put the headphones on and tune the bands without W6TI DX announcements, and without DX Packet Cluster spots. I've found a renewed interest chasing DX like I used to: search and pounce. I still miss that special activity on the DX repeater, the new friends I made, and the things I learned about DXing. But.... No, I'm not moving! I'm in the country, have no CCRs, have as much aluminum as I can afford to put in the air and I'm working DX!

—Dave Bottom, KD6AZ

Lloyd & Iris

Most NCDXC members have known Iris, W6QL, and knew Lloyd, W6KG, longer than I and can relate many more stories of their contributions to DX and the amateur fraternity. However, as a long-time ham and DXer who counts a number of the Colvins' DX operations as part of my "almost on the the Honor Roll" collection of QSL cards, I can relate one personal experience which says a lot about W6KG.

My wife Jay (now KN6BP) and I attended the 1992 ARRL National Convention in Los Angeles. On Saturday morning, Jay upgraded from "Tech Plus" to Advanced class during the VE session. That evening, we attended the conference banquet and merely by chance we shared dinner at the same table with the Colvins.

At the dinner Lloyd, Iris and I shared memories of DXpeditions they had operated and that I had worked, as well as conversation about ham friends we had in common. More than those discussions, however, I will remember their reaction to learning that Jay had upgraded to Advanced and would soon be tilling the DX soil. They wished her well, in a very warm and sincere way, wished her success in working towards DXCC, and expressed the hope that they would, indeed, provide her with some "new ones."

Not long after the convention we returned home to Contra Costa County and I made a point of driving Jay over to "west county" to see the Colvins' QTH adjacent to I-80. After all, it has been and is a ham radio landmark!

Lloyd is now a silent key. My spouse, in less than a year did work enough DX for her DXCC—and the Colvins were included in that quest. To Lloyd, rest in peace and find a way to give us a few hundred "extraterrestrial" countries. To Iris, our best wishes and warm regards. I doubt there will soon be, if ever, a ham radio husband/wife team that even approaches the accomplishments of the Colvins.

—Jerry Boyd, KG6LF



A-B-C

NS6 A Duane
 W7 ACC Bob
 AA6 AD Bruno
 W6 AED Bud
 WD6 AFC Bill
 K6 AFL Rowland
 SM0 AGD Erik
 N3 AHA Ace
 WA6 AHF Rubin
 KG6 AM Dewey
 ZL1 AMO Ron
 N6 AN Hal
 K6 ANP Len
 KJ6 AP Michael
 K6 ASI Bill
 WA6 AUD Cass
 WA6 AUE Jim
 WA6 AVU Hank
 HB9 AW Gerard
 K6 AYA Pat
 KD6 AZ Brian

B

NA6 B Ed
 WM6 B Bob
 OH2 BH Martti
 KN6 BI Peter
 KA6 BIM Dave
 W6 BIP BIP
 W6 BJH Ted
 JA1 BK Kan
 K6 BQN Bill
 WA6 BSS Bill
 W6 BSY Mac
 W6 BUY Jack
 K6 BWX Dick
 WA6 BXH Sandy
 WA6 BYA Bob
 K6 BZS Jan

C

KW6 C Michael
 KX6 C Harry
 NY6 C Greg
 K6 CBL Jack
 N6 CCL Larry
 SM0 CCM Lars
 W6 CF Jim
 KI6 CG George
 N6 CM Bob
 W6 CSI Norm
 WA6 CTA Ed
 W6 CTL Bill
 WB6 CUA Randy
 F2 CW Jacques
 W1 CW Bob
 K6 CXT John
 W6 CYX Bob

D-E-F-G

WW6 D Doug
 K6 DC Merle
 K6 DKQ Russ
 W6 DOT Gene
 W6 DPD Chuck
 WB6 DQP George
 K6 DR Tony
 VS6 DR Phil
 K6 DT Ed
 W6 DU Eric
 W6 DUB Mario
 N6 DVR Jim
 KA6 DXY Jim
 N6 DYS Taylor

E

AD6 E Al
 N6 EA Bob
 N6 EK Bob
 WD6 EKR Walt
 KN6 EL Jon
 W6 EMD Dave
 AB6 EQ Ken
 K1 ER John
 KC6 ESL John
 WB6 EXW Gary
 KI6 EZ Alex

F

NA6 F Don
 W6 FAH Bob
 K6 FD Ray
 W6 FDU Ben
 W6 FGD Marv
 K6 FO Norm
 W6 FOJ Roy
 KE6 FV Steve
 W6 FWX Kim

G

AA6 G John
 KB6 G Tom
 NT6 G Mark
 WX6 G Chuck
 KD6 GC Steve
 WB6 GFJ Ross
 KE6 GG Peter
 N6 GG Rich
 WA6 GIN Al
 N6 GK Greg
 W6 GO Jay
 K5 GOE Woody
 WA6 GTU Joe
 KB6 GV Vince
 KD4 GW Claude

H-I-J-K

WA6 HAN Dean
 K6 HEM Elmer
 K6 HHD Jan
 WA6 HHQ Eric
 W6 HIB Bob
 K6 HIH Cliff
 N6 HKX Nadine
 K6 HNZ Ken
 N6 HR Hillar
 W6 HXW Jim

I

KG6 I John
 KM6 ID Bob
 W6 IEG Chuck
 KH6 IJ Nose
 W6 IKQ Phil
 K6 ILM Elliott
 WA6 IME Lee
 KA6 ING Louese
 N6 IP Bob
 K6 IQY Charles
 W6 ISQ Jack
 W6 ITH Reg
 K6 ITL Knock
 N6 ITW Craig
 WA6 IUM Ed

J

KN6 J Bob
 KT6 J Joel
 W6 JD Doug
 KJ6 JF Don
 W6 JHN Al
 WB6 JJJ Bill
 N6 JM John
 WB6 JPY Rich
 N6 JV Norm
 KB6 JXT Todd
 WB6 JXU Roger
 W6 JZU Smitty

K

KN6 K Keith
 W6 KH Dick
 WB6 KJE Mike
 K6 KLY Russ
 K6 KM Bill
 W6 KOE Dave
 WB6 KQI Virg
 W6 KQK Andy
 K6 KQN Vince
 AA6 KX Bruce
 W6 KXG Jim

L-M-N

AI6 L Jerry
 NB6 L Don
 KJ6 LD Henry
 W6 LD Jack
 AA6 LF Steve
 KG6 LF Jerry
 N6 LFX Jim
 AB6 LJ Danny
 WA6 LKM John
 K6 LLK John
 WA8 LLY Steve
 K6 LM Jim
 W6 LPM Andy
 K6 LQA Bill
 W6 LQC Phil
 K6 LRN Dick
 KB6 LT Nolan
 KE6 LT Gene
 N6 LTN Roland
 KB6 LYO Jay

M

WX6 M Rich
 K6 MA Stan
 AA6 MC Dick
 W8 MEP Jerry
 W6 MKM Steve
 VP2 ML Chod
 W6 MTJ Bob
 W6 MUR Bill
 AA6 MV Larry
 N6 MVE Mike
 KB6 MXH Le
 KG6 MY Doyle
 W6 MZQ Walt

N

KW6 N Ed
 NI7 N Mark
 W6 NA Fred
 N6 NBB Ray
 N7 NG Wayne
 W6 NLG Gordon
 KJ6 NN Phil
 W6 NPY Dave
 W6 NWS Larry

O-P-Q

KC6 O Paul
 WA6 O George
 WJ6 O Tommy
 W6 OAT Rusty
 N6 OC Cab
 WA6 OEY Jim
 WB6 OFM Jim
 W6 OG Clint
 WB6 OHH Bob
 N6 OJ Chuck
 K6 OJO Steve
 WB6 OKX Art
 W6 OL Howard
 N6 OM John
 W6 OMR Irv
 N6 OND Skip
 N6 OO Claude
 N6 OSF Gene
 W6 OSP Bruce
 KE6 OT Al
 WB6 OTB Dick
 W6 OTC Glenn
 K6 OZL Ron

P

NW6 P Tom
 WG6 P Dennis
 W6 PHF Dave
 AA6 PI Dave
 KJ6 PJ Larry
 K6 PJY Daniel
 K6 PKO Jerry
 W6 PM Lindy
 K6 PU Ken
 AA6 PV Ron
 W6 PVE Gerry
 N6 PYI Greg

Q

AG6 Q Ralph
 AK5 Q Mickey
 WB6 QDC Jack
 W6 QHS Dave
 N4 QJ Paul
 W6 QKN John
 W6 QL Iris
 KK6 QM Barbara
 WB6 QMD Linda
 KF6 QO Karl
 WA6 QUM Natalie
 AA6 QY herschel

R-S-T

WR6 R Al
 N6 RA Tom
 N6 RC Dick
 W6 REC Duane
 W6 RGG Bob
 W4 RIM Al
 W6 RJ Bob
 K6 RK Chuck
 W6 RMM Don
 W6 RMT Loyal
 N6 RO Ken
 W6 ROY Don
 K6 RQ Frank
 N6 RQ Bob
 W6 RQ Al
 N6 RR Ron
 K6 RUW Tak
 W6 RVS Dick
 DJ6 RX Klaus

S

AF6 S Dave
 NC6 S Ken
 NU6 S Tim
 K7 SA Warren
 KI6 SC Henry
 DJ6 SI Baldur
 K6 SIK Bill
 WA6 SLO Dick
 K6 SMH Jerry
 K6 SQL Bill
 K6 SSJ Bob
 N6 SSM Bob
 N6 ST Steve
 N7 STU Bob
 W6 SUJ Pat
 W7 SW Happy
 W6 SYL Paul
 W6 SZN Kip

T

AA6 T Lloyd
 AJ6 T Walt
 KI6 T Gary
 NH6 T Reg
 NI6 T Garry
 AA6 TA Omri
 W6 TC George
 AA6 TD Melissa
 W6 TER Gerry
 W6 TEX Bill
 WA6 TJM Dave
 K6 TMB Lou
 WA6 TOO Harry
 K6 TS Tom
 W6 TSQ Sam
 W6 TT Elvin
 W6 TUI Bill
 N6 TV Bob
 W6 TWO Rolph

U-V-W-X

AE6 U Scott
 AH0 U Bruce
 NX7 U Scotty
 W7 UAB Tom
 K6 UD Stan
 WB6 UDS Rich
 K6 UFT Gordon
 K6 UJG Ron
 N6 ULU Stan
 K6 UO Bill
 WB6 UOM Ernie
 KI6 UT Chuck
 WA6 UUT Arv
 K4 UVT Bob
 K6 UWD Mason

V

AI6 V Carl
 AJ6 V Ed
 WE6 V Jim
 N6 VAW Marilyn
 AA6 VB Bob
 W6 VG Ron
 KD6 VS Chuck
 N6 VT Ralph
 OH5 VT Heimo
 K6 VX Ray
 AA6 VZ Larry

W

KA6 W Ted
 WX6 W Fred
 W6 WB Bud
 K6 WC John
 N6 WCW Marc
 K6 WD Pres
 KI6 WF Dave
 WB6 WKMDick
 KE6 WL Brian
 K6 WR Brad
 N6 WR Armond

X

KK6 X Jim
 NG6 X Ron
 NQ6 X Bob
 NT6 X Jim
 W7 XA Al
 K6 XC Ron
 KG6 XF John
 N6 XG Walt
 N6 XH Dave
 N6 XI Rick
 K6 XJ Perry
 K6 XM Greg
 K6 XN Ted
 W6 XP Stan
 K6 XT Art
 KD6 XY Larry

Y-Z

AE6 Y Hugh
 KR7 Y Hugh
 KI6 YB Charlie
 AA6 YD Joe
 WA6 YFD Steve
 W6 YHM Don
 W1 YL Ellen
 K7 YNO Terry
 AA6 YQ Dave
 K6 YT Fred
 W6 YVK Ev
 W6 YWH Wes
 K5 YY San

Z

NZ6 Z Steve
 WZ6 Z Howard
 KE6 ZE Dave
 W6 ZKM Frank
 W6 ZM Bill
 N6 ZPX Krish
 WB6 ZUC Jo
 K6 ZUR Chuck

TNX Gordon W6NLG

Point and Counterpoint

Mr. "T"—the T-suffix QSL bureau manager—responded to NI6T's letter of last month, criticizing "T"'s offhanded attitude toward his volunteer job.

You have got to be kidding. Lighten up. It's really hard for me to take anyone seriously who always complains and never says "Thank you."

Actually, if the rapid return of your DX QSL cards is really of vital interest to you, I might suggest you QSL direct and send along a greenstamp with each card. Of course, it might be somewhat more expensive, but you would be assured of the very best turnaround time.

But do lighten up, Garry. This is a hobby, not anything else, no matter how much energy each of us puts into it.

Unconvinced, NI6T has squeezed off one more round...

Clearly, you and I have fundamentally different views of what volunteerism is about, and I can see that I am not about to move you off your perch... I complain because I do not think you are doing a good job, and I don't say "thank you" for the same reason... Anyone who takes on a volunteer job with the expectation of being thanked is bound to be disappointed. The *only* reasons for taking on a volunteer job are because you *can* do it, and you are *willing* to do it...and do it well... I have sent well over a thousand greenstamps winging out these past several years, in pursuit of various paper, so your suggestion to do so is superfluous...If I had your attitude, (*The DXer*) would have to change its masthead from "published monthly" to "published ...whenever, depending upon what DX there is, what's on TV, whether the fish are biting, the porch needs painting, or if there is anything else going on in the editor's life at all."

The difference between us is that you believe that because this is "just a hobby," commitments have no weight and responsibilities have little importance, while I believe that commitments are to be taken very seriously, *even* if this is "just a hobby."

I will lighten up, Mr. "T"—if and when you get serious.

Does saying "it's just a hobby" justify doing a lousy job?

New Phonetic?

Some members have already heard this story from Tom, NW6P, or from the Editor, who loves telling other people's stories.

I was in a long path pileup on 20 meter SSB one morning, calling A61AD in Qatar on the Persian Gulf, when I heard, "November-Whiskey-Six go ahead please." I came back, "This is November-Whiskey-Six-Papa, November-Whiskey-Six-Papa, you are 5 by 5, 5 by 5. Over."

Saeed acknowledged the 5 by 5 but was missing my suffix. "Please give your suffix again November-Whiskey-Six". I repeated my call with emphasis on the last letter—"P for Papa, P for Peter, P for Portugal. QSL?"

He returned and said to try one more time: QRM was blocking out my suffix. I repeated the exchange and asked him to confirm. A61AD came back, "Sorry old man, I cannot get the suffix. Please try again tomorrow." Then, in that fleeting moment just before the calls of a hundred impatient DXers came crashing down, I heard a voice, just barely audible, say "Ya shudda said *Petroleum!*"

—Tom McShane, NW6P

Speaking of QSL's...



Mac McHenry, W6BSY, shared this card from a pirate with a sense of humor. The label on the back of the card reads:

W6BSY

Suitland Is. 9/18-19/82
The island surfaced for two days in the minds of DXers seeking a "New One." You cracked the pileup.

DXer Profile

Jerry Boyd, KG6LF

Jerry is a newcomer to NCDXC—but not to ham radio or DXing. He recently ran for Pacific Division Vice-Director.

I've been a ham for thirty four years, and active as a DXer since 1979. Several job changes, six changes of residence, including two periods in apartments, along with job responsibilities have kept the hours available to chase new ones to a minimum. See, my excuses are no different than anyone else's! Still, I've got 310 worked and 306 confirmed and need not too many more on 40 and 75 for 5BDXCC, so no complaints.

Professionally, I serve as Chief of Police and Director of Disaster Preparedness for the City of Martinez. I've been in police work a little over 26 years. As far as amateur radio activities go, I'm active on VHF/UHF and packet, as well as HF. Contesting under my call or (in the big contests) as a member of NK7U's Oregon Multi-Op Team are also aspects



of the hobby which I enjoy, as does my wife Jay, KN6BP.

Our Martinez QTH is on a hill with an almost unobstructed "shot" in every direction. Due to the antenna's height above average terrain, the tri-band yagi "thinks" it's at 150 feet and performs as

if it were. 40/80/160 are worked using a variety of inverted "V"s and slopers, with receiving loops on 80 and 160 to help null out the noise. The station isn't fancy, but it works—a TS850S with some extra filters, and an Alpha 76 "three holer" are the present choices, with a TS50S as backup. Packet and logging functions are via a pair of 386SC computers.

With the addition of a new harmonic on December 28th (our first daughter), I am finding myself on the air more, and at strange times. 5:30 AM diaper changes have already helped me work a couple of new ones on 75 during the morning long path openings to Europe!

It's a privilege to be a new NCDXC member. See you at the meetings and see you in the pileups!

—Jerry Boyd, KG6LF

My Handle is H-U-S-S-E-I-N

A member's chance meeting with a unique and enthusiastic DXer

I was recently looking through my QSLs and saw one from JY7Z. JY7Z was a special callsign from the 1986 CQ WW Phone DX Contest. The QSL had a photo of JY1, King Hussein of Jordan, and 6 Southern California DXers on the front.

A few years prior to the '86 CQ WW I was at a data communications trade show in London demonstrating my company's products, when the exhibits were closed to the general public. A special viewing had been arranged for high-ranking members of the British Government and their guests. Without advance notice, a group consisting of several British officials

plus Prince Philip and King Hussein of Jordan entered our booth. I gave them a quick demo and answered their questions.

When the entourage was about to leave I said to the king, "Your Majesty, I am amateur radio operator NW6P." The King immediately said, "And I am JY1. The handle is Hussein. Henry-Uniform-Sierra-Sierra-Echo-India-November. What is your handle and QTH?"

We then began what I expected would be a 30 second conversation but which turned into 10 minutes of details about my station, equipment, antennas and what he had at his "shack" in Amman. JY1 told

Prince Philip and the others to go ahead, saying what we were doing was "really important". We continued talking about ham radio. He was particularly interested in satellite DXing and was very proud of how ham radio had been introduced at the high school level in Jordan.

Looking at the JY7Z card had brought back memories of my eyeball QSO with a ham named Hussein from Jordan.

—Tom McShane, NW6P



Software Review

“SOLARMAX”—a Propagation Forecasting Game

Bob Brown, NM7M, who many of you know as the author of last year’s definitive 20 meter LP study titled “Long Path Propagation,” has published a new contest propagation simulator for the IBM PC.

The program is billed as a “contest game for real DXers who know how to use propagation to their advantage in competitive situations.” The software scores the user’s selection of HF band (40m through 10m only) and DX target area by awarding contacts and multipliers for each 30 minute period in a fictional 24 hour contest. The lowest frequency bands (80m and 160m) are not included because the current F-layer algorithm does not include the magneto-ionic theory necessary for accurate predictions on those bands. Other inputs to the improved MINIMUM algorithm are the date, station location, power and smoothed solar flux or sunspot number.

According to the program documentation, SOLARMAX “pits the DXer against a realistic model of the ionosphere, as given by the CCIR Atlas of Ionospheric Characteristics,” and takes the effects of the D and E layers into account. If the predicted signal strength to the selected continental area is good, the program awards a large number of contacts and multipliers. On the other hand, if the band is closed at that time, you get no additional contacts or points. SOLARMAX contains a database of the radio amateur population in each geographic region which is used in conjunction with the propagation prediction to determine the number of contacts to be awarded.

Unjamming Tailtwisters

Has your Tailtwister ever refused to turn the antenna? If so, you are in good company. Based on my experience with three different rotators, and that of others as well, I have concluded that sometimes the solenoid is unable to retract the brake wedge. Usually, if I flip the motor switch one way or the other, the wedge breaks free. The factory confirms that the Tailtwister

The time is 0000 UTC

The following regions are participating in the ‘SOLAR MAX’ contest:

1) Alaskan	2) Caribbean	3) Mid-Pacific	4) S. Pacific
5) E. S.American	6) S. S.American	7) W. European	8) E. European
9) W. African	10) E. African	11) S. Africa	12) Near Eastern
13) South Asian	14) S. E. Asian	15) Far Eastern	16) Australian

Which region (1..16) do you choose for the next 30-minutes ? **2**
 What frequency (7, 14, 21, 28 MHz) will you use? **14**

The band was open to the Caribbean area on 14 MHz and your signals were S6-S8 so you made a total of 28 contacts with 11 new multipliers for 924 points.

So now at 0030 UTC your point score is 924 points.

Press <SPACE> to continue or ‘S’ for a summary by bands.

Your All-Band Score is 924 points

The printout above pretty much tells the story. The screen display is strictly text, with no maps or graphics. The simulation is limited to consideration of propagation to the selected area only, with no chance to QSY during that half hour, and no possibility of QSOs to other countries. Printer output is optional, and you can add your score to the SOLARMAX “Hall of Fame” if you so desire

I found the game interesting as a novelty, and somewhat useful as a learning aid for propagation prediction. The SOLARMAX predictions were reasonably consistent with my expectations, but surprisingly it does

not seem to recognize long-path openings. Making 48 selections of continent and band to complete the entire 24 hour contest is a bit tedious, and a rather indirect way to plan DX strategy since you can’t go back and refine your band selections. I found it most enjoyable to play with a group of other hams, each trying his luck on successive half-hour simulations. It is fun to see the variations in propagation as solar flux is varied from maximum to minimum to simulate a full cycle. SOLARMAX is available direct from the author, NM7M, for \$10.

—Walt Miller, AJ6T

brake wedge is shaped differently for more strength and can “jam” when preloaded. Turning the motor relieves the preload.

This may not work if the rotator is at one of its limits, because the switches inside the rotator prevent turning further into the limit. Don’t climb the tower yet! You can bypass the switches by jumpering

terminals at the back of the control box: 4 to 8 for CW, and 4 to 6 for CCW.

—Bill Myers, W1GQ

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