

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

Reg Tibbetts, W6ITH SK

The DXer learned at press time that Charter Member Reg Tibbetts, W6ITH is a Silent Key. Reg apparently passed away just before Thanksgiving. We will have full coverage of Reg's long and productive life in the January DXer.

Happy Birthday, Martti!

The mailman brought an unusual missive a few weeks ago—an invitation from Leena and Martti Laine, OH2BE and OH2BH to attend Martti's 50th birthday party. Of course, Martti's party was not to be held just *anywhere*—he and his friends were to take over the island nation of Nauru for the occasion. As he observed, C2 is “a remote place where a brief courtesy call is not possible.”

It was a fitting site and a fitting statement for a man who has put so many rare ones on the air that he eventually had to open up inactive countries sealed tighter than a crate of plutonium, and to create New Ones to go to when that stock was exhausted. I have even heard rumors that Martti caused the breakup of the Soviet Union, in hopes of spinning off a few more for the Countries list.

Alas, I could not attend the big bash—no money being one excuse, the concurrent XZ1N DXpedition being another. I am sure Martti understands, and I hope attendee Mats, SM7PKK survives the disappointment.

Happy Birthday, Martti! Your many friends in the NCDXC wish you 100 more years of DXing—and to be able to work you from still more exotic locations.

Come to the Party!

The December meeting will be the Christmas Dinner Party at Martinelli's Steak Pit in Millbrae. Full details are on page 7. VP Doug Westover, W6JD has put together a fine evening of sociality, good food and music—jazz by our own Ken Keeler, N6RO and his Devil Mountain Jazz Band. This is a helluva deal for a mere \$20, and you get to talk DXing in the bargain. Get your order and money into Doug by December 6th

Club Roster to be Printed

Most years, August 31st is the cutoff for both dues and the Roster: members who have paid up get in the Roster; those who don't, don't. This year, with so many members availing themselves of the Vanity Callsign program, it made no sense to publish the Roster in September. Accordingly, we held off.

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Update: 50th Anniversary Awards Rules

There have been questions about the requirements for the 50th Anniversary mug and the additional—but as yet undetermined award. These have been reconsidered, and now are as follows.

To qualify for the mug, you need to work 50 club members on the W6TI repeater during the anniversary year (October 10, 1996 - October 10, 1997), and you need to work 50 DXCC countries in one month on the band of your choice. All modes are acceptable.

To qualify for the *additional* award, you need to work 50 DXCC countries in any 50 consecutive hours on any band or mode during the anniversary year. *None of these 50 contacts can be the same ones used to qualify for the mug.*

You must make *two* sets of 50 DXCC contacts for the *two* awards. It does not matter whether you work the same country twice, or make all 100 contacts in 50 hours or make all on one band.

Send your logs or QSO lists to the Club

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: Ted Algren, KA6W
 Vice President: Doug Westover, W6JD
 Secretary: Peter Gerba, KN6BI
 Treasurer: Gordon Girton, W6NLG
 Director: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ
 Director: Lloyd Cabral, AA6T
 Director: Al Burnham, W4RIM

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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
 Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
 QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

W6TI DX Bulletins:

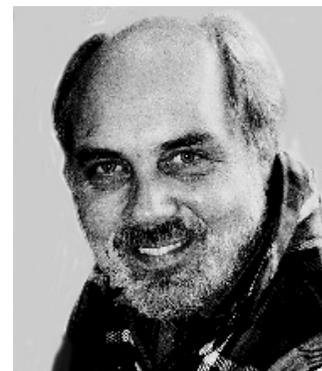
W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

Club address: Box 608
 Menlo Park, CA
 94026-0608

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Board of Directors Meeting

The November 6th Board of Directors meeting was held at the Good Earth Restaurant in Palo Alto and was opened at 8:00 PM by Ted Algren, KA6W, President. W6JD, W6NW, AA6T, WA6HHQ, K6RIM and KN6BI were in attendance. Chuck, AA6G was also present.



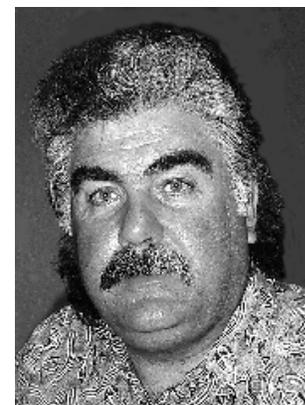
- Gordon, W6NW presented the October treasurer's report, which was approved.
 - Chuck Vaughn, AA6G, 50th Anniversary Chair, proposed modifications to the criteria for member awards. Chuck's changes were discussed at length and approved by the Board.
 - Convention costs were on our agenda. It appears that Convention fees will be \$60 for preregistration and \$65 at the event.
 - Gordon, W6NW suggested we consider a more liberal approach to membership reinstatement policy. The Board discussed possible changes.
 - Ted, KA6W said Club Marathon scores had been tabulated and that awards would be presented at the December meeting.
 - The Board nominated Lee Wical, KH6BZF for DXCC Field Representative for the KH6 District.
 - Doug, W6JD reported that he selected Martinelli's Steak Pit in Millbrae for the NCDXC Christmas Party, to be held on December 10. Refreshments at 6:30; Dinner (Prime Rib or Coq au Vin) at 8:00 is \$20.
 - Ron, W6VG requested by letter that the Board review the prospective write-in vote policy for election of Club officers. Al, K6RIM and the Board agreed that the matter is addressed in the Club bylaws. Ron also asked that we look at station DXCC boundary issues regarding membership requirements. The Board concurred that Club policy was consistent with current ARRL DXCC rules.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

—Peter Gerba, KN6BI, Secretary

General Meeting

ings. Also needed is someone to help with a women's program. Contact Ted, KA6W.

- The evenings program consisted of an excellent presentation on astro-photography by our own Chuck Vaughn, AA6G. Chuck's slide presentation included the vast array of equipment and techniques he uses to capture the beautiful photographs presented to us in his program. He also took us to the remote sites from which he captures these photos. His knowledge and understanding of both the galaxy and the photographic processes used in capturing these images was most impressive. The program was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by those in attendance.



The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm.

—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T, Director

continued next page

Whiskey Shots

Happy Holidays to One and All!

I have seen this year pass much too quickly—they seem to go so much faster as I get older.

The sunspot cycle will start heading up in the next few months—at least we hope so! We saw a precursor of this upward movement during the recent CQWW CW DX Contest when the Solar Flux Index (SFI) rose to 100. It is, in fact, still there as I write. I understand even 10m was open for a few hours.

Many were able to complete their “50 Countries in 50 Hours” portion of our Club’s 50th Anniversary activities. Brazilian DXer Teresa, PT2TF, became the first DX operator to log her 50 credits by working W6TI and 40 other Club members. Congratulations, Teresa!

Get on the air during the coming holidays, folks, and earn your “50 Countries in One Month,” and keep the contacts and activity going on W6TI. You will need those 50 clubmember contacts on 2 meters, as well, to earn your mug!

Some of you have volunteered to serve on committees for our DX Convention in April, 1997. Kudos to you and know that your Co-chairmen will appreciate your help. Still more volunteers are needed to make the event a success. Please consider joining the team for your DX Club. Contact Rich, W6UDS, or Rich, K7ZV—same guys, different callsigns!

The December Christmas Party is near. Will you be joining us? Kim and I will be there—I hope you and your partner will be there, too! If you have not yet made your reservation, turn to page 7 immediately.

Good DX to all in '97!

from previous page

General Meeting

The monthly meeting of the NCDXC was held on November 15th at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Ted Algren, KA6W.

- Guests included Susan, KA6SEH, XYL of AF6S.
- The Minutes of the previous month were approved as printed in the November *DXer*.
- Ted, KA6W reminded everyone of the upcoming Holiday Dinner Meeting at Martinelli’s Steak Pit in Millbrae on December 10th. The social hour commences at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7:30. Please RSVP to W6JD before December 6th.
- The Marathon award presentation will take place at this meeting.
- Ted also reminded everyone of the 50th Anniversary activities in progress. Participate to win special prizes. See details in the November *DXer* and this issue.
- Bill, W6TEX reminded us that if you operate using the W6TI callsign during the Anniversary year, please be sure to forward a copy of your log to him.
- With all the recent callsign changes, those needing new badges are to contact Gordon, W6NW (formerly known as W6NLG).
- The Club is looking for someone to revive the raffle prize/ticket drawing at meet-



Treasurer’s Report

November, 1996

Income:

Dues	\$106.00
Badge(s)	123.00
Two accounts closed.	
Repeater Fund	920.02
CD 1st Nationwide	10121.52
Total Income	\$11270.54

Expenses:

DXer	
Copy Cost	\$334.83
Postage	43.00
Monthly Meeting	100.00
Telephone (Repeater)	21.04
Insurance	305.00
W6VG Misc.	44.86
W6NW Misc.	7.42
W6JZU	32.00
Total Expenses	\$888.15

CD

Great Western Bank 6 %	\$20407.21
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Checking (B of A):

DX Convention	\$3500.00
Club	17111.46
Total Cash	\$41018.67

Club Members as of III/II/96

Charter	5
Honorary	10
Life	32
Family 6x2	12
Associate	5
Absentee	24
Full	228
Total	316

—Gordon Girton, W6NW, Treasurer



around who claims to have found good times even at the bottom of Maunder Minimum II. But, before we had to run that route again, the Old Timer came up the hill on his way home and stopped by for a few minutes. Our Local set out to enlist the Old Timer in his cause. It was a good pitch—we could see that the Old Timer was listening. Finally, the Local asked the Old Timer just what he thought might have happened. The Old Timer thought a bit, stood up preparing to leave and only said: “They don’t sing the old songs anymore.” And he was gone.

For a while there was silence. Then the Local asked: “What was that supposed to mean?” What could we say? We knew what the Old Timer was saying. Somewhere, always, there is a band playing “Roses of Picardy.” Some hear it and understand. Others hear it and do not understand. And they have to ask why. Why?

The Old Refrain

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

One of the Locals was by last week and we sat in the shade of the big oak tree and just talked—mostly about DXing. My friend was not especially bubbling with joy. “Whatever happened to the good old days?” this DXer asked, “the days when every country was new and the bands were open twenty four hours a day—even ten meters. And two meters was alive and DXers were always there to talk or listen. What happened?” Perhaps it is true, as they say, that talk is the best therapy. We urged this one to tell us more.

“Look at the club meetings,” this Local said. “Remember when we used to have big crowds at every meeting—fifty or sixty for dinner—and the club had less than a hundred members? And the meetings, the fights, the arguments and the general chaos? You were never sure what was going on but it sure was fun and exciting! What happened?”

We said nothing, just planning to keep silent and to remember some of those good old days long gone. Like the night Ray Eichmann stormed out of the Fork and Cork in high indignation over something and slammed the door so hard that it fell off the hinges. Or when W6CF was stuck as President and some scoundrels found that the p.a. outlets along the walls could be shorted with a car key. Every time Jim tried to talk, the p.a. system would start howling. The more it howled, the more Jim thumped the mike into his palm and the more the hilarity rose. Or the night that a very well-known DXer was told by

the chair that he could not participate in discussing a motion, as he had not paid his club dues. The famous DXer’s safety valve was popping as he left the room rather than stay to protest in vain that he had paid his dues. You could tell by his complexion that the steam was up—way up. He *had* paid his dues!

There was the election meeting night where one of the most staid members stood up to voice his plaintive hope that the club would no longer be subject to such uproars, that the good old meetings with peace and quiet and brotherhood would again be expected and found at every club meeting. He said this as he fixed his schoolmarm-steely glare at some of the noisier miscreants—from a distance, that is. Unfortunately, he *did* get tranquility—and it turned out to be far less exciting than the other kind of meeting.

Then there was the night when a few members organized a plan to stymie the election of an active DXer into the club, canvassing some members before the meeting and many more at the meeting for votes to exclude the applicant. Three hours of debate, four “secret” ballots and all the shouting and uproar any revolutionary activist might wish. The fourth ballot brought the applicant over the required mark and the chair immediately declared him elected to membership. No one at the meeting ever brought up the point of how many ballots had to be taken before an applicant was accepted. Some figured the rule meant only enough to get the required number for admission. This one, an industrious DXer, actually did turn out to be a good member and a good DXer. He in the years following was often helpful to others. In later years, more than one long-time clubmember would recall that night as one of the best meetings the club had ever had. Ever!

But remembering our own good times from earlier in the century was not doing our visitor any good. “Just what bothers you?” we asked, to wind him up again. “And what do you think should be done?” It was a good move. “You know what I think,” the Local said, and indeed he was right. We had heard the litany recited before but—having said that—the Local was again in his pulpit for another go-round. “Look at packet radio,” the Local started in. “Look what has happened to two meters. Once it would crackle all day and most of the night. Now hardly anyone is to be found there. Right?” He won our vote. Two meters is not what it used to be and with packet radio one can check a whole day’s action in a few minutes and even without having to listen on the bands. Or even on two meters, for that matter. And the meetings,” the Local continued after drawing a deep breath, “are not what they used to be. Back in the good old days, like at the Fork and Cork, meetings were fun and many members would come early to get a good seat for the fun time. You know, after the Happy Hour. And remember the night that Don Miller was there with that other fellow? Remember the crowd that night and the almost non-stop cheering that rattled down town San Mateo? Remember?”

Of course we remembered. Those *were* good old days, but the good old days are gone and no new ones are left. Maybe it is like some fellows’ memories of WWII and the good times they had in the service. Like the clubmember who says that after the war in Europe ended, the Air Force lost him for four months in Paris, until his name came up on shipping orders to go home. Often these stories get better with the years.

There always seems to be someone

The Case of the Tardy Sunrise

Editor's note. Over the past few seasons, rising early for the morning grayline, I noticed that sunrise time continued to be later each day for a full month after the winter solstice—the shortest day of the year. Net daylight increased in this period only because the sunset time was retreating more quickly than the sunrise advanced. I knew this was related to the earth's orbital mechanics, but the exact mechanism was not obvious. Sandy Faber, wife of Andy, AE6Y and a noted NASA astronomer explained it to me quickly by phone one day. I sort of "got it," but not well enough to explain it to anyone else. So I asked Derek Wills, AA5BT, DXer, contester, and an astronomer at the University of Texas, to explain it on paper. He did, via e-mail.

The length of the day is as expected: it is longest at the summer solstice and shortest at the winter solstice, with a roughly sinusoidal curve having a period of one year.

But, for reasons discussed below, the middle of the day (halfway between sunrise and sunset, or when the sun is highest in the sky) is not always at the same local time. During the course of the year, this time oscillates with compound periods of (a) 1 year, and (b) 6 months, yielding a complex solution for "mid-day" on any given day. At our latitudes, the maximum midday shift is ± 20 minutes. Therefore, the length of the day varies about a center that is itself moving.

At the solstices, the sun reaches the extrema of its travel and the length of the day remains nearly constant for some weeks. The mid-day point, however, is moving fast enough to shift the sunrise or sunset time faster than the change in day-length. The direction of this change depends upon which solstice is considered.

The earth's elliptical orbit. Why does the middle of the day shift? If the Earth's spin axis were perpendicular to its orbit, and that orbit were perfectly circular, this would not occur—day-length would be constant and midday would occur at the same local time each day. But because its orbit is slightly elliptical, the earth moves fastest in its orbit in January and slowest in July—a 3% variation—but continues to spin at the same rate. When at its fastest, the earth covers more of its orbit in one spin time, so that in one (spin) day, the sun appears to move more relative to the stars than when moving slowly.

Let's pause here for some basic definitions. A *solar day* is the time for a revolution with respect to the sun's position in the sky. A *sidereal day* is the time

for a revolution with respect to the fixed stars. Because the earth moves about 1° (1/360th of a day) in its orbit each day, thus slightly retarding the apparent position of the sun in the sky, a solar day is about 4 minutes (1/360th of a day) longer than a sidereal day.

In January, the mid-day comes later each day, and the difference builds up over a few weeks. In July, mid-day comes earlier each day. This roughly explains why the sunrise and sunset are both shifting toward "later" in December/January, even though the days are approximately the same (shortest) length.

The earth's inclination. If one plots sunset and sunrise times over a year, one observes that what happens in June/July is not quite the same as in December/January! This is due to two other phenomena, which are due to the earth's inclination to its orbital plane, and which occur with six-month periods.

To understand these, it's best to think of a map of the sun's path through the background of stars—an apparently sinusoidal track with its highest excursion in June (when the sun is over the Tropic of Cancer) and lowest in December (when the sun is over the Tropic of Capricorn.) The first thing to consider is that near the solstices the sun is moving essentially only from east to west, but near the equinoxes—where the solar path crosses the equator—the sun moves partly east-west and partly north-south. The east-west change is thus smaller at the equinoxes, and this makes the time-difference per day smaller.

The other effect is that—when the sun is north in our summer, or south in our winter—the same angular east-west motion corresponds to a longer time—in just the same way that in traveling along a fixed

line of latitude, one circle of the earth is 360 degrees, but is a shorter distance in miles than a full circle at the equator. We note this as the longer seasonal variation of day length.

These two events occur with periods of 6 months, while the orbital effect has a 12-month period. In December/January, the three effects are in the same direction and add. This is when the rate of sunset changes fastest and when sunrise changes faster than day-length and continues to occur later each day.

—Derek Wills, AA5BT

Mystery Pho-



to

This teenaged Novice operator is shown at the controls of his well-equipped station around 1953. Note the NC183D receiver and the Viking II—capable of considerably more than the 75W Novice limit of the time. Now a former president of NCDXC, his career took him east and then back home. He was also DXer of the

from page 1

Update: 50th Anniver-

address: PO Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608.

Several members used the CQWW contest to work 50 countries in 50 hours, 50 countries on one band, or *both*. Congratulations to those who completed these 50-country goals!

I am pleased to announce that PT2TF informs us that she has made over 40 QSO's with club members, plus a contact with W6TI and is therefore the first DX station to qualify for the 50th Anniversary certificate! If you hear any DX stations looking for club members, please announce them on the repeater and on PacketCluster, so others can give them a QSO. We still need to sign up people to use the club callsign, W6TI at their personal stations for a week. Contact W6TEX to sign up for *your* week.

If you have further questions, look for me on the repeater in the evenings, give me a call at (510) 797-8362 or send email to aa6g@aa6g.org.

—Chuck Vaughn, AA6G

Vanity Callsigns

Northern California DX Club

By Old Call	New Call	By New Call	Old Call
AA6KX	N6NT	AA5E	KI6UT
AA6MC	K6KR	K5GS	KE6LT
AB6LJ	K6UT	K6AW	W6EMS
AB6WD	N6SF	K6BL	KK6QM
AB6ZV	K7ZV	K6ED	WA6IUM
AC6NF	W6NF	K6EL	KN6EL
K6BQN	K6KN	K6II	K6SMH
K6PJY	W7DR	K6KN	K6BQN
K6SMH	K6II	K6KR	AA6MC
KE6LT	K5GS	K6MD	W8MEP
KI6UT	AA5E	K6OP	NG6X
KJ6JF	W6ER	K6PJ	KJ6PJ
KJ6PJ	K6PJ	K6RIM	W4RIM
KK6QM	K6BL	K6UM	WA8LLY
KN6EL	K6EL	K6UT	AB6LJ
KW6N	W6EJ	K6XX	N6IP
N4QJ	W6WA	K7ZV	AB6ZV
N6IP	K6XX	N6NT	AA6KX
N6ITW	W6WL	N6SF	AB6WD
N6ULU	N6XU	N6TP	W6KXG
N6XI	N7TN	N6XU	N6ULU
NB6L	N6ZM	N6ZM	NB6L
NG6X	K6OP	N7TN	N6XI
W4RIM	K6RIM	NH7A	WR6R
W6EMS	K6AW	W6CU	WM6B
W6KXG	N6TP	W6EJ	KW6N
W6NLG	W6NW	W6ER	KJ6JF
W6QHS	W6NL	W6EU	WA6AUE
W6TUI	W6GM	W6GM	W6TUI
W8MEP	K6MD	W6IJ	WJ6O
WA6AUE	W6EU	W6KM	WB6WKM
WA6BXH	W7BX	W6NF	AC6NF
WA6IUM	K6ED	W6NL	W6QHS
WA8LLY	K6UM	W6NW	W6NLG
WB6AFJ	W6ZX	W6UDS	WB6UDS
WB6UDS	W6UDS	W6WA	N4QJ
WB6WKM	W6KM	W6WL	N6ITW
WJ6O	W6IJ	W6ZX	WB6AFJ
WM6B	W6CU	W7BX	WA6BXH
WR6R	NH7A	W7DR	K6PJY

Southern California DX Club

By Old Call	New Call	By New Call	Old Call
K7JYE	K6CU	K6CU	K7JYE
KJ6HO	K6RO	K6DU	W6MDH
KJ6IL	K6LX	K6FR	W6JCE
KO6AN	KU6R	K6LX	KJ6IL
KV6I	W7RF	K6RO	KJ6HO
N6DLU	N7UE	K6ZZ	W9NQ
W6JCE	K6FR	KU6R	KO6AN
W6MDH	K6DU	N6GB	WB6JFF
W9NQ	K6ZZ	N7UE	N6DLU
WA6RAY	W6FC	W6FC	WA6RAY
WB6JFF	N6GB	W6SR	WB6OKK
WB6OKK	W6SR	W7RF	KV6I

—W6NW (NCDXC) and WA7BNM (SCDXC)

Year—can we make it any easier? Who is he?

see page 6

from page 5



Mystery Photo

Here's the same operator about four years later, with the same station—except for the wee rack behind him. The baby fat has since been shed—yes, it's Lean Len Geraldi, K6ANP, DXer and Marathoner extraordinaire!

Directions!

How do I get to the NCDXC Christmas Dinner Meeting?

From 101:

- Take either Millbrae Ave. west to El Camino, go north (right) on El Camino about 1 mile to Center St. (traffic light). Turn right on Center and right into Martinelli's parking lot.
- Take the 380 exit west to El Camino, go south on El Camino for 2 miles to Center St. Turn left on Center and right into Martinelli's parking lot.

From 280:

- Take the 380 exit east to El Camino and follow the 380 instructions above. Monitor W6TI/R on 147.36+.

—W6JD

License Info

Gordon, W6NW says FCC will no longer be mailing renewal Form 610-R's. Gordon says he will send in FCC form data to the FCC *gratis* for:

- Change of name
- Change of address
- License renewal (3 months before expiration).

He will *not* process Club, Alien or Vanity callsigns.

Thanks, Gordon!

—N16T

Roster Printing

Most new callsigns have been issued, and it is time to update and print the Roster. Included in this issue is a list of new and old callsigns for those who have changed. (We also included the new calls from the SCDXC.) If there are any errors, or as-yet-undocumented changes in address, license class, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses or membership status, *now* is the time to update and correct them.

Ron, W6VG will close the books on December 20th and the Roster will be printed during the last week of the month.

Gala NCDXC Christmas Party!

Come one, come all! Bring yourself and guest(s) for an evening of good food, music and dancing.

*

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm - 11:00 pm

No host bar 6:30 - 7:30

Dinner at 7:30.

*

*Where? Martinelli's Steak Pit
1180 El Camino Real, Millbrae*

*

Whats to Eat? Choice of:

8oz Prime Rib

Coq-au-vin

(chicken in red wine with pearl onions and mushroom caps)

Filet of Sole

*

All entrees include a green salad, relish tray, pasta, vegetables, cheese, French bread and butter, coffee, tea or de-cafe, ice cream. Wine is served with dinner.

*

Whats does it cost? \$20.00 including tax & tip.

*

*Whats the entertainment? Dancing, or just listening, to
Ken Keeler's (N6RO) Devil Mountain Jazz Band*

Fill out the form below and mail to:

Doug Westover, W6JD

717 Los Robles

Palo Alto, CA 94306

Make your check payable to NCDXC.

Doug MUST have your reservation by Dec. 6!

YES! I am attending the NCDXC Christmas Dinner Meeting!

Name _____ Callsign _____

Entree Choices: Number attending _____

_____ Prime Rib

_____ Coq au vin (Chicken)

_____ Filet of Sole

_____ Total number of dinners @ \$20.00

F I R S T
C L A S S

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
