

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

After Visalia...

The 1996 International DX Convention was, in many ways, much like its predecessors. There were plenty of DX (and contest) presentations, lots of camaraderie/backslapping and male (and female) bonding, and the seemingly-inevitable rubber chicken. Dinner service seemed improved over 1995, when the new management had stumbled over itself. Management's only major gaffé this year—I am told—was to move a busload of German tourists into the nominally-full hotel at the last minute, displacing some two dozen protesting conventioners (holding firm reservations) to other hotels.

There were other currents flowing. Last year's events had prompted numerous attendees to lobby for a change of venue, which our Board decided to consider for 1997. I was one of those who thought that to be a good idea. We knew that there would be considerable resistance to a move, but a rational analysis—if such is possible with such an emotionally-charged issue—suggested that there were good reasons either to stay *or* move, and that reasonable people could discuss the subject on its merits. This was not the case.

Moving the convention seems to be, like abortion, an issue where emotion and ideology predominate, and where lines have been irrevocably drawn in the sand. I will not fan those flames here. I will say that I have been saddened by conversations I have had, especially with some of our southern DX brethren, and by certain more-public and ill-considered statements and actions by people in positions of responsibility. These have represented neither dialogue nor conciliation—they are merely affirmations of non-negotiable positions, buttressed with considerable rancor.

Change is always difficult, and almost always resisted. This case appears to be no exception.

—Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Due to a misplaced E-mail message, last month's list of applicants for membership was incomplete. The following applications will be voted at the May meeting.

Full Membership

Sam Brewer, WN6W, Santa Rosa

Applicants for Membership

Alex Meyer, WB6AFJ, San Jose
 William Alsup, N6XMW, Oakland

Associate Membership

Tony Koester, KO6WO, Oroville
 Chuck Prindle, W6JOX, Santa Rosa

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W6QHS on Antennas in May; Elections in June!

Dave Leeson, W6QHS, will be the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the NCDXC on Friday, May 10. Dave's subject is antennas for DXing. Well-known as a top contester and DXer, Dave—now enjoying a “second career” as a Stanford professor—brings a lifetime of achievement in radio and electronics to the party. He is the author of *The Physical Design of Yagi Antennas*.

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

The June meeting will feature a demonstration of the Yaesu FT-1000MP—and the election of Officers and Directors! This will be the first fully-contested election in memory—be there!

N O R T H E R N
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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
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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.

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K6ANP DXer of the Year!

Len Galdi, K6ANP is the recipient of the 1995 NCDXC DXer of the Year award, which was presented to him at the International DX Convention.

Over the years, this popular NCDXC member has always been one of the first to volunteer his time and effort for various committees or special duties. Just to name a few, he has served as NCDXC President and co-chairman of the DX Convention, is currently Vice President of the Northern California DX Foundation, serves on the DXPSN-User Group Board, and is a director of the Redwood Empire DX Association.



Len's DXing achievements include a place on the Honor Roll and 5BDXCC.

Two years ago, he was a member of the YKØA DXpedition to Syria, where his technical skills and CW expertise contibuted greatly to the success of the operation.

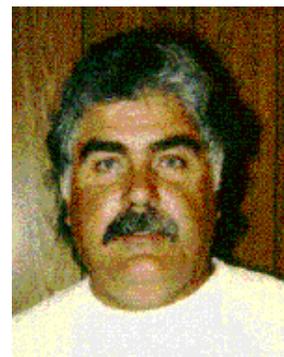
Len received his award as DXer of the year just days after his return from completing the Boston Marathon—at age 59!

—Rich Carbine, WB6UDS

Board of Directors Meeting

The April Board meeting was held April 2nd at the Hyatt Hotel in Burlingame. In attendance were W4RIM, W6OTC, N6ULU, K6ITL, AB6ZV, WA6HHQ, NI6T and AA6T. Also present were members W6OSP, WB6UDS and K6ANP. The meeting was called to order by President W4RIM at 8:17pm.

- Knock, K6ITL gave a brief report on the “Member of the Month” program.
- Al, W4RIM announced that Marilyn, N6VAW has been appointed Chairperson of the Membership Recruitment program.
- Glenn, W6OTC presented the Board with the final draft of revisions to the Procedures Manual. Following discussion and minor corrections, a motion to approve the changes as presented to the Board was approved. The Board thanked Glenn for his substantial effort.
- Rich, AB6ZV and Garry, NI6T gave a brief report on the status of the Nominating Committee—basically moving forward.
- Rich, WB6UDS gave a status report on the DXer of the Year award.
- The process by which members can formally question a Board decision was discussed. It was agreed that members should either address the subject at a monthly meeting or write to the Board—preferably the latter.
- Phil Reid, Hyatt's Sales Manager, conducted a tour of the Hotel's impressive



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RIMshots

Congratulations to K6ANP—DXer-of-the-Year

Len Giraldi, K6ANP was named DXer-of-the-Year at the International DX Convention in Visalia. The coveted award was presented to Len by Rich Carbine, WB6UDS, Chairman of the DXer-of-the-Year Committee. Len has been a tireless supporter of the NCDXC and the DX community in general. And Len is not one to rest on his laurels—he has already volunteered to chair one of the committees for the 1997 Convention, to be hosted by the NCDXC. And Len was recently elected Vice President of the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF).



...And to W6OAT—CQ DX Hall of Fame

Another honor announced at the Convention was the induction of Rusty Epps, W6OAT into the CQ (Magazine) DX Hall of Fame. Rusty's selection was announced by Bob Cox, K3EST. Rusty joins a select group of those who have made continuous and lasting contributions to DXing.

Convention 1997

Next year, NCDXC is responsible for organizing and putting on the Convention. Co-chairmen are Rich Chatelain, AB6ZV and Rich Carbine, WB6UDS. Our "wealth of Riches" face a tough challenge and will need a lot of help. If you wish to help out, please contact either of them. And if they call upon you for assistance, make their job easier: say yes! You may have heard some discussion about changing the location of the convention in 1997. The Board has given serious consideration to the possibility of alternating the location between SF and LA. To say that this concept was not warmly embraced by our brethren to the South would be an understatement. The matter will be taken up at the May Board meeting.

NCDXC Election Next Month. Challenge to Nominating Committee Slate Expected

Attend and Vote to Preserve the Future of the NCDXC

The Nominating Committee (NI6T, AB6ZV and NW6P) will announce its proposed slate of officers and directors in the June issue of *The DXer*. At the June meeting, voting members will cast their ballots to elect the officers and directors who will govern the NCDXC during 1996-1997. At this writing, the slate has not been decided or announced, but there are already rumors that there may be a challenge mounted by members who oppose the direction taken by the current administration, including our attempt to inject "new blood" (associate members) into the NCDXC. If you approve of the direction that we have taken during the last year, *please* attend the June meeting and cast your vote in favor of the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. And encourage your friends to do likewise!

Parting RIMshot

As the sun sets on my tenure as your President, I feel proud of our accomplishments during the past year. With the implementation of associate membership and the streamlining of membership application procedures, we have taken a giant step toward preserving the future of the NCDXC. I feel blessed to have had such a wonderfully talented and supportive board. Also, I would especially like to thank Garry, NI6T, for resuming his editorship of *The DXer*; his award-winning efforts are invaluable to

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Contest Corner

Marathon reinstated!

As you all have read in *The DXer*, the Board has reinstated the NCDXC Marathon. This event commences June 1 at 0001Z, and runs until August 31 at 2359Z. The object is to work as many different countries as you can within that period. There are 3 entry classes—CW, SSB and Mixed. You may enter only one category. Official rules are in the Bylaws and Procedures Manual. If you would like an entry sheet, let me know, and I will provide one.

Attention Associate Members! The Marathon is a *great* way for you to get on the air and work those 100 countries so that you can become a Full Member! Also, it is a nice way to compete against your fellow members in a "low-key" environment.

ARRL contest results

Our final total in the ARRL DX Contest was just over 3.6 million points. We had 20 participants. Thank you all for your effort(s). It is interesting to note that last year we had 39 participants and over 6.4 million points. What happened in 1996? For those who entered this year, I hope you had a lot of fun. For those of you that did not enter, I hope that you will help the Club and enter next year.

—Ed Schuller, WA6CTA

Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday each month, Las Positas College, Livermore, 7 AM-noon
- Foothill Flea Market, 2nd Saturday, each month, Foothill College, Los Altos, from 7 AM
- Volta RTTY DX Contest, May 11-12
- Dayton HamVention, Dayton, OH, May 17-19

First time in May for The World's Largest Ham Convention

- CQ WW WPX CW Contest, May 25-26

the woman. “On the south side of the island there is a very unusual stratum of exposed alluvial rock. I found that —if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln—it melted into forgeable ductile iron. I used that for tools, and used the tools to make the hardware. But, enough of that,” she said. “Where do you live?”

The man had to confess that he had been sleeping on the beach. “Well, let’s row over to my place,” she said. They both got into the rowboat and left for her side of the island. The woman easily rowed them around to a wharf that led to the approach to her place. She tied up the rowboat with a beautifully-woven hemp rope. They walked up a stone walk and, around a palm tree, there stood an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. “It’s not much,” she said, “but I call it home. Sit down, please. Would you like to have a drink?” “No, said the man, “one more coconut juice and I will puke.” “It won’t be coconut juice,” the woman

replied. “I have a still. How about a Piña Colada?” Trying to hide his continued amazement, the man accepted, and they sat down on her couch to talk.

After a while, and after they had exchanged their stories, the woman asked, “Tell me, have you always had a beard?” “No,” the man replied, “I was always clean-shaven.” “Well, if you would like to shave, there is a man’s razor upstairs in the cabinet in the bathroom.” So, the man—no longer questioning anything—went upstairs to the bathroom. There in the cabinet was a razor made from a bone handle. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge were fastened inside a swivel mechanism. The man shaved, showered and went back downstairs.

“You look great,” said the woman. “I think I will go up and slip into something more comfortable.” Which she did, as the man continued to sip his Piña Colada. After a short time, the woman returned, wearing strategically-positioned fig leaves and smelling faintly of gardenia. “You know,” she said, “we have both been out here for a very long time with no companionship. You know what I mean! Have you been lonely? Is there anything that you really miss? Something that would be really nice to have right now?”

“Yes there is,” the man replied, moving closer to the woman while fixing a winsome gaze upon her. “Tell me...do you happen to have a 20-meter rig around? And some wire? This place *has* to be a New One!”

—From the Internet’s Contest Reflector, author unknown.

Adapted by Hans Brakob, KØHB

to the sea constantly for a ship to come to his rescue. One day, as he was lying on the beach stroking his beard and watching the horizon, he spotted movement out of the corner of his eye. Could it be a ship? No, but from around the point came a rowboat. In it was the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen—or at least had seen in 4 months. She was tall, tanned, and her blonde hair flowing in the sea breeze gave her an almost ethereal quality. She

spotted him also—he was waving and yelling and screaming to get her attention. She rowed to him.

In disbelief, he asked, “Where did you come from? How did you get here?” She said, “I rowed from the other side of the island. I landed on this island when my cruise ship sank.” “Amazing,” he said. “I didn’t know anyone else had survived. How many of you are there? Where did you get the rowboat? You were really lucky to have a rowboat wash up with you!” “There is only I,” she said, “and the rowboat didn’t wash up; nothing did.” “Well then,” said the man, “how did you get the rowboat?” “I made the rowboat out of raw materials that I found on the island,” replied the woman. “The oars were whittled from gum tree branches. I wove the bottom from Palm branches, and the sides and stern came from a Eucalyptus tree.” “But, but...” stammered the man, “what about tools and hardware? How did you do that?” “Oh, no problem,” replied

QRZ Robinson Crusoe...

A timeless tale of the South Pacific

There was a DXer, who—in the valley of the sunspot cycle—decided to take a first-time cruise ship trip to the South Pacific. It was wonderful—the experience of his life—and he was being waited upon hand-and-foot. Unfortunately, it did not last.

A typhoon came up unexpectedly. The ship was blown onto an uncharted reef and sank almost immediately. The man found himself—he knew not how—swept up on the shore of a small island. When he came to, the man looked around. There were some bananas and coconuts, but that was it. He saw no other person, nothing from the ship, no supplies. He was desperate and forlorn, but decided to make the best of it.

So, for the next four months he ate bananas, drank coconut juice and looked

Seeing the Light, DX-wise

Q: How many DXers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: All of them! One to change it and the rest to argue about whether it counts as a light bulb.

—Overheard at Visalia by Ward Silver, NØAX



Letters to The DXer

An Apology

This letter is an apology for my conduct at the DX Convention banquet. The manner in which I made my comments was not appropriate and caused embarrassment to the NCDXC and its membership.

This does not mean that I no longer have major concerns with the way the present Board is conducting the Club's business and the direction it seems to be taking the NCDXC in the Convention and other important issues.

Keith Butts, KN6K

A Visalia Note

It is not my nature to look for the negative aspects of our hobby. I usually take an ambivalent stand on many issues and go with the majority even if I feel the majority is against my own beliefs. It is a hobby, after all, and compromise is no sin.

However, the incident at Visalia—the latest in our ego-driven politicized hobby—has prompted me to write this letter.

I refer, of course, to the Saturday night banquet, where the SCDXC "MC" put our President on the spot regarding the possible change of convention site. He also made other comments regarding the Northern California contingent which could be regarded as unfriendly.

Normally, such comments would be taken as good convention fun. But my perception is that, in this case, we—the Northern California DXers—were cast as bit players in the SCDXC movie.

I am not a proponent of a North/South split over the convention. But the treatment given our President at this convention might well push me to vote for an NCDXC-only DX Convention.

The Convention Committee did a nice job this year, and N6IC should be congratulated for his efforts. But the Convention was tainted by Master of Ceremonies W6AQ's handling of an issue that should not even have reached the dais.

Changing the convention site is not the real issue. The real issue is to have a proper forum in which to present the proposal and not to pre-judge the outcome.

Enough said. I welcome comments, as I may have some my facts wrong and my perception could be skewed. However, I was there and received input from several other hams, as well.

Bill Fontes, W6TEX
Past President, NCDXC

Second readings...again

I want to thank the officers and Board for considering my concerns regarding the second reading issue. I think the publication of prospective members' names in *The DXer* is an excellent idea. (I understand it was proposed by Glenn, W6OTC.)

Also, after speaking with Al, W4RIM, I would like to encourage my fellow members to be more involved with the club and its future—sharing responsibilities and—most importantly—sharing ideas. Get involved! Let's work together to make the NCDXC a great club!

If everyone does a little bit...a whole lot gets done. If only a few do the work... only a little gets done. If you don't like something, say something. But if you *do* like something, *say* something!

Randy Wright, WB6CUA

DX-ese Translated

What we say/(What we mean)

I think list operations should be abolished. (I've got 3 tons of aluminum at 150 feet.)

I only work 'em on phone. (I've forgotten the code.)

I only work 'em on CW. (I can't break the phone pileups.)

I'm not proud—I'll work 'em any way I can get 'em.

((I've got a lousy quad at 40 feet.)

Those Frenchies are such a buncha lousy lids. (I've been calling for 16 hours.)

The FOØ's are starting to shape up. (I finally nailed 'em.)

All in all, the Clipperton boys did a great job. (I worked 'em on all bands.)

—Orm Meyer, K6QK, in *The DXer*, June, 1978. Tnx Ron Rasmussen, NG6X

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Board of Directors

facilities. The Board and the '97 Convention Committee then discussed our options for next year's DX Convention.

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.
—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T Secretary

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RIMshots

all of us. My sincere thanks to each one of you. The NCDXC is indeed fortunate to possess a membership with such talent and dedication. As the club prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary this October, my hope and vision for the future of the NCDXC is that we utilize our talent and resources in a positive way, to build a stronger and even better NCDXC—a DX club that will survive and flourish for the next fifty years!

—Al Burnham, W4RIM

Pa Kett's Rules for a Healthy Ego

Pithy advice on maximizing the DX Packet Spotting Network experience

It has come to Pa's attention that there are lots of hams out there suffering from ego starvation. In their formative years, they were left alone on their potty seats and—worse—left crying helplessly in their playpens while their parents chatted heedlessly on the phone.

This is precisely why the DX Packet Spotting Network was established—to repair those damaged and droopy egos. Here are the ways one can receive the adoration and recognition lost in the juvenile years.

1. *Spot JA's on twenty meters.* There's nothing quite like the thrill of seeing your call on the screen!
2. *Spot again.* If one spot is a thrill, two are ecstasy! Add "lstng up" or "via F6FNU" for justification.
3. *Sell via announcement.* See your FT101 flash across the network. Follow up with "Sorry fellows, FT101 sold."
4. *Post each QSL received.* "UAØ card received today!" Follow up with "Ralph's check-cashing card received today and "Nordstrom preferred customer card received today."
5. *Dress up your spots with your heroics.* "5AØA Wrkd w/50W & dipole." "YI1CW Easy 1 call." "ST2SA East coast pile wrkd up 2.3 kHz."
6. *Be the last one to get 'em.* "TJ1JB QSY nw 160 sri."
7. *Give lousy QSL info.* "Up 5 via 5AØRR."
8. *If you can't work 'em, say he's a pirate.* "VKØMM heading over Brazil???"
9. *Imitate a massive station.* "160m: 7P8CC beam along the gray line 235 degrees."
10. *Move the pileup (it enhances your feeling of power.)* "C91A wrkd up 2.3" "C91A nw up 2.4", "C91A nw up 2.43" and so on.
11. *Announce by osmosis.* "10m:

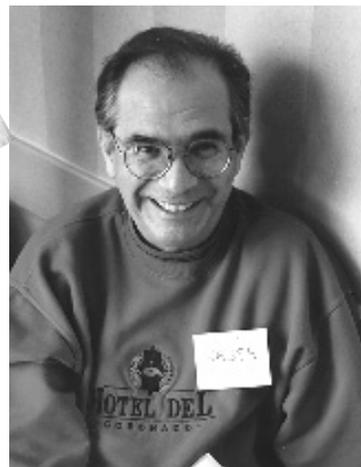
- TT8RR" (you heard a JA calling him.)
12. *Post WWV at 3:20 AM.*
13. *Carry on a private conversation by full network announcement.* It's like Madonna being hounded by the paparazzi—no privacy!
14. *Request info.* "Where is XX9?" "QSL info ON4UN?" "Who is stn at 14.225?" "What time is Family Hr Net?" "Pls spot P5 if heard." You'll make lots of new friends!
15. *Test spot with a rare one.* "14.000 STØSA"

And the ultimate, reserved for emergency repair of grave ego damage:

16. *Spot yourself!* "14.230 ME beaming EU, QSX up 5 last 2 letters."

There it is—the cure for frail and decrepit self-esteem. Lift your head up and take a walk in the sun; feel the glory! All is not lost as long as there's a will and the DX Packet Cluster!

Convention '96!



Convention '96!



FIRST CLASS

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