

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



## RIMshots

### Our New Associate Members— Profiles in Quality

Recently, our membership overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of broadening the NCDXC, and created an Associate membership, available to anyone interested in DX, with no country requirement and no vote. The idea was to attract high-quality new members who would ultimately become full members. At our January meeting, we inaugurated our first two Associate members—Tracy Reese, WB6TMY, and Bob Schmieder, KK6EK.



Let's take a closer look at these new members of the NCDXC! Tracy, WB6TMY, a data technician, lives in Santa Rosa, and was first licensed in 1964 as WN6KXH. He holds an Extra Class license, and is a die-hard CW op: he's a member of the Morse Telegraph Club and the Society of Wireless Pioneers. Tracy is avidly interested in DX, and a very competent and experienced brass pounder. I was proud to be one of Tracy's sponsors.

Bob, KK6EK, a physicist, lives in Walnut Creek and is an accomplished DXpeditioner. Recently, he led the XRØY DXpedition to Easter Island, which logged about 40,000 Qs. This DXpedition was noted for its innovations, including Internet reporting and QSLing by satellite link. Bob was a member of the 3YØPI DXpedition and authored the book about it—considered by many to be the best yet written about DXpeditioning. He is the newly designated Team Leader for the reorganized Heard Island Group. Bob was first licensed in 1962 as KN7ONY, and holds an Extra Class license. He was the featured speaker at our January meeting.

Both Tracy and Bob have repeatedly expressed their gratitude for acceptance into membership in the NCDXC. And how fortunate the NCDXC is to be able to claim Tracy and Bob as members!

### Submit Your Nomination for DXer of the Year

I have appointed Rich, WB6UDS as Chairman of the DXer of the Year Committee. Voting members are requested to submit their written nominations to Rich prior to *March 1*. Rich's address is 337 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903. An engraved plaque is presented to the DXer of the Year at the International DX Convention in April. See eligibility requirements on page 3 of this issue.

more RIMshots on page 7

## Inside

Minutes —AA6T	2
DOTY Nominations	3
Contest Corner	3
Mystery Photo	4
W6SP Silent Key	
—W6CF	4
Roster Changes	4
Great White Hunters	
—ZS6EZ	5
Treasurer's Report	
—N6ULU	6
Blast from the Past	6
Eine Kleine Noisemusik	6
ZL8 DXpedition on track	7
Letter to the DXer	
—W6SJH	7

## N6IPE on Remote Control at Dunfey

Don Melcher, N6IPE, the "architect and builder" of the remote-control station at KD6UO—featured in the January, 1996 *QST*—will be the speaker at the February 9 meeting of the NCDXC. Station owner Roger Strauch, KD6UO, plans to attend—if he is in town.

The KD6UO contest station is in the marina area of Alameda. Its owner resides in Piedmont, in the Berkeley Hills.

The meeting will be at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. Socializing and/or dinner commences at 6:30. The meeting starts at 8 PM.

The Dunfey is located on the northwest side of the junction of Freeways 92 and 101 in San Mateo. Take the Delaware St. exit from 92. Monitor W6TI/R on 147.36 for routing assistance. Guests are always welcome.

The March meeting will be held jointly with the Redwood Empire DX Association. Time and place will be announced in the March *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

**Club Officers:**

President: Al Burnham, W4RIM  
 Vice President: Glenn Vinson, W6OTC  
 Secretary: Lloyd Cabral, AA6T  
 Treasurer: Stan Goldstein, N6ULU  
 Director: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ  
 Director: Rich Chatelain, AB6ZV  
 Director: Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL

**The DXer:**

Editor: Garry Shapiro, NI6T  
 20941 Nez Perce Trail  
 Los Gatos, CA 95030  
 (408) 353-1118  
 (408) 353-1119 (FAX)  
 ni6t@ix.netcom.com

Printing, Mailing: Ron Panton, W6VG

DX Ladder: Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ  
 Contest Manager: Ed Schuller, WA6CTA  
 9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC  
 California Award: Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF  
 Historian/archivist: Ron Panton, W6VG  
 Records Manager: Ron Panton, W6VG  
 Publications Mgr: Ron Panton, W6VG

**Club Repeater, W6TI/R**

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +  
 Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
 Comm. Chairman: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ  
 Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)  
 Thurs. Net QTR: 8 pm local time.  
 Net Manager: Randy Wright, WB6CUA  
 DX News: Dave Pugatch, KI6WF  
 Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ  
 Westlink: Craig Smith, N6ITW  
 Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU  
 QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

**W6TI DX Bulletins:**

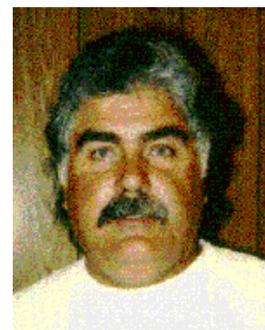
W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

**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. Unless otherwise noted, NCDXC permits re-use of any article in this publica-

## *Board of Directors Meeting*

The Board Meeting was held on January 3 at Brothers' Deli in Burlingame on and was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Al Burnham, W4RIM. Also present were N6ULU, W6OTC, K6ITL, AB6ZV, NI6T and AA6T.



- The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as presented in the December *DXer*.
- Treasurer N6ULU has moved NCDXC funds to accounts earning higher interest.
- The Board approved the Associate Membership application form created by AA6T. It was agreed to consider our first Associate applications at the upcoming January meeting.
- W4RIM announced that the March meeting will be jointly held with the Redwood Empire DX Association in Petaluma.
- W4RIM is looking for a member to chair a committee that would focus on recruitment and elmering of new members—both full and associate. K6TS has written to Al that he would like to participate in but not chair such a group.
- W6OTC mentioned he would be forwarding revisions to the Procedures Manual to Officers and Board members for their review.
- Rich, AB6ZV volunteered to work up a “Shack of the Month” recognition program. This would feature short bios rather than just photos.
- The Board agreed to retain the Dunfey as the Club’s regular meeting place until further notice. The Board also agreed that future Board meetings will be held at Brothers’ Deli on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.
- W6OTC volunteered to pursue the purchase of a TV and VCR for Club use at meetings. Avoidance of the hotel’s rental fees easily justifies the expense. Glenn to report at the next Board meeting.
- AA6T offered to put *The DXer* on audio cassette. NI6T to write a short article for *The DXer*.
- W4RIM stated that proposed changes to the annual North/South Club Competition are still being reviewed by the Clubs involved.
- There was a lengthy discussion on the issue of an NCDXC Internet Web Page. Need, cost and return were the main topics. Tabled for further discussion.
- Due to recent reports of inappropriate behavior towards guests on the W6TI repeater, the Board requested that NI6T write a short article on repeater etiquette.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

## *General Meeting*

- The evening’s program was a presentation by new member Bob Schmieder, KK6EK on his Easter Island/Salas y Gomez DXpedition. His presentation included the history of the island and it’s early inhabitants along with many slides of the landscape. Bob’s thoroughness in preparation was apparent. The results speak for themselves, with over 40K QSOs handed out. Bob was especially proud of the “live” Internet connection and their use of E-QSLs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T Secretary  
 continued on next page

from previous page

The monthly meeting was held on January 12 at the Dunfey Hotel and was called to order at 8:08 PM by President Al Burnham, W4RIM. Guests included WB6TMY, WA6HRK, W6GPM, K6ZX/7, KO6EC, NB1B and KK6EK. The membership approved the minutes as printed in the January *DXer*.

- W4RIM announced that the Chairman of the DXer of the Year Committee will be Rich, WB6UDS. Those members with nominations should contact Rich.
- Bob, N6EK announced that he will be part of the Wake Island DXpedition, departing January 29th.
- John, K6WC had very attractive 9BDXCC plaques for AB6LJ and KG6LF, but neither was present. He also noted that N6JV and NI6T had reached 100 countries on 160 meters. John described the 9BDXCC program.
- Three new members were admitted—Frank Berghuis, KO6EC (Full member) and Tracy Reese, WB6TMY and Robert Schmieder, KK6EK (our first new Associate members).

## DXer of the Year! Nominations Now Open

It is once again time to nominate the DXer of the Year.

### Eligibility

The award is based upon consistent and active participation in DX and club activities during the preceding *three years*.

Only voting members who have been club members for at least three years are eligible.

No person may receive the award more than once every three years.

### Selection Criteria

1. Cooperation and assistance with DX efforts, such as: maintaining liaison with or coordinating DXpeditions; participating in DXpeditions and; helping other members to work DX.
2. High standards of operating practices and ethics. Compliance with FCC regulations; exhibition of fair play, sportsmanship and good operating practices at all times. Use of ethical practices in working new countries, and in obtaining QSL cards.
3. Participation in club activities. Service as officer or director, *DXer* editor, or other club appointments, participation in DX contests with scores contributed to the NCDXC, support of the club repeater, attendance at club meetings and repeater meetings, service on committees, or bringing in new members.
4. Achievements. Winning, or placing high in major contests, winner of awards, such as 5BDXCC, Honor Roll, etc. Amateur radio appointments, service to the public in emergencies, promoting international goodwill. Assistance to potential or new amateurs, conduct of training programs.

All nominations shall be in written form and submitted to Rich Carbine, WB6UDS, Chairman of the DXer of the Year Award Committee, no later than March 1, 1996.

## Contest Corner

February is here, and that means it's time for the ARRL DX Contest! The annual NCDXC vs. SCDXC competition is taking on a new look this year, and we need *everyone* to turn out and get on the air!

This year, the format will be *North vs. South*—the North is the NCDXC, Northern California Contest Club (NCCC), and the River City Contesters (RCC) and the South is the SCDXC, Southern California Contest Club (SCCC), and the San Diego DX Club (SDDXC). The aggregate totals of all clubs will determine the winner. At Visalia, the club with the highest score on the winning side will be awarded custody of the perpetual trophy.

We need to do a *big* job in this—so be sure to turn in a score with NCDXC noted in the club competition box on your summary sheet. And, don't forget to send a copy of the summary sheet to me, WA6CTA.

To encourage your participation, the NCDXC will have an additional award category this year—Team Contesting. Assemble a team with as many different club members as desired: the teams with the highest totals for CW, SSB and combined will win awards. To qualify the team, the contest manager (me!) must be notified—in writing—ré the team roster at least 48 hours before the start of *each* contest. You may use Snail Mail, E-mail or packet. All team members *must be members of the NCDXC*—that's the only rule! There are no territorial restrictions. You can “glue” a bunch of single-band efforts or put together a group of limited-time efforts—the point is to have fun!

I hope that everyone has a great time this year! Good luck!

—Ed Schuller, WA6CTA

## Apologia

In *Point and Counterpoint* in the January *DXer*, the author of the rebuttal to my editorial was incorrectly identified. WA6BXH/7 is Sandy Lynch, and we regret the error.

—NI6T

W6ITH at Christmas, 1947. From left, first row: Phil, W6IKQ; Bud, WØQLH; Ray, W6UPV; Horace, W6TI. Second row: Chas, W6EJA; Dan, W6PB; Bud, W6AED. Back: Jack, W6BVY; Elvin, W6TT; Reg, W6ITH; Mario, W6DUB.



## Roster Changes

### Reinstatements

Dick Dievendorff, AA6MC  
2217 Cherry Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95125  
H (408) 978-9234  
Fax (408) 977-4146  
E-mail dieven@almaden.ibm.com

Ken Keeler, N6RO  
5480 Sellers Ave.  
Oakley, CA 94561  
H (510) 625-2707  
W (510) 625-9402

James Murch, WA6OEY  
755 El Granada Blvd.  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
H (415) 726-4139  
W (408) 473-6578

### New Members (FM-full member, AM-associate member)

Frank Berghuis, KO6EC (Advanced, FM)  
14532 Chickasaw Way  
Manteca, CA 95336  
H (209) 239-7799

Tracy (TR) Reese, WB6TMY (Extra, AM)  
PO Box 4694  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
H (707) 527-8124  
W (415) 868-1403  
Fax (415) 868-1418  
E-mail Radions@aol.com

Robert Schmieder, KK6EK (Extra, AM)  
4295 Walnut Blvd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
H (510) 934-3735  
W (510) 294-2821  
Fax (510) 934-3735  
E-mail cordell@ccnet.com

—AA6T

## AMSAT Chairman Browning, SK

Former AMSAT chairman of the board John W. Browning, W6SP, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, died of kidney cancer January 3, 1996. He was 71.

W6SP was elected Chairman of the Board of AMSAT in 1982 and led the organization during early Phase 3 satellite development. John was an ARRL Life Member, prominent in many California DX associations and an avid HF operator from Palo Alto and later Los Angeles. A highly decorated veteran (Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart), John received the Distinguished Service Medal—the highest peacetime medal awarded in the US—when he retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in 1982.

Following his retirement, John worked as a consultant to the aerospace industry.

Arrangements are pending. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. John's family invites donations in John's memory to the Torrance (California) Memorial Medical Center. John is survived by his wife, Myrnie, a daughter and a brother.

## Ladder!

There is still time—barely—to submit your update for the DX Ladder. AA6YQ's deadline is February 13. See the story in the January *DXer*.



# Great White Hunters

*The subject of DX nets has been beaten to death in newsletters, magazines and on the Internet. But this metaphorical piece by Chris Burger, ZS6EZ seems to summarize perfectly the views of many.*

I agree—DX nets suck. You wouldn't find me one one, even if it's one I need for the Honor Roll. I just don't need an Honor Roll plaque so badly that I'm prepared to sell my soul to a DX pimp for it. And it so happens that the HR plaque came along anyway, despite having missed a few countries along the way when they could only be found in the DX brothels. Some eventually came by again in an honourable fashion, and I was ready. Others will still come by, and maybe I'll be ready then. However, I couldn't care less if the next guy does it.

Here in Africa, we see the ugly side of tourism. I remember the story a friend told me. A foreign tourist, overweight and obviously not in peak physical condition, had to be flown up to a Botswana game farm. He wanted to complete his quest to bag the African Big Five. He had all the equipment, and four of the Big Five were already on his wall.

Only the buffalo had eluded him. If you know the African buffalo, you know that you don't stop that animal with anything that a fat, wheezing slob can carry on his shoulder strap. You also don't want to be far away when you squeeze the trigger, or the bullet will harmlessly lodge itself in this animal's skin. The only real way is a heavy-calibre weapon, carried for days across endless stretches of savannah until you come face to face with your prey. You then make sure you shoot straight, as you normally only get one try. The buffalo doesn't take kindly to being shot at.

If you run a game farm, you forget about these laws of nature. Mr Slob's money is as good as anyone else's, so you try to make a plan. One such plan is to load Mr. Slob onto a couch, and load the couch onto the back of a 4x4 truck. You then drive through the bush until you find a buffalo (not guaranteed at all), and hand Mr. Slob a loaded rifle, while someone offers a shoulder for Mr. Slob to lean his rifle on. If Mr. Slob can at least shoot straight, you

load the buffalo onto a truck and skin it so Mr. Slob can mount its head in his house. But not before Mr. Slob is helped off the truck to pose with his victim, preferably with a smug grin on his visage.

On this particular occasion, there was a slight problem. The 4x4, with Mr. Slob on the back, did not find a buffalo. Mr. Slob was furious. He had paid good money, and he wanted his buffalo. The game farm owner was apologetic, but that was the way of the buffalo. Had it not been hard, shooting one would not have been a big deal.

However, there was one possibility—the tame buffalo they had on the farm. If Mr. Slob wanted to, he could take a shot at Japie, the tame buffalo. Mr. Slob was happy. He got his easy shot, from the back of the truck, at a tame buffalo that wondered what these people on the truck were up to, and came to have a look. Mr. Slob didn't have to get out of his couch, load the rifle or even aim. All he had to do was squeeze the trigger. Mr Slob struggled off the truck on a stepladder, and posed over the carcass with the compulsory smug grin on his face. I'm sure he's real proud of his trophy.

There are Mr. Slobs in ham radio too. The rigours of tuning the band, actually listening for DX and burning the midnight oil are too much for them. Not for them the backbreaking work of actually putting up antennas, or the financial demands of an antenna farm. Not for them the expense and hassle of an amplifier, and having to put filters on all the TV sets in the neighbourhood. No, let Saint Snooky pronounce their contacts "good." Let Saint Dom keep the frequency clear. Let Saint Dick's software find the DX for them. Hey, just wait for the beep to sound, look at the packet computer, and "grab" the spot. Nothing to it.

From my perspective, I don't find DX nets attractive. I've yet to understand the pleasure derived from an assisted QSO.

The suggestion of printing DXCC certificates on hollow tubing for such contacts has a lot of merit, in my estimation. But I can't say that packet spots are substantially different. I also can't claim that running illegal power is any different.

You set your own handicap. If you prefer to work only for an hour after Sunday lunch, spend less than \$7.50 a year on QSL cards and run QRP, that's your handicap. You'll savour the day when your hundredth card finally arrives in the mail. If you own a super station spanning five hilltops and dim all the lights in the county when you tune up, that's your handicap. You'll be mighty cheesed off when you miss 5BDXCC in the contest, because your neighbour was splattering on 75 m sideband. And if you decide you want to use any means possible (even if it's a DX net or a packet cluster, or running illegal power) to work everything on every band, that's your handicap. You'll probably toss and turn at night because of the few countries you don't yet have on the WARC bands.

Whatever you decide to do, just don't point holier-than-thou fingers. You won't catch me using a DX net, and you won't impress me with your contacts on 14.222.

—Chris R. Burger ZS6EZ, from the *Internet Topband Reflector*

## Mystery Photo

This natty group of happy hams has special significance in the history of the NCDXC. Can you identify them?

see page 5

## Mystery Photo

from page 4

This gathering of the Charter Members occurred at the home of Reg Tibbets,

*Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements  
for the six months ended December 31, 1995*

Receipts	
Club dues	\$4,044.00
Donations received	600.00
Interest income	529.92
Visalia	<u>8,216.80</u>
Total receipts	\$13,390.72

Disbursements	
Awards	\$23.70
Badges	18.00
Bank charges	37.00
<i>DXer</i>	1,817.23
Insurance	331.00
Meetings	686.04
Misc. expenses	52.75
Postage	17.34
Repairs	42.47
Roster	588.35
Storage	297.00
Supplies	<u>61.68</u>
Total disbursements	\$3,972.56
Excess receipts over disbursements	\$9,418.16

<i>Assets (as of 12/31/95)</i>	
Checking	\$2,829.20
Life members fund	9,621.86
Savings	<u>28,630.27</u>
Total assets	\$41,081.33

<i>Fund balances</i>	
Visalia reserve	\$3,500.00
Repeater reserve	\$3,000.00
General fund	<u>\$34,581.33</u>
Total funds	\$41,081.33



*Stan Goldstein, N6ULU*

## Blasts from the Past

*sent to The DXer by Ron, NG6X*

I worked the rare ones many times,  
And also QSL'd them.  
My costly cards came back to me,  
They also QS-eldom.

*—KØHT, in the West Coast DX Bulletin,  
9 May 1979*

Not a new discussion:

“Bob, K6SSJ headed a discussion of the pros and cons of the best QTH for the next DX Convention. Numerous spots were considered, and—after weighing the ads and disads—Fresno popped up as the winnah.”

## Eine Kleine Noisemusik

Bob, NW6N—who has a big signal on 160m—reported on PacketCluster that he had finally found and fixed the line noise that had been bedeviling him on topband. A hot wire feeding a pump was arcing to the casing of an abandoned well—*six miles from his QTH!*

It points out how tenacious one often must be in tracking and eliminating noise problems.

*—N16T*

## ZL8 DXpedition On Track

The DXer has received an info packet from the Kermadec DXpedition scheduled for May, 1996, including copies of the license and landing permit, pictures of the boat, and info about the participants. This major effort is on course and should be a lot more workable than the 1994 solo SSB effort. The following release appeared on the Internet.

Just to advise everyone that things are going well for this DXpedition. Ken Holdom, ZL2HU has sent to ARRL and ARRL DXCC desk copies of photographs of the ship and copies of all permits and licences...Other than finance, all is now sorted out for the DXpedition to be active all bands/all modes for a period of 11 days from May 4 to May 14, 1996...a ZL, US and JA team of experienced DX operators...we have the licence, we have the permission, we have the operators, we have the equipment all we now need are the resources to hire the boat. We have already received some assistance for which we are most grateful but more is needed to make this trip a success. Donations to The Kermadec DX Association, c/o Ken Holdom ZL2HU, P.O. Box 56099, Tawa, Wellington. New Zealand will be most welcome. For more information...Ron Wills, ZL2TT NZART DX Editor E-Mail rewills@actrix.gen.nz

—From the Internet DX Reflector

from page 1

### ***RIMshots***

#### **NCDXC Procedures Manual Revisions**

Spearheaded by W6OTC, the Board is finalizing revisions to the NCDXC Procedures Manual. Many of the revisions are of a minor “housekeeping” nature; others are more substantive. For example, the requirement for the second readings of membership applications is eliminated.

#### **North/South (ARRL) Contest Competition - Submit Your Score for the North!**

We have been working with the NCCC and the Southern California clubs to reach an agreement on rules for competition between the North and the South and, finally, we are in accord. See WA6CTA's Contest Corner.

—Al Burnham, W4RIM



## **A Letter to The DXer**

Editor:

We read with some relish your editorials and comments and in particular agree with your (comments) on the Heard Island DXpedition.

It would seem rather self-evident that those planning such a jaunt have put their efforts forth whether or not the ultimate “joy” of sweating it out on the pile of rocks was consummated. What price glory?

We saw no evidence of attempts on your part to cajole membership into assisting in defraying costs, but felt at the time that your statements of fact were forthright and proper. (As a matter of fact, we were swayed to make a small contribution as a result.)

Whereas we must agree that DXpeditioners should be basically liable for their own assumed costs, and whereas any other position could jeopardize the entire system, they do perform a function which is of value to all of us stay-at-home-types. And if, in the course of the effort, legitimate expenditures entail a cry for help—not an assessment—then it is the prerogative of individuals or companies or clubs to answer that cry in kind. The question of “entitlement” should never arise. After all, this is all voluntary.

While on the subject, let us remember that much gear and/or financial support comes from or through commercial manufacturers and suppliers. Ultimately, we all pay a distributed pittance for this through price adjustment. What a pity!

And it is even rumored that NCDXC has on occasion shaken the coffers for the good of the order. Oh, the shame of it!

Let's hope that DXpeditions proliferate, are successful, and that their crews continue to provide a (window) to strange and unfamiliar places for the rest of us. And, if needed, they can have a few of my shekels as well.

—Norm Buell, W6SJH

## **A Request From the Front Office**

We remind members to mail *all* club correspondence—address and phone number changes, payments and general correspondence, membership applications—to the official club address: Box 608, Menlo Park. This allows Ron, W6VG, our Honorable Historian, Roster Manager and All-Around-Good-Guy to record changes

in membership information and payments, and generally to help keep things straight. If applicable, Ron then forwards mail to the correct ultimate destination.

This simple method will help your club officials to serve you better.

—AA6T

---

P. O. B O X 6 0 8  
M E N L O P A R K, C A  
9 4 0 2 6 - 0 6 0 8 U S A

---

FIRST CLASS

