

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



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Special Election Edi-

The Editor's Keyboard

The Election of '96

The June meeting will present a most unusual occurrence in the history of the NCDXC—a contested election. In contrast to most years, in which a beleaguered Nominating Committee struggles to fill a single slate in the face of almost-terminal apathy, the events of the past year have caused the emergence of not only a Board slate of nominees, but a competing slate as well.

What is going on here? A year ago, a group of reform-minded members began to recruit a slate of officers and directors to compete with what was expected to be another well-meaning but more-conservative, caretaker slate. This new group—interested in boldly re-structuring and re-positioning the NCDXC—was surprised to discover that the Nominating Committee shared its concerns and was moving in the same direction. A slate headed by Al Burnham, W4RIM emerged from the synergy of the two groups, and was duly elected.

In the ensuing year, the W4RIM Board has indeed made its mark. Al concentrated on several key areas, including expanding membership, streamlining the Bylaws and Procedures to increase participation by the far-flung membership, and by considering major changes to the International DX Convention.

The NCDXC was not built—nor can it be rebuilt—in a day. The W4RIM Board instituted Associate Membership to provide a membership path for those DXers who—often notwithstanding impressive credentials as individuals and operators—have not yet reached the hallowed halls of DXCC, enabled members outside the Bay Area to vote on some important issues, and modernized and clarified the Procedures Manual.

The International DX Convention has proven to be a more complex and controversial issue, which will have to be addressed one step at a time, with due regard for the many constituencies and viewpoints involved.

The W4RIM year is nearly over, and it is time to select new officers and directors. Your Editor chaired the Nominating Committee, which was charged with fielding a slate committed to continuing the progress begun this past year.

I believe we succeeded. The Board slate, headed by Ted Algren, KA6W, DXer of the Year and Past President, supports Associate Membership, further expansion of voting by remotely-situated members, and the evolution of the International DX Convention.

The direction taken by the W4RIM Board has not pleased all members. Accordingly, an opposing slate headed by George Allan, WA6O, also a Past President, has declared its candidacy. In his position statement, WA6O, among other things, urges

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1.2 GHz-head at Dayton, page 9

Election, Yaesu at June Meeting

The Election will be the main business item at the June meeting of the NCDXC on Friday, June 14. After the dust settles, Kevin Karamanos of Yaesu will offer a presentation on Yaesu's recent transceiver, the FT-1000MP.

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. Bring a friend!

The Dunfey is located on the northwest side of the junction of Freeways 92 and 101 in San Mateo. Take the Delaware St.

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

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 California Award: Ruben 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

A Board meeting was held May 7th at Brothers Deli in Burlingame and called to order at 7:03 pm by President Al Burnham, W4RIM. Also present were W6OTC, N6ULU, K6ITL, WA6HHQ, AB6ZV, NI6T and AA6T. Guests were W6CF, WB6UDS, K6ANP, W6MKM and NW6P.

- The Minutes of the April Board meeting were approved.
- President W4RIM read a letter from SCDXC/WB6OKK concerning incidents which took place at the 1996 Visalia DX Convention. Al also presented several other items of correspondence.

The Board approved:

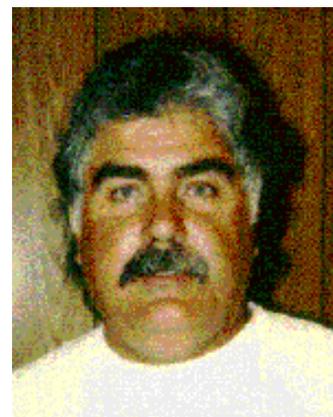
- a \$1000 budget request by AA6G for anticipated expenses of the NCDXC 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- printing and distribution of the recently-revised Procedures Manual. See the article by W6OTC on page 8.
- the purchase of 144 coffee mugs with NCDXC logo to be used as "Participation and Merit" awards. AA6T will pursue this purchase with Bimark Inc.
- The Nominating Committee update report was presented by Garry, NI6T.
- The remainder of the meeting concerned moving the 1997 DX Convention. A lengthy report was presented by Garry, NI6T. Len, K6ANP of the '97 Convention Committee also presented his view and findings. All present were given an opportunity to express their views. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Rich, AB6ZV to contact the Holiday Inn in Visalia to obtain a tentative date confirmation for '97, with a 60 day grace period with no penalty or liability for cancellation. This, he said, would allow the candidates running for office in June to associate themselves with a position on the issue. This in turn would allow the membership to decide the Convention issue by its vote. The lengthy motion was approved by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

General Meeting

The monthly meeting was held May 10th at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo and was called to order at 8:04 pm by President Al Burnham, W4RIM. Guests present included WB6AFJ, WN6W, W6JOX, K6BIA, W6CUB, WB6ORZ and AC6NF.

- ARRL Pacific Division Director, Brad Wyatt K6WR, updated the membership on League and FCC News, highlighted by the announcement that Gate 1 of the Vanity Callsign Program will open on May 31st. This "Gate" will allow amateurs to retrieve previously held callsigns. Brad also informed us of several recent FCC enforcement actions.
- President Al Burnham read a humorous letter received from Hillar, N6HR. In it, Hillar, chided the membership for its lack of participation in DX contests.
- Our President also announced the candidates for the June election. The Nominating Committee's candidates are KA6W for President, W6JD for VP, KN6BI for Secretary, W6NLG for Treasurer, and WA6HHQ and AA6T for Directors.



RIMshots

Election Meeting in June— Attend and Vote!

Fully Contested Election Offers Clear Choice

This month, we elect club officers and directors to lead the Club in 1996-1997. No big deal, you may say—we do this every year. True, but this year *is* different because, for the first time in memory, we have a fully contested election. The platforms of the two slates are summarized overleaf. Each slate offers its own vision and goals for the future of the NCDXC. After you review the respective platforms, you will readily see that there is a big difference between them. So, folks, here's your chance: if you want your voice heard, you should vote! Expressing your opinion on the W6TI repeater, PacketCluster and elsewhere is fine—but if you want your opinion to *count*, you have to vote! If your slate loses by one vote, you will know whom to blame if you did not cast your ballot!



Thanks, Candidates!

I would like to thank each candidate standing for election. Serving the NCDXC as an officer or director is an honor, but also it is a substantial commitment and responsibility, not to be taken lightly. It's difficult in any volunteer organization, NCDXC included, to find souls willing to serve, due to the press of work, family and other commitments. So, thanks, candidates: I salute your devotion to the NCDXC!

And What of the Future of the NCDXC?

I have used up a lot of words in RIMshots discussing the future of the NCDXC. My crystal ball is no better than yours: all that the club leadership can do is to try to lead in a direction that will be positive and beneficial to the membership, both short *and* long term. So, when you analyze the candidates and the issues, keep your eye on the ball. Which candidates or slate will best promote DXing? (That's one of the main purposes of the NCDXC, according to our charter.) Which will best face the challenges ahead? As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary, we can look back and clearly see how much things have changed in our beloved hobby. And we can reasonably anticipate that things will continue to change, for nothing remains the same. So we need progressive leadership—not for the sake of change itself—but in order to successfully lead us into the future. You be the judge of the candidates, but remember that to stand still when everyone else is moving forward is a sure way to get run over.

Parting RIMshot.

One other observation, before we cast our ballots: in a contested election, not all candidates win. My hope is that after the election is settled, we can put aside whatever differences we may have, and continue to work together in the interest of DXing and the NCDXC.

—Al Burnham, W4RIM

Roster Updates

New Members

Full membership

Alex Meyer, WB6AFJ (E)
3153 Tristian Avenue
San Jose, CA 95127
H (408) 258-1128

Orlando "Benny" Benincasa, K6BIA (E)
243 Sherwood Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
H (707) 545-3051

C.W. "Chuck" Prindle, W6JOX (A)
601 Carrillo St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
H (707) 575-8279

Sam Brewer, WN6W (E)
2012 Crimson Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
H (707) 575-0400
W (415) 973-3413

Associate membership

Leslie Zwiebel, WB6ORZ (G)
208 Stanford Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
H (415) 854-2641
W (415) 598-7066

Change of address

Joe Mastroianni, AA6YD
104 Whitcomb Lane
Cary, NC 27511
H (919) 363-4366
W (919) 461-0205
FAX (919) 363-4369
E-mail joe.mastroianni@internetmci.com

Joe becomes an Absentee member

After July 15:

John D. Peters, K1ER
98-1547 Akaaka St.
Aiea, HI 96701

Please send updates, including E-mail addresses and FAX numbers, to Lloyd Cabral, AA6T.

Board Slate

- *President*—Ted Algren, KA6W
- *Treasurer*—Gordon Girton, W6NLG
- *Vice President*—Doug Westover, W6JD
- *Director*—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T
- *Secretary*—Peter Gerba, KN6BI
- *Director*—Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ

KA6W Platform Statement

This past year, our Club has moved in a progressive direction and I am proud of the accomplishments of the current Board of Directors. I intend to enhance the momentum established by our current officers to ensure that the NCDXC does not regress to “the way we were,” to be certain that all efforts will continue to grow the club and make being a member of the “World’s Greatest DX Club” fun and enjoyable.

I will address several issues I believe are important to consider in deciding where to place your “X” on the June ballot.

Associate Membership

Our slate fully supports the Associate Membership concept! We believe that working 100 countries—while a worthwhile achievement—cannot be the sole criterion for judging the merit, desire and ability of a DXer. A great attraction of DXing is, after all, its multiple facets. We welcome this diversity of approaches to the sport—and those who pursue DX, whatever their circumstances. We oppose the imposition of time limits or other constraints on this class, other than withholding the vote. Is it reasonable to expect a QRP DXer to achieve 100 countries within one or even two years? We don’t think so! Be assured that a support function *will* be established to assist Associate Members to achieve Full Membership.

North/South DX Convention

The current Board has explored alternatives to the traditional Convention venue. Be assured that all candidates on this slate are sensitive to the opinions of members of the NCDXC and the SCDXC. We have spoken with many well-known and highly respected DXers, North and South, all of whom have attended many past conventions. It is clear that most prefer that our convention remain in central California. It is also clear that opinion is strongly polarized regarding the venerable Holiday Inn in Visalia; hence the choice of a hotel is the main issue for 1997.

An alternative site for the convention is a goal of this slate, but with full consideration of the fiscal impact upon the NCDXC. If absolutely necessary and as a fall-back position, the Holiday Inn in Visalia will be the chosen site for our 1997 Convention.

Bylaws and Procedures

During this past year, changes were made to our Bylaws and the Procedures Manual. We intend to continue to modernize the operating framework of the NCDXC. Where practical, mail-in-voting will be expanded to increase participation by *all* voting members in issues of major importance.

Board Accessibility

A goal of this Board slate is to be completely accessible to our members. During each W6TI Thursday Evening Net, at least one Board Member will be available to hear comments and suggestions from members. Issues of concern will be published in *The DXer* for all to review and understand, before a final position is established.

Monthly Meetings

Every effort will be made to establish meeting presentations well ahead of scheduled meetings. Balance between technical and non-technical presentations will be sought. At least one monthly meeting will be held at a site away from the Peninsula; Sacramento is a prime contender.

To accomplish these goals, it is imperative that a united board be elected. A “*status quo* forever/we-won’t-change” Board will not accomplish these objectives. To continue moving the NCDXC forward in its 50th year of being the “World’s Greatest DX Club,” I strongly urge you to cast your vote for progressive change—and to confidently vote for our slate.

—Ted Algren, KA6W, Past President, NCDXC



Alternate Slate

- *Treasurer*—Keith Butts, KN6K
- *Director*—Chuck Patterson, K6RK
- *Director*—Vince Henley, KB6GV
- *President*—George Allan, WA6O
- *Vice President*—Dick Letrich, WB6WKM
- *Secretary*—Tom Jones, K6TS

WA6O Platform Statement

The above members have offered their services to the Club by declaring their candidacies.

This is a well-qualified group of candidates, any one of whom is eminently qualified to run for his respective office on his own merits. Most have served as NCDXC Officers in the past. They think along the same lines and will work together as a team. Given the time and energy needed to effect change, we would prefer to work together as a group. Therefore, we urge you to vote for all of the above candidates.



If elected, these officers will work to carry out the following objectives:

- Postpone any decision on moving the International DX Convention away from Visalia until the matter can first be thoroughly researched and then adequately discussed with our friends from the Southern California DX Club.
- Expand our membership base by maintaining a positive outlook and focusing on those aspects of the Club that have made it great.
- Promote and encourage involvement in the activities surrounding the celebration of our 50th anniversary.
- Provide better access to the Board of Directors via the following channels of communication:
 - Have at least one Club officer report on every Thursday night net.
 - Hold periodic forums on W6TI for the purpose of soliciting member input.
 - Promote and encourage a broad base of Club members involved in the activities of running the club.
 - Recognize all contributions to the club, both large and small.
 - Explore the possibility of establishing an award to recognize significant contributions to the Club, but which do not necessarily qualify the recipient to be DXer of the Year.
 - Introduce changes gracefully and with the concurrence of the people affected by them.

For the first time in many years, the Northern California DX Club has more than one candidate running for each office. We urge you to attend the June Meeting and ask that you show your support for this platform by voting for the above candidates.

—George Allan, WA6O, Past President, NCDXC

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The Election of '96

postponement of efforts to redefine the DX Convention, and focuses upon the weekly on-the-air meeting on W6TI.

The platform statements are presented on pages 4 and 5. As with all such statements, it is instructive to note both what is said—and what is not. You are urged to read both carefully.

This election offers a clear choice of direction for the Club. Both Ted and George believe that a split Board will not be effective; each asks that you vote for an entire slate.

This is an editorial—and I am not impartial. I served on George Allan's Board—he is a gentleman and I consider

him a friend. But I shared Al Burnham's vision, and—having known Ted Algren for 14 years—I am committed to Ted Algren's vision for the future of the NCDXC.

—Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Letters to The DXer

ing that, “Change is always difficult, and almost always resisted.” What you failed to add was that it is not always necessary.

—George Allan, WA6O, Past President

WA6O: Change is not always necessary

After reading the front page editorial (in the May *DXer*) concerning the 1996 IDXC, I feel compelled to comment on the “other currents” that were flowing there. I, too, do not intend to “fan those flames here,” but to set the record straight by stating the facts as I see them.

You are absolutely correct that numerous attendees from last year’s convention lobbied for a change of venue. Having been Co-Chairman of that event, I was made painfully aware of their displeasure, which they chose to vent on packet radio and share with the entire DXing world.

But, in retrospect, they represent barely 3%. Many commented that they would attend wherever it was held. Some stated that they preferred Visalia; others wanted any location other than Visalia.

3% of those who attended the convention—hardly a majority. It is this same group that now wants to “throw the baby out with the bath water” by moving the venue to the San Francisco Bay Area. That is not only parochial, but self serving and ill advised.

Having co-chaired six conventions (five Pacificons and last years IDXC), I can speak from experience. It is far easier to negotiate with a hotel where we are their biggest single customer, than it is with a hotel where we are “small fry” in their overall operations. The problems that caused such displeasure at Visalia can be fixed. But they will only be exacerbated by moving the venue to the Bay Area. The answer is to fix what is “broke,” not to go out and start over.

If my intuition is as good as I think it is,

then I would expect that somewhere in this issue you will have published the results of the “survey” you conducted, complete with charts and graphs; all calculated to prove the point that the multitudes are overwhelmingly in favor of moving the convention to the San Francisco Bay Area. Upon reviewing the results, I was impressed by two things. First, the survey is invalid as a study because the questions were contrived to elicit the desired outcome. Secondly, the majority of respondents had never attended the IDXC. The only survey that should count is the one made in Visalia, at the Sunday morning breakfast. Two thirds of those in attendance indicated by show of hands that they would be in favor of returning to Visalia next year.

Finally, you were again correct in stat-

NI6T: It is time to move forward...

Thank you for your comments re the May editorial.

I presume that your claim that last year’s complaints about the Holiday Inn venue totaled “barely 3%” was obtained by dividing the number of PacketCluster complainants by the total attendance. Considering only those who felt strongly enough to vent in that manner is hardly fair—as you know, most people do not publicly complain even if they *do* feel strongly about an issue. Politicians have told me that a single constituent letter represents the view of 100 constituents—which has encouraged me to regularly communicate with my elected representatives. I suggest that you have greatly underestimated the number of dissatisfied attendees.

This is not a black-and-white issue. There exists considerable disagreement regarding the Holiday Inn venue—some think it satisfactory as is; others acknowledge that it is substandard, but do not consider it a major issue; still others—myself included—opine that it greatly detracts from the Convention. Many others quietly “vote” by staying elsewhere in Visalia, despite the inconvenience, and/or by shunning the banquet and breakfast—the term “anti-banquet” was heard frequently this year, and it seemed to me that there were far fewer present Saturday night than in 1995. We have found many who, having attended the Convention once or twice, have not returned; these folks are unrepresented in a show of hands at breakfast, but they count nonetheless.

It may indeed be easier to negotiate with a smaller hotel. However, a hotel which can only house half the attendees, and which can barely cope with the banquet is not a preferred solution. A cooperative management can indeed solve many of the

problems, but it cannot create non-existent room capacity.

Re the phone survey conducted last month, your intuition and analysis are both misplaced. I do not see how the three straightforward questions that were asked—how many of the past five Visalias were attended, would the respondent attend a convention in the Bay Area, and would the respondent stay at the hotel—could be construed as contrived, or as a referendum on Visalia. The intent was to provide useful planning data for the Board, *if* the Convention were moved to the Bay Area. Period.

I’ll summarize the results. “On our own dime,” we reached 200 DXers. 29% had not attended Visalia in 5 years, while a third had attended 4 or 5 times out of 5. 85% would attend a Bay Area convention. They would account for about 130 rooms per night—about a third of those available. Not surprisingly, those living further away were more likely to take a room.

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Letters to The DXer

W6WB: Club Tradition—Is It Being Ignored?

G.I.'s with radio gear worldwide, who were anxious to work the States. Soon the U.S. bands were open, and DX became a major part of amateur radio. Surplus electronic gear, including high power vacuum tubes, was readily available, resulting in higher power stations for those interested in DX. This, along with John Kraus' 8JK antenna, and Dr. Yagi's parasitic beam, made DXing a lot easier. Tradition grew.

The first bona-fide DX convention was sponsored by the Southern California DX Club and was held at the logical and traditional halfway point—Fresno. Subsequent conventions have been held either in Fresno or Visalia. Tradition is still on course.

There are many practical considerations that could make the present location and hotel ideal. One is a closer liaison with the hotel management to ensure there will be no surprises to detract from the high expectations of conventioners. Cancellation of reserved rooms comes to mind in this regard. The sponsored cocktail parties on Friday and Saturday evenings should continue. Other hotels contacted in the past required an additional charge for such cocktail parties, including the cost of bartenders. We never had it so good as where we are now.

The recent Visalia convention has given rise to some strongly-worded suggestions that future conventions be held elsewhere. This is contrary to the overwhelming show of hands of breakfast attendees, indicating their desire to remain in Visalia. Those who would move the convention site elsewhere should consider two important factors, namely tradition and other considerations that dictate the location of the north/south DX convention.

Tradition. The roots of the present-day conventions go back a long way. I recall and have pictures of a north/south meeting in 1929. This was before DX as we know it today existed. There were occasional random contacts with stations outside the U.S. Such contacts generally were rag-chews and of a personal nature—not the 59/599 DX QSO's that exist today. In those days, the northern and southern territories were combined into a single Pacific Division. Annual conventions were alternately held in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas. Later, two ARRL divisions were established—the Pacific, which included the San Francisco area, and the Southwestern. The state's division resulted in subsequent conventions being held midway, at Fresno and then Visalia. The roots of tradition were thus planted.

At the close of World War II, there were

Complaints about the banquet, the food and the service have been an issue. The caterer does a fair job at the nominal price we pay. Improvements might be realized if the hotel management is apprised of banquet shortcomings. Corrective action might require a price increase—perhaps to \$50 for the banquet alone—a cost beyond the budget of many senior attendees.

I am sure the hotel is eager for our business, and will take the necessary steps to correct any deficiencies brought to its attention. I have participated in dozens of meetings and conventions. I can say unequivocally that the price we pay for accommodations, banquets, breakfasts and access to no-cost cocktail parties is extremely reasonable. This plus the hotel location—halfway between the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas, which affords maximum convenience to travelers to and from the convention.

I am sure any problems that now exist are correctable, and I am confident our convention committee, officers and directors can make it so.

—Bud Bane, W6WB

AB6ZV: The Tradition *is* to

Change!

Bud, you are so correct!

The roots of the present-day convention *do* go back a long way in time. You have carefully traced the path of tradition, but I see that tradition in a different light.

You point out that annual conventions were originally alternated between Los Angeles and San Francisco, then held in Fresno until the hotel was outgrown, then

Visalia—I think you left out Paso Robles). Yes, the roots of tradition were planted and I see the course tradition has taken. The Visalia Tradition is one to be remembered fondly.

But you have shown that the *tradition* is to evolve and change. *Tradition* is still on course—and it is time to evolve and change again.

New Applicants

To be voted at the June meeting:

Full membership

William Alsup, N6XMW
Oakland, CA

Robert Pratt, AC6NF
Saratoga, CA

Reinstatement

Oliver Sweningsen, W6NV
Orinda, CA



Procedures Manual Revisions

At its meeting on April 2, 1996, the Board of Directors completed its annual review of the Procedures Manual and adopted several amendments. The most significant amendment was to conform the Club's Procedures with its By-Laws, by providing for the category of Associate Membership. In addition, the Board changed the procedure for considering all applicants for Club membership. Beginning in May, 1996, the names and callsigns of all qualified applicants (whether for Associate or Full membership) shall be published in *The DXer* prior to consideration. The application shall be presented at the next regular meeting attended by the applicant; there shall be no second reading.

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No changes were made in the requirements for a quorum or in the procedure for discussion and voting. The membership application was updated to provide for achieving DXCC on RTTY as well as Phone and CW, and a separate form was provided for Associate members. Other changes conformed related sections and corrected typographical errors and the listing of past and present committee chairmen and other appointees.

Because the present supply of the printed Procedures Manual is almost

exhausted, a new version will now be printed, incorporating the cumulative changes adopted by boards in the past several years. Club members may obtain a copy of the newly printed Manual by request directed to the Secretary. As in the past, the Secretary will automatically send a copy of the Procedures Manual to all new members.

—Glenn Vinson, W6OTC, Vice President

NI6T: It is time to move forward...

You say that "the only survey that should count is the one made...at the Sunday morning breakfast." I disagree. That out-of-context "survey" of those *already in attendance* asked "How many of you want to return to Visalia next year?" and, then, "How many of you want to go *somewhere else?*" To me, you would do just as well asking those attending Easter sunrise services whether they believe in the Resurrection, or are atheists.

The phone survey indicated that—if a Bay Area convention were boycotted by

Southern California—the room shortfall would have to be made up from outside California. To probe interest, I posted a message to the Internet DX Reflector and invited responses. This was *not* a scientific survey. The message garnered over 80 responses, of which most were from outside California and—unsurprisingly—were strongly *for* a move to San Francisco. Many, both pro and con, domestic and DX, were thoughtful and useful; some 6-landers were vitriolic and/or infantile. While there was a sense that "western" participation—W7, WØ, W5—would be

significant, there was no way to infer the number of hotel rooms that would result.

I think it *is* clear that there *are* serious problems with the Visalia venue—most of which cannot be cured by a phone call to the Management—that we are not well-served by pretending that there is overwhelming support for the status quo, and that it is time to move forward toward

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General Meeting

- AI also announced an opposing slate consisting of WA6O for President, WB6WKM for VP, K6TS for Secretary, KN6K for Treasurer, and KB6GV and K6RK for Directors.
- Contest Awards. ARRL DX Contest plaque winners were KA6BIM (S/O SSB and CW) and W6REC (M/S SSB and CW). Upon receiving his awards, Duane, W6REC also chided the membership for lack of participation.
- Marathon plaque winners were AC6HY for SSB, WG6P for CW and K6MA for Mixed.
- New members. Voted in as Full members were WN6W, W6JOX, K6BIA,

- and WB6AFJ. Voted in as an Associate member was WB6ORZ. No-show applicants were KO6WO and N6XMW.
- The evening's program was a fine presentation by Dave Leeson, W6QHS on antenna systems to exploit the actual incoming angles of DX signals. With the aid of computer modeling, slides and a good dose of humor, Dave explored the research and engineering involved in the design of today's more-successful antenna systems. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T, Secretary

DX Traffic Jam

May 8, 1996, 0930Z

- T3ØBH calls CQ on 7005 kHz, listening "up."
- ZL8RI, likewise, CQ's on the low end, listening "up."
- VKØWH seekers appear on 7009 kHz, hoping for Warren's QRV.

So, T3ØBH and ZL8RI generate a horde of intermixed callers and, oblivious, reply to the wrong caller about half the time. In the background, the VKØWH aspirants plaintively plead with the caller hordes to keep their frequency clear. Of course, since none of the callers is listening on 7009, their pleas go unheard. The result is total chaos!

Dayton!

Change may be difficult and divisive, but the huge Dayton Hamvention—arguably amateur radio’s Greatest Show on Earth—smoothly moved from April to May this year. Often plagued by cold, heavy April rains that turned the famed flea market into a lake and dirt parking lots into seas of mud, Hamvention organizers took the big step for 1996—and were rewarded by a warm and mostly sunny three days.

Those who have never made the pilgrimage to Dayton cannot appreciate the enormity of the event. Forty-seven forums, almost 200 speakers, over 500 indoor exhibits, and endless acres of flea market by day, and a score of banquets and special dinners and the rollicking hospital-

ity suites in the evenings compete for the visitor’s attention and energy. Every hotel room within a 50-mile radius is booked.

Your Editor made his second visit, armed with his trusty tray of Conway Reef slides. Alas, the presentation scheduled for the DX Forum never happened—I arrived at the appointed time to find the session prematurely over, and the hall empty! It seems no one had asked K5FUV any questions, and the other presentations had also gone faster than expected.

I sold my precious DX Dinner ticket and opted instead for a private dinner with the 160 meter top guns. Meeting folks with over 280 confirmed on Top Band is fairly

mind-boggling for a Suffering Six!

Many NCDXCers attended. Note the new H/T tucked under N7NG’s arm—Wayne’s prize for winning the fiendishly difficult CW pileup competition staged by the Kansas City Contesters. Bob, KK6EK, not pictured, received the DXpedition of the Year award at the DX Dinner, for the many innovations introduced by his expedition to Easter Island and Salas y Gomez. Bob, N6EK, also not pictured, was a presenter at the DX Forum. Rich, AB6ZV is shown selling aluminum to some LU’s. He had trouble understanding their Spanish—until they asked for a discount.

—Garry Shapiro, N16T



Rich, AB6ZV, selling tubing



Eric, WA6HHQ



Editor (l), Roger, G3SXW (c) and Wayne, N7NG



160 titan Riki, 4X4NJ and Moni, 4X6ZT



Editor with Kan, JA1BK



Topbanders Jeff, K1ZM (l) and Steve, KØCS

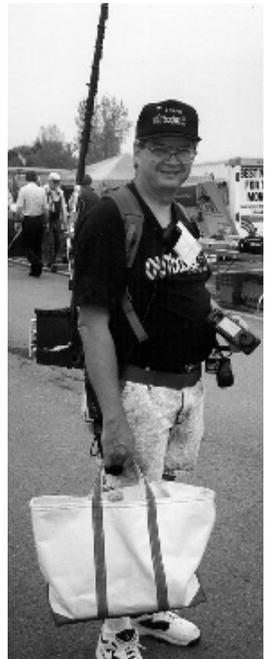
FIRST CLASS

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Dave and Barb do Dayton

June 1996



Outbacker Man