

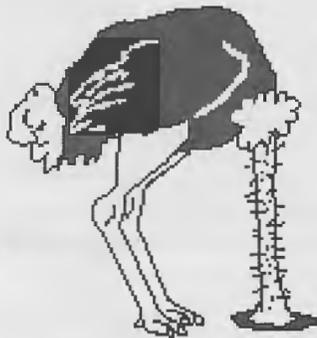
DXer

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

Dues, Roster, Marathon!



Time to pull your head out!

Summer may not be your primary time for thinking about NCDXC, but there are three important subjects for your consideration and response *before the end of August!*

- **Dues!** Dues were due and payable on July 1. If you have not yet paid, you are in arrears, which is much worse than being in a pileup with a low dipole. Members in arrears after August 31 shall be dropped both from membership and the next Roster. Send that check to NCDXC or Bob Wilson, NQ6X, right away! And please do *not* send it to *The DXer*.

- **Roster!** Roster updates are pouring in, but some members may not have gotten the word or intend to

respond *mañana*, and may miss the boat. Any address, license class, or telephone changes this past year? Using a FAX? Obtained an online service or subscribed to Internet? Using the DXPSN regularly? Send updates to NI6T by mail, PacketCluster™, or Internet (ni6t@mcimail.com) immediately! Drop-dead date is August 31.

- **Marathon!** It's not too late to participate in the NCDXC Intramural Marathon, which runs until August 31. A tote sheet was included in the May *DXer*. Good DX has been popping up all summer, and attractive awards increase the appeal. Info queries and results go to WX6M.

The Repeater Revisited

Back in July, Eric, W6DU, was on 7.36 bemoaning the lack of usage of our club repeater for conversation and DX information in these days of PacketCluster™ and *Charlie*. A few days later, our new President, Knock, K6ITL, was on, emphatically championing the use of the machine for those purposes. Here is a thought as to *why* W6TI/R has become a DX desert.

It's the membership: more precisely, it's those members that think the benefits of membership flow one way—toward them.

Every organization has those who contribute to the common good, and those who do not. In our case, many live too far away to be active participants, or are limited by family and work commitments. But many who have time, access and the opportunity to help choose not to.

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"Knock's Knews" Debuts August Meeting at Dunfey Hotel

The August meeting will be held Friday, August 12, at 7:30 PM in the Dunfey Hotel at the crossroads of the Bay Area—the intersection of Highways 92 and 101 in San Mateo. The hotel is easily accessible from I-280, I-880, and US 101 via SR 92. From I-880 or US101, take Highway 92 west (Half Moon Bay) to Delaware Street offramp, which curves to the right to Concar Drive. Turn right and continue to the end: The Dunfey is on your left. From I-280, take Highway 92 East (Hayward) to Delaware Street off ramp and turn left on Delaware to the first stop signal, Concar Drive; turn right on Concar and continue to the end. Again, the Dunfey is on your left.

The evening's program will be a presentation by Duane Ausherman, W6REC, on his travels and tour of duty as a civilian employee in Antarctica.

There is lots of free parking, a great bar (*Tingles*), and an outstanding Italian buffet

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August 1994

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:

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 Vice President: George Allan, WA6O
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 Treasurer: Bob Wilson, NQ6X
 Director: Jerry Griffin, W8MEP
 Director: Al Koblinski, W7XA
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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 Pagatch, K16WF

Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ

Contest Manager: Rich Hudgins, WX6M

Westlink: Craig Smith, N6ITW

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 933 Robin Lane
 Campbell, CA, 95008
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W6TI DX Bulletins:

W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT 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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Board of Directors Meeting

The July BoD meeting, held in Menlo Park at the the home of W6VG, was called to order at 19:45. It was a combined meeting of the old and new Boards, and most of the discussions centered on the orderly transfer of responsibilities.

Attendees were: Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL; George Allan, WA6O; Stan Goldstein, N6ULU; Bob Wilson, NQ6X; Jerry Griffin, W8MEP; Al Koblinski, W7XA; Craig Smith, N6ITW; Ron Panton, W6VG; Eric Edberg, W6DU.

- The August club meeting will be held at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo on Friday, August 12 at 19:30 (See story on page 1.)
- There was much discussion about meeting difficulties. Motion by W7XA, seconded by W8MEP, that a survey be designed to seek out membership opinions on subject of where to meet, should it be a dinner meeting, should meeting night be changed in order to have more choice of restaurants, costs. Motion was passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by WA6O, amended by W7XA, seconded by W8MEP, that "Charlie" be turned off for a trial period not greater than 60 days and that the membership then vote on whether it is wanted or not. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Christmas party will be held at the Bold Knight in Sunnyvale on the 8th of December.

Meeting adjourned at 22:10.

—Eric Edberg, W6DU, Incoming Secretary

General Meeting

The monthly meeting of the NCDXC was held on July 8 at Cubberley Community Center in Palo Alto, and called to order at 7:52 P.M. by President George Allan, WA6O.

- Guests included ex-"old-time-member" Ed Hoetzel, W6DZZ (who originally joined in 1948), AB6MN, W6FKD, KM6IU and T94EC.
 - Brad Wyatt, K6WR, spoke of the current status of FCC licensing and actions.
 - The program presentation was a black-&-white silent home movie made by the late Frank Qument, W6NX, in the 1920's.
 - George Allan turned the gavel over to "Knock" Knochenhauer, K6ITL, our new President.
 - Knock announced our August meeting place: the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo.
 - Discussion ensued regarding other possible meeting places and desirable programs.
 - The Secretary conducted first readings for Frank Warwick, AB6MN, and Bruce Wade, W6FKD.
 - Enes Ceric, T94EC, spoke about radio and living conditions in war-torn Bosnia. Many questions were asked and answered.
 - The combined "old BoD" and the "new BoD" will meet together on July 20.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

—Ron Panton, W6VG, Outgoing Secretary

Roster Changes

License Upgrade

Barbara Leeson, KK6QM
 Barbara now holds an Extra Class license.

Change of Address

Martti Laine, OH2BH
 8th Floor, Flat C
 29 Braemer Hill Road, North Point
 Hong Kong

A great many updates are being held for the new Roster.

Treasurer's Annual Report

	Credits	Debits	Balance
<i>Bank of America Checking Account</i>			
Beginning Balance, 1 July, 1993			\$117.86
Receipts			
Dues received	\$8,938.00		
Refunded	(\$305.99)		
Transferred to Life fund	(\$290.00)		
Net dues		\$8,342.01	
Badges		15.00	
QSL card sales		450.00	
Advertising (HRO)		500.00	
Awards		62.00	
Convention returns		6,676.67	
Account interest		29.97	
Dinner meetings, checks & cash*		4,907.10	
Other (Insurance rebate, raffle)		129.88	
Total Receipts		\$21,112.63	
Subtotal			\$21,230.49
Expenditures			
Transfer Convention seed money		\$3,500.00	
DXer and Roster		7,332.57	
Awards		559.66	
Badges		\$120.12	
Meetings & dinners*		6,688.91	
General Administration		2,735.28	
Raffle prizes		170.82	
Total Expenditures		\$21,107.36	
Ending balance, 30 June, 1994			\$123.13
*Cash received at door paid directly to restaurant (\$2998.00)			
<hr/>			
<i>EurekaBank Savings Account</i>			
Beginning Balance, 1 July, 1993			\$14,916.70
Account interest		\$390.11	
Transfer Convention seed money		3,500.00	
Ending Balance*			\$18,806.81
<hr/>			
<i>EurekaBank Life Members Fund Select/Jumbo CD</i>			
Value @ 4 March, 1994; matures 4 November, 1994			\$10,432.73
<hr/>			
<i>Repeater Fund</i>			
Beginning balance, 16 June, 1993			\$1,777.32
Donation		\$10.00	
Bank charges		(120.00)	
Telephone		(113.44)	
Ending balance, 16 June, 1994			\$1,553.88

—Dewey Churchill, KG6AM

Remembering Glenn...

Long-time NCDXC member Glenn Koropp, W6YFW, of Sacramento, became a Silent Key just before Christmas, 1993.

Bill Stevens, W6ZM, former Pacific Division Director was Glenn's close friend for many years. The two were licensed almost simultaneously in 1934, although their friendship began later, during WWII. Bill recalls that Glenn's boyhood Elmer in Mendota, Illinois taught him how to grind crystals. This skill was to bring him to California during the war, working for the Signal Section at the Sacramento Army Depot, where he met Bill. Bill and Glenn traveled a lot together on the job, and became close friends.

Glenn learned speaker repair, which was to become the basis of a postwar career in the outdoor theatre industry. He developed speakers with hooked cases to hang from car windows, and became a "speaker magnet magnate." He had retired three years ago.

Glenn was an active DXer, and had a lot of gear, including a pair of IC781's and an Alpha. Unfortunately, he had also developed a problem with his esophagus. Eventually, unable to swallow food or water, he fed himself directly through a stomach fixture. As his condition progressed, he became less active on the bands. He finally succumbed to pneumonia.

Glenn is survived by his wife, Virginia, a son, and two daughters.

—Garry Shapiro, NI6T,
with thanks to W6ZM

Kudos

The DXer congratulates the following members for their recent noteworthy achievements:

- Stan Kaisal, K6UD and George Badger, W6TC, elected as Fellows of the Radio Club of America.

The DXer Interview

The Russian Tube Man

Longtime-member George Badger, W6TC, has embarked upon a new venture after a long career, and at an age when most men are grateful to retire. The DXer caught up with Geo at his office at Svetlana Electron Devices in Portola Valley to chat about power tubes and ham radio. Part 1 of 2.

I wanted to talk to this fascinating old DXer who seems to have developed a new career out of his old one. George, tell me how you first got into the power tube business.

I loved ham radio! When I was a small boy, I read every QST I could lay my hands on. Every month there were great ads about Eimac tubes, and friends of mine who were successful DXers used Eimac tubes. So, when it came time to look for a job, Eimac was one of the first places I went.

At that time the employer choice was relatively limited. Were you a native Californian?

Yes, I was born in the East Bay. I went to Cal Berkeley after a stint in the military. Again, my career in the military was based on ham radio. I was transferred from the front-line infantry to Division Headquarters as a radio operator because I knew the code. And then I became a Tech Sergeant because ham radio had taught me something about how to fix radios.

When did you graduate from Cal?

In 1951, in Electrical Engineering. *In those days on the Peninsula, there was a handful of companies. There were no computer businesses; there were instrumentation and communication companies.*

Yes. My faculty counselor at Cal advised me to move back East because, aside from some small companies here on the Peninsula like Hewlett Packard, there were no opportunities in the West. He said that the real opportunities for an EE were only at Westinghouse and General Electric.

It shows you the value of advice from your advisors. You get their prejudices.!

I thought our industry here on the peninsula was great at the time but certainly nothing compared to what we have today.

You went to work in the early fifties for Eimac?

Right. However, my very first job was with Professor Lawrence developing a color television picture tube. A version of the tube we developed ultimately was bought by the Japanese and became the Trinitron.

The early development of the Trinitron was done here?

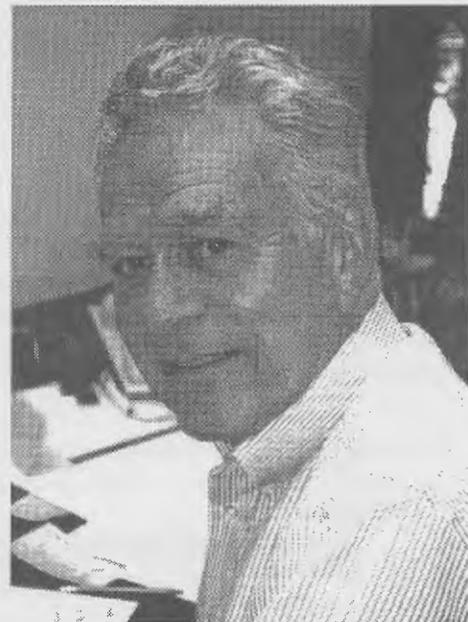
Yes, at Professor Lawrence's summer home in Danville, California.

That's the Lawrence of Lawrence Livermore? Ernest O. Lawrence?

Yes. He was the man who received the Nobel Prize for the invention of the cyclotron. I worked directly for him. I lived at his summer home laboratory and stayed there twenty-four hours a day. I had to tend the pumps and keep all the electronics going in Lawrence's little color television tube laboratory, which later became quite large. Lawrence hired me because of ham radio. He heard about a 420 MHz fast-scan TV transmitter/receiver I had built to TV-QSO with W6VSV and W6UOV. We had 420 MHz TV on the air before the first TV broadcast station (KPIX) was on the air in San Francisco.

When did you start with Eimac? Was it a very small company then?

It was December, 1951. I had interviewed at Hewlett Packard and Ampex and other electronic companies on the Peninsula at that time. However, Eimac seemed to me to be more closely allied with ham radio. It was a fairly good-sized electronics company for the time—maybe \$6 million in sales. It had shrunk quite substantially after World War II because the need for high power tubes was down significantly. The market was flooded with surplus triodes, so Bill Eitel and Jack McCullough quickly developed a series of tetrodes, which took off in the commercial market place. Eimac took a major



George Badger, W6TC

market share. As the electronics business grew, Eimac grew right along with it. *These were the 4- dash and 4CX series?*

In those days there were very few ceramic tubes. We were just beginning to make ceramic tubes like the 4CX250B. *Glass tubes were a lot cheaper. I remember that, as a kid in the fifties, I would salivate over the new Eimac tubes as well, and you were already working in the business.*

Working at Eimac in those days must have been like working for a Silicon Valley start-up now. The average age of people working there was twenty-five or so. There were lots of young energetic guys deeply interested in the technology, and good-looking girls too. I hear about work at the start-ups today and it all seems very familiar to our experience at Eimac. You go by Eimac today and you don't see many twenty-five year olds. Unfortunately time has that effect.

"I began to take DXing seriously about 1970. I put up a quad and that was like turning on a light."

There must have been some young guys interested in all of those good-looking girls, too! Were you active as a DXer then also?

I've always managed to find a little time for DX, but then I couldn't find enough time. I was having too much fun at work! I did have a rig at home in an apartment in San Bruno. I had a vertical for forty meters, a Collins 32B, a 75A1 and a pair of 5-125s in push pull, all open breadboard. TVI was not a problem then, but when I pushed the key, some of the lights in the apartment building got dimmer, and others got brighter! I had the usual fun of a beginning DXer but in my case the beginning phase lasted a bit too long. As with all of us, there were other influences on my time: marriage, children. And I was very interested in what was happening at work.

After a long series of wire antennas here in Portola Valley, I began to take DXing seriously about 1970. I put up a quad and that was like turning on a light. The DX world began and I have been fascinated by wire antennas of various kinds ever since. The fascination has never stopped. *Did you have the same home that you have now? You got in early in Portola Valley!*

Yes. I could not afford to move here now. *During that time what was your progression of interests at Eimac? You were there for forty years, and the company was growing during that time.*

Of course I started with power grid tubes because that's all we had at the outset. When we began making klystrons, I became a klystron engineer; then later a klystron application engineer, and ultimately went into marketing. Later, I became Eimac's marketing manager, and then marketing manager of Varian's TWT Division. At the time my great interest was in microwave tubes. We were making klystrons, TWTs, voltage-tunable magnetrons and so on. It was Eimac's expansion into microwave tubes which was the triggering factor in the Varian acquisition in 1965.

You spent your whole career at Eimac?

Aside from my part time college jobs and my short stint with Professor Lawrence, that's right.

That is a rarity now. This industry is a lot more unstable nowadays.

Yes, and the attitude of corporations toward employees and *vice-versa* has changed dramatically. My father, for example, worked for the same company for forty years, as I did. During his generation, that was not uncommon. During mine, we were in a transition toward where we are today. Now loyalty is much less important than it was. There are many reasons.

People have asked me how do I feel about competing directly with an employer who treated me well for forty years. The answer is that attitudes have changed. The current corporate perception is that old people are not as valuable as young people and that people are treated in proportion to their value. We are seeing increased use of retired people coming back to their old employers as consultants. I did that for a while at Eimac.

What year was it that you finally retired?

1991.

Were you talking with Svetlana at that time or did this just sort of come up after you had already decided to retire?

I decided to retire because I received a letter from the chairman of the board of Varian saying if I did not leave by the end of 1991, I would lose the company contribution to my medical benefits. Therefore, there was a strong incentive for me and others of my age to leave.

So much for loyalty!

So much for loyalty! (mutual laughter) *That was then, this is now?*

Exactly. So, I was forced to leave but I did go back and do consulting for Eimac through a contractor. I was having a wonderful time consulting because you get all of the benefits of being in the business you enjoy but you don't have any of the responsibilities. You don't have to meet a budget. It was great fun. Along about that time I received a call from Svetlana. I thought I could help and have some fun in the process, so I left Eimac for good.

Had you been familiar with Svetlana during your tenure at Eimac?

All I knew was that the quality of the product was exceptionally good. In our industry, we routinely obtain competitors' products and tear them apart to see how they are made. We also study the quality issues. At the time, Svetlana was not yet a competitor in the West because the cold war was still winding down, but it was still of interest to know how the tubes were made. As a result it was generally known in our industry that the tubes were good. When I started with Svetlana, I didn't have to worry about quality, so I hit the ground running.

How are you associated with Svetlana?

Svetlana is a very large engineering and manufacturing complex in St. Petersburg, Russia. Svetlana Electron Devices Inc. is an American corporation and owns about 30% of the power tube part of Svetlana, which is now privatized. It is a joint stock company, a true joint venture and that's the way we work together. Svetlana in St. Petersburg engineers and manufactures the product. Svetlana here in America is responsible for the world market outside Russia. We do application engineering and make our product plans together. It's a great team.

So they were not selling into European markets? It was all in the Eastern bloc until the Soviet Union came apart?

That's right. There were very few tubes which got out of the USSR with the exception of some spare parts for military equipment purchased, for example, by India. *Okay. So they were selling to some of the "non-aligned" nations?*

Yes.

They probably were not selling their more up-to-date, newest stuff. I can remember the first Russian tube that I ever saw. It was at a NCDXC meeting sometime ago when a tube was passed around that Hillar, N6HR brought it back from an Estonian flea market. I think Alex, KI6EZ,

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Islands...

An epilogue to the Don Miller saga

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

A decade ago, the University of British Columbia published a book titled "Lost Islands," by Henry Stoemmel. A Woods Hole scientist, Dr Stoemmel listed a number of "islands" still carried on charts, many of which might be new countries—if someone could find them. Perhaps, someday someone will.

We are nearing the end of the twentieth century. Most of us believe that if everything has not already been discovered by now, it soon will be. One's intellect might be hard-pressed to believe that there yet might be undiscovered lands. But can one be sure? Satellites have answered many questions about possible islands lost over the years, but not all. Minerva Reef and Maria Theresa are two cases in point.

When Don Miller claimed operation from Minerva Reef, south of Tahiti, it was listed on the National Geographic maps (*and others: see figures—Ed.*) and for some years afterward. Often, in presenting an argument for a new country, the National Geographic maps were cited as a means to determine if the island met the DXCC separation criterion.

A nautical chart of the Pacific issued by W. Faden Company—King George III's oceanographers—in 1817 lists Maria Theresa. 150 years later, when Don Miller said he operated there, it was still carried on nautical charts—sometimes with the "position doubtful" disclaimer, sometimes without (*again, see figures—Ed.*).

Some time after the Don Miller Maria Theresa operation, and after it had been accepted for DXCC credit, some quibblers started whispering that the ocean was some-thousand fathoms deep at the point where Maria Theresa was shown on the charts. Actually this whispering may not have been justified. Mariners long have had to cope with navigating in seas where islands were reported, or—in some instances—not reported.

Often, a listed island would be judged non-existent and removed from the nautical charts. Maria Theresa was erased in 1875 by one oceanographer, then put back by others. Hydrographic Office chart #2683 (1978) shows Maria Theresa, as well as numerous submerged hazards, within a

two hundred-mile semicircle north of the island. In 1983, the Hydrographic Office *moved* Maria Theresa from 151.13W to 136.39W—fifteen years after the ARRL disallowed the operation. On the same Chart was once listed the Haymet Rocks at approximately 26S, 160W. There must have been *something* there: the original 1863 report described two islands or rocks about a quarter-mile apart, with deep water between them. The vessel *Will Watch* tried to sail between the rocks, struck bottom near the northern rock and lost its false keel. No one seems to have seen the rocks since, but they are still carried on several charts.

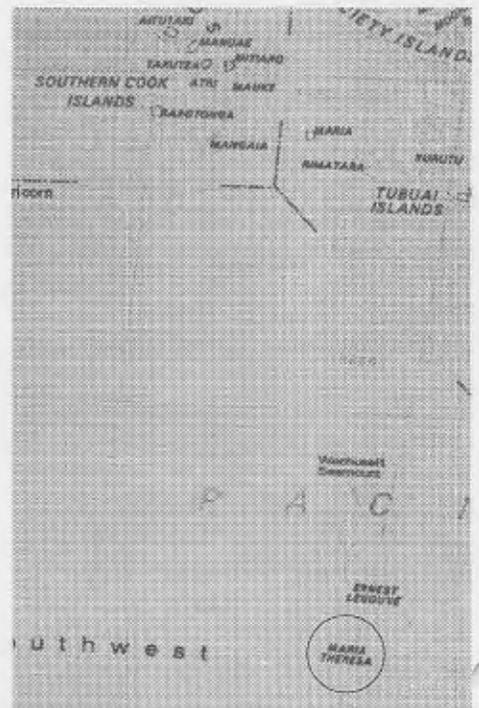
In short, how could you doubt the validity of claims for operations from such islands when there are so many long-enduring records of their existence—Maria Theresa included? If someone said he operated from Haymet, how could you doubt its existence after a ship ran aground there?

At the time of the depositions in Miller's civil suit against the ARRL concerning St. Peter & Paul Rocks, and almost as though it had been planned, one national amateur magazine came out with a cover picture of Don Miller standing awash on what he claimed to be Maria Theresa. He was standing on a coral reef, with his transmitter under his arm and the surf up to his knees. Don said that he used a card table on which to mount his gear and could not leave his chair for fear of it being swept away.

The whole dispute had been blown wide open by the St. Peter and Paul Rocks caper and the magazine, which had stoutly defended Miller in its pages, had been caught and skewered. Very embarrassing! In the St. Peter and Paul Rocks dispute, Miller had submitted a photo to prove that he had been there. It showed Don and the other operator standing in front of a tall rock.

Miller had said emphatically that it was the true St. P&P Rocks and the photo was offered as proof. The ARRL submitted the photo to a geologist, who studied it and said that the formation shown in the photo did not seem to be typical of the geology of St. Peter and Paul Rocks. But upon whom did the burden of proof lie—the ARRL or Don Miller?

It might be noted again that, at the time of the Don Miller matter, DXing was going through a change, due mostly to Don Miller's claims and, possibly, a realization that in other years there had been accepted countries for which inadequate proof of operation had been submitted. From a willingness to accept what might be a credible story, the ARRL was moving to a position where the DXer bore the burden of proof of his being where he claimed.



Maria Theresa—Rand McNally Deluxe Illustrated Atlas of the World (1989)

“Nowadays, DXers seeking credit had best come prepared with solid evidence...”

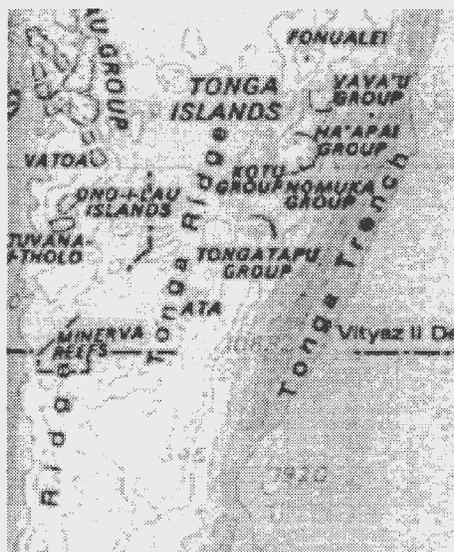
Nowadays, DXers seeking credit had best come prepared with solid evidence: passports, visas, ship logs, boat charters, hotel bills, airline or other travel tickets. A few years later, when Martti Laine was able to operate briefly in Albania before the local authorities cancelled his permit, his certification photo was taken right in front of the local government center. There were Martti and friends; there was the plaque with the title and location of the municipal agency on the building. Very good proof it was.

After the collapse of his lawsuit and the sworn testimony from the other operator on the St. P&P effort that Don Miller and he had not operated at all from St. Peter and Paul Rocks, Don did not seek anonymity by fleeing to the wilderness for solitude and soul-searching. Instead, he moved to Southern California and returned to the medical profession. He would come to the Fresno gatherings and would always draw a crowd.

Once, at the Fresno convention, the convention chairman greeted Don Miller from the rostrum with some not-too-subtle remarks about Maria Theresa. John Steventon, W6CLS (SK), was a hard-charging businessman and a vocal and financial supporter of Don Miller. At 6 AM the next morning, Don Miller pounded on Steventon's door wanting to talk to him. Don protested to W6CLS that he had been unfairly maligned. Steventon said later that Miller was so persistent and convincing that "...I actually started to believe him. Maybe he *had* been there." Then Miller blew it again. "I was there, John," he protested, "and I operated there. As we approached the reef it came up out of the ocean and we landed and operated. And after we had finished and were leaving, we looked back and saw the island sinking back into the sea. And that was the way it was. Absolutely!" That did it for W6CLS.

Nonetheless, one who has never been far at sea in a small boat may not understand how limited visibility is when close to the

water. The horizon is usually only three-or-so miles away. and it is not easy to locate a low-lying island. This happened with the first Kingman Reef effort, the one that made it a new country. From a map, it would seem straightforward to reach Kingman Reef from Palmyra Island. But it might not work out that way, for Kingman is a low-lying island, barely above water. The DXpedition could not find Kingman, even with an expert navigator



Minerva Reef—Rand McNally Deluxe Illustrated Atlas of the World (1989)

among the crew, and they had to run a search pattern. They finally did find Kingman Reef—thank goodness.

There are even today some islands still carried on nautical charts which have not been seen for years. Some are misplaced: Bouvet originally was placed some hundreds of miles east of its present position. First discovered in 1739, it was not reported again until 1808. Far from the first reported position, the 1808 sighting was given the name of Lindsay Island. It was not until 1898 that it was determined that Lindsay and Bouvet were the same, but where was the Thompson Island that had been reported in that area during the years of search for Bouvet?

Thompson Island had been sketched in 1825 from a ship searching the area and the sketch does not match the outline of Bouvet. A high volcanic cone indicated its volcanic origin. Some are still keeping an eye out for it, although it has been speculated that the island blew up in an eruption around 1893-1896. Nonetheless, it was still being shown on the U.S. Defense Agency's 1965 Antarctica chart.

A South African hydrographic survey reported not finding a submerged shoal in the reported position of Thompson Island. But H.H.Lamb, a climatologist, pointed out that temperature records at Punta Arenas show a large temperature dip about the conjectured time of Thompson's departure. Although Thompson Island was reliably reported and sketched, the island has disappeared!

Thus, there is support for the assertion that islands do rise up suddenly from the sea, and there is also evidence that islands can disappear in a volcanic explosion or seismic event.

Could Don Miller have really been at Maria Theresa and related what really happened? The ARRL dropped Maria Theresa from the DXCC country list, not because it disproved Miller's claim of operating there, but because he failed to supply the additional documentation requested *after* it had been certified for DXCC credit. Things are not always neat and tidy, nor easily understood.

Maria Theresa is in an area long noted for islands rising out of and dipping back into the sea. The report of submerged dangers north of the Maria Theresa position was included in the 1978 edition of the nautical chart for the area. In short, even the experts are not positive on this one. While they do suspect that it is not there, they are not ready to stake the farm on that assertion. Thus, in other times and other places the problem of determining whether some places claimed for DXCC

continued on page 8

from page 7

Islands...

credit even existed was a trying task. It was then and still is.

Keep in mind that Don Miller did his research. Also keep in mind that those determining the validity of a claim for a new country had to depend on published maps and charts, for little else was available. Actually, it was easier back in those golden years when all DXers were considered gentlemen and honest beyond question.

Hindsight is always better for understanding things and getting them right. To really understand some of the claims for DX counters made by Don Miller and possibly others, decades back, one may need to think things out in the light of recent knowledge, and, perhaps, to wonder what really was the truth about some of these operations.

One of the Old Timer's sayings from long ago has often been used to solve the DXer's dilemma in placing his trust and belief in a claimed operation. The Old Timer said: "Work 'em now, worry later."



More on CIS Prefixes

Here is the "latest" set of CIS prefix conversions.

UA	RA-RZ, UA-UI
UB	UR-UZ, EM-EO
UC	EU-EW
UD	4J, 4K
UF	4L
UG	EK
UH	EZ
UI	UJ-UM
UJ	EY
UL	UN-UQ
UM	EX
UO	ER
4JIF	R1MVA-R1MVZ
4K1	R1ANA-R1ANZ
4K2	R1FJA-R1FJZ

—*Digital Journal*, 6/94 via WB6AFJ

A Letter to *The DXer*

Garry,

The Don Miller article by Hugh Cassidy brought back some sick memories about this period. I have always been interested in the Miller saga. Here's what I know:

1. *Monthly Rate.* Miller had a flat rate for some of the guys that was reported to be \$25/month. I have heard a number of stories from the "Miller Faithful" that confirmed this figure. One guy told me: "If my wife ever found out that I was sending Don Miller \$25/month when we were living on \$275/month, she would kill me." This was a pretty good piece of change in the mid-sixties, as new Ford Mustangs were still around \$2500.

2. *DXCC Resignations.* There were numerous DXCC resignations because of Don Miller. Lee Bergren, WØAR, and Mac McAllister, WØCW, from the Kansas City area were "Big Guns" that resigned because of Miller's tactics. Miller would not work their calls, but would unknowingly work their secondary calls. Note: Lee and Mac were the guys that took Gus Browning on his first DXpedition. They were legitimate DXpeditioners of that era. Many other active DXers also resigned from the DXCC Program because of Miller's "listening style."

3. *Typical Tactics.* I visited with one of Miller's "pilot operators" one night at an ARRL National Convention. He said that Miller would typically call him within 24 hours of the operation and tell him that he was actually "in a hotel in Chile" or "somewhere in Northern Canada" and would be active from a particular bogus locale the next day. Note: the bogus operations were all known by Miller's insiders. They were definitely in on the scam.

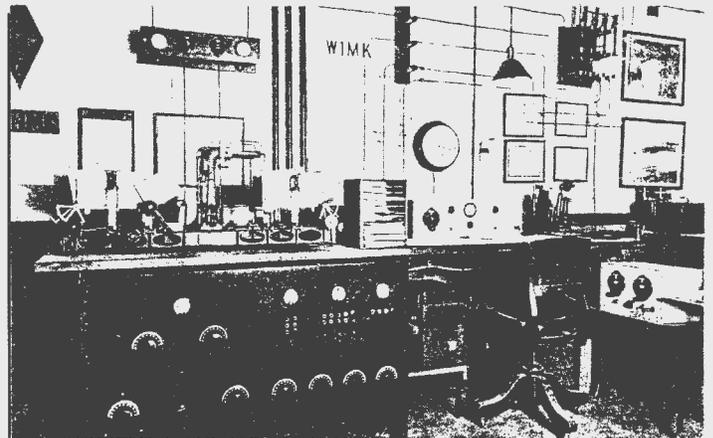
4. *Getting in the Log.* If you paid your money, you got in the log—period! No actual contact had to be made. I have this information confirmed from four independent sources, so I guess it's true.

This was really an awful period for DXing. The Hugh Cassidy article handled it in a very thoughtful manner. It appears that this is something that needed to be said to the DX community by someone who experienced this era and he presented the Miller scenario with style.

—Steve Gucewicz, KØCS

(Steve—aka Lance Johnson—is Editor of *The Lowband Monitor*.)

Mystery Photo



This 1930 amateur radio station was known worldwide for one feature. What was the feature, and whatever became of the station?

Answer on page 10

continued from page 1

The Repeater Revisited

The general silence on 7.36 belies the fact that many are listening with the filaments on. Many also have packet, some not. Some of these listeners pounce upon virtually every packet or repeater posting, retiring back into the shadows to digest their prey and ring up the score for the Marathon, their band-country list or whatever. But few return the favor: one rarely hears/sees DX postings from the majority of these members, either on packet or W6TI. There may or may not be an acknowledgement to him who actually found the DX; most often there is not.

This selfishness is often most apparent when unusual DX shows up. Rudi Klos' TNØCW effort in July generated substantial excitement: a midsummer CW operation from a fairly rare "terrible-T" by a first-class operator! Initially, conditions were fairly good and the pileups were deep.

One 17m pile saw a number of club members get through, and many of these were W6TI regulars. How strange, then, that W6TI was virtually silent! To his credit, Stan, K6MA, put out several announcements and several listeners got through shortly after. I heard one "thanks." I heard no chatter: no frequencies spotted, no offers to spot, no inquiries as to whether spotting would be appreciated, no suggestions. I was in that pileup, struggling, and I would have appreciated the help, as those I have spotted for in other pileups have appreciated mine. How often it has seemed that those who *do* spot on our repeater are *not* the regular repeater-rats!

Is this an overreaction? Are we supposed to be pure and work everything without any assistance? If so, fine, but then why do we have 2m repeaters and the DXPSN? Personally, I *enjoy* helping my friends get through—and I appreciate their help, as well. Is this not what friends and comrades do for each other?

"If you build it, he will come." If there is real participation in our club repeater—it's called "giving"—members will use it enthusiastically and feel comradeship for one another. If not, they most likely will not.

—N16T

A Word From Our Sponsors?

The NCDXC Budget—that mythical document—would show that publication and postage costs for *The DXer* are among the NCDXC's major expense items. Since some 400 copies are published and mailed each month, this is no big surprise. To reduce costs, one Director proposed reductions both in page-count and the use of graphics; this approach was *not* embraced by your Editor. We—the Editor and the Board—did subsequently agree that planning page-count with regard to inserts—such as the DX Ladder—could significantly reduce annual postal expenses.

Perhaps we should also look at increasing *revenue*. Currently, the only outside income supporting *The DXer* and the Roster is a single donation from HRO. In return, HRO gets a monthly half-page ad on the mailer page of *The DXer* and the full back-page of the annual Roster.

Some clubs accept additional ads: one such format utilizes business-card sized ads, sprinkled at random in interior pages; some of the ads are in fact reproductions of business cards. According to the club president, most of the ads are placed by members. Some are in exchange for other courtesies extended to the club (e.g. free pizza and a free meeting place). The cost of the ads is low, but the benefit adds up over the year.

Before proposing this possibility to the BoD...what do *you* think? Is it a good idea to sell space in the newsletter? Send me a postcard or a packet message or E-Mail with your opinion.

—N16T

DX Really Is!

So here we are near the bottom of another solar cycle. Some have seen quite a few come and go, others not so many. We see long faces and many a comment regarding lack of propagation on the HF bands. It seems nature conspires against even the best efforts of the Palos Verdes Sun Dancers! The A-Index heads toward big numbers and just when the faithful see the beginning of a slight drop, the dern thing jumps way up there again! What's a DXer to do?

There are a few things that work against us and one is called the "Dead Band Syndrome." As young DX pups, we were always told by the Old Timers not to call CQ DX. This is good advice when band conditions are good: how often have we heard someone calling CQ DX right on a DX station's frequency? When band conditions are bad-to-terrible, we find a lot of DXers tuning where no signals are present. All those listeners and no senders: when no one is sending, there is nothing to hear! Go-I-Iy!

The "Dead Band Syndrome" is aggravated by the DX Packet Spotting Network. The DXer takes a quick look at his packet screen, notes long hours with no DX announcements and concludes that the bands are dead. He confirms this by doing a quick band-scan and hears nothing. But there are band openings we are not aware of—because no one is transmitting! You will be surprised occasionally to work a part of the world apparently closed to your area.

Call CQ DX! Take advantage of those short and weak openings that occur. Don't be afraid to transmit! If anyone complains, tell 'em I said it was OK!

When the bands are *really* blotto, work stateside DXers: all those guys who are normally the competition. For example, you could work 100 DXers who have DXCC, or work 300 DXers who have 300 or more countries. It is a great way to combat DX brain death due to lousy conditions. Suggested call: "CQ DXers."

I am going to start doing it here. Others who are interested should keep in touch. 73 and Go-o-o-od DX.

—Ted Davis, W6BJH

Unassisted DXing

Adam Mentes, N6QR

N6QR, skilled DXer and former NCDXC member, offers a thoughtful essay on our sport.

The sport of DXing can and will be what we DXers make it! Of the many thousands of us who chase DX for pleasure, each has his preferences and interests within DXing. Even the very definition of what constitutes DX varies widely.

While we all know the feeling of having logged a "new one," what we mean by a that depends largely upon our current interests. Some years ago, I heard about the "5X5 Award" offered by the NZART (New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters) for "...contacting the same station on 5 different bands, repeated in 5 different DXCC countries." Inspection of my QSL files showed that I already had more than enough cards to qualify for the basic award. On the other hand, I thought it would be a difficult and worthwhile challenge to extend the effort—and work 100! In effect, to work 5BDXCC with 100 stations, each on 5 bands!

For the next four years, I had tremendous fun working new ones! I was hunting for familiar calls on new bands, keeping records of stations worked on several bands, etc. When it was done, the Award itself was anticlimactic: the reward for the four years of chasing was the chase itself!

A good friend...felt he had had to "prostitute" himself" (his word) because the list had been for an "all-time new one."

Thinking back of all the "new ones" and the pleasure they had brought, the effort had been well rewarded. One of my current DX projects is to work CW DXCC with stations whose call suffix is "CW." Working EW3CW the other night gave me that familiar and wonderful feeling of again having worked a rare "new one!" At the rate I am progressing, it will take many years before I have the 100. I am glad it will take that long: getting there is *all* the fun!

The ARRL DXCC program is a fine starting point for DXing fun, but it neither is nor should be the only DX game in town. Unfortunately, it seems to be just that for many. Some think the DXing

game is confined to "working them all" according to DXCC rules; presumably, they move on to stamp collecting when done. I know many Honor Roll members who get on the air only to work countries newly added to the list. You may know some, too! In my book, they were DXers once but are no more!

Others find themselves enslaved to their "needed country list." Their self-assigned task is to reduce that list by any means, at any cost to their standards or values. A good friend explained recently how he hated "lists," but felt he had had to "prostitute" himself" (his word) because the list had been for an "all-time new one." I asked my friend why he felt so badly about it. "It was as if I were asking for a handout," he explained. "The important aspect of the contact was to be heard by the list-master, to be on his good side. The DX station, and the perfunctory exchange of reports were almost incidental. This was not much of an accomplishment!" On that last point, we were in perfect agreement. Of course, working DX on lists is perfectly legal by DXCC rules. That is as it should be. I would not wish to force the world to play by my self-imposed rules of conduct. But neither will I bend those rules in order to be "done" sooner.

The recent world-wide proliferation of DX packet spotting networks has again brought this issue of "assisted DXing" into sharp focus. As with other forms of assistance, the justification for using the DXPSN is "efficiency." This is quite correct, for if the aim is to "bag" the DX with minimum effort by the DXer, then, comparatively, the "old" method of "tuning the bands" may be inefficient.

But let us be careful not to throw the baby out with the bath water! For many if not most of us, the excitement of DXing derives from the search, the discovery, the timing of the call, etc. Fully computer-

automating the process may lead to maximum efficiency consistent with minimum individual enjoyment or accomplishment. Come to think of it, we could contact those 327 countries (at least the ones above water at high tide) on the telephone, faster and cheaper than by radio. Efficiency is not the goal in this game!

Here is the challenge: spend a few minutes thinking what *your* interests and goals in DXing should be. Consider what you are willing and what you are *unwilling* to do to accomplish those goals. Ask yourself if you are willing and able to accomplish those goals without assistance. You need not adopt my standards, or those of anyone else. But do set your own standards: for your own sake, do not work DX without any.

from page 8

Mystery Photo

The station was most noted for its owner: the ARRL, and it later adopted the memorial call, W1AW.

—Elliott Pisor, K6ILM

KLOK Strikes

At the Intel emergency communications shack, we measured 1 Watt of 1170 kHz across a 50 ohm resistor at the feed line to our low band wire. Needless to say, our receivers begged for mercy. I built a transmit-worthy version of the elliptical BC filter in the Handbook, and it does the job nicely (even for 160)...

The fun part: we realized we had BC station overload when we tuned to 10 MHz WWV and heard Mexican music! We briefly considered the possibility of a programming change on their part, but quickly discounted that as unlikely.

—From an Internet discussion of filters

from page 1

Knock's Knews



Knock, K6ITL receives the gavel from George, WA6O, who is now Vice-President.

for only \$11.95 (\$9.95 for seniors)! If you prefer a broader menu, The Fish Market is just across Hwy. 101, Denny's is down the street across from K-Mart, and around the corner in the shopping center is a nice coffee shop, The Cinnamon Mill.

It is important that you attend: we need to decide whether to hold future meetings at the same place. If enough partake of the Italian buffet, we may possibly have the meeting-room rental charge reduced significantly, so come try it at least once. If we find this location not satisfactory, we will continue the search for one that is, but we won't know if you don't tell us.

In addition to the outstanding program arranged by WA6O, the BoD will present several proposals for action during the coming year. Since these will directly affect all members, it is critical that you attend and participate in the discussions.

—Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL

from page 5

The Russian Tube Man

said "It came out of a Russian tank." He knew about them from growing up as a ham in the Soviet Union. He also said that they were very high-powered tubes and were very rugged and very reliable.

Yes, Svetlana makes tubes all the way from little 4CX250Bs to huge tubes capable of putting out two megawatts CW.

They have innovative technology unknown here in the West.

Chi li ha visti?



This photo and headline from the 1992 NCDXC visit by I2UIY and I2EOW (on W6OAT's right and left, respectively) have appeared twice on the Contest pages of RadioRivista—the ARI "organo ufficiale"—together with jocular descriptions of those pictured! For example: "Il piccoletto con il bicchierone di vino é Bob Vallio, W6RGG." The headline—"Who has seen them?"—refers to a missing-persons show on Italian TV.

—NI6T, with thanks to W6TC and I2UIY

Like Any Other Man?

Back when I was getting started in ham radio, I had a DX20 transmitter and an NC125 receiver. Europe on 15 meters was big DX for me.

I went to a small hamfest in Ohio and Gus Browning was there. I had no idea who he was or what all the fuss was about. Many hams were in awe of this person. Others were saying he was strictly mortal and made strange remarks about how he got dressed.

Well ol' Gus must have heard them. The next morning, I was walking to the motel

restaurant when I happened by Gus's room. I couldn't believe what I saw. There was Gus jumping up and down on his bed in his underwear. His pants were hung off the end of the bed. He was counting, and when he reached 3 he did a flip and came down with both legs into his pants. Both feet hit the floor at the same time. He then did sort of a roll or somersault and ended up in the chair in the corner with both suspenders snapped in place.

He then remarked: "Like any other man, indeed!"

—Alan Harp (no call given),
from the Internet

Speaking of flea markets, I had a marvelous time at Friedrichshafen a year ago and again just last month. Friedrichshafen is the Dayton of Europe. Where Dayton has 65,000 attendees, Freidrichshafen has 25,000, so it is a good-size show. They have a huge indoor fleamarket, and I underline indoor, because I had the experience of the rained-out flea market at Dayton. The flea market in Friedrichshafen this year was filled with fascinating things from Eastern Europe. Not

only tubes, which of course I was studying carefully, but every conceivable kind of electronic equipment, optical equipment, military equipment, night-vision goggles, assault rifles—you name it. Some wags suggested that—if you really wanted to buy one at the flea market—you could get an atomic bomb.

Given recent news developments, there may be some truth in that claim.

Part 2 appears next month.

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