

DXer

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



The Editor's Keyboard

Fresno!

In Spring, a DXer's thoughts turn to...the International DX Convention, of course! This year's extravaganza explodes April 4 to 6, in a new/old venue—Fresno. And your Convention Committee has an event-packed weekend lined up for your enjoyment.

You want DXpeditions? You *got* DXpeditions—Heard Island, Burma, Wake Island, Togo and more. You want parties? You *got* parties—better than Visalia. You want prizes? You *got* prizes! You want some good old backslapping, uproarious DX fun? You *got* it, Slim. All your buddies who can still twitch a key will be there—you don't want to miss it, either. Over 400 DX folks have already signed up, and those are just the early birds who never miss an opening.

Come and sample the Fresno Convention, hosted by NCDXC. Everything you ever liked about the Convention, and more. Remember, it's more fun than you thought you could have with your clothes on!

—N16T

Looking for Mr./Ms. Goodpage

Back in January, I wrote a very short and low-key editorial announcing my intention to retire as Editor of *The DXer* and asking (hoping) for a successor to step forward. Since then, Ted Algren, KA6W has reiterated the request, both in *The DXer* and on the Thursday night net on W6TI. These announcements have been greeted with thunderous silence.

It may be that the membership either does not think that I am serious about retiring, or is merely ambivalent about *The DXer*. In other words, perhaps it is OK if there is a *DXer* every month—and perhaps it is OK if there is not. Well, I *am* serious about retiring, and it's *not* OK if there is no Editor after I leave. This far-flung club *needs* its newsletter.

Many members have expressed that they have enjoyed this newsletter during my tenure as Editor. I am grateful for this, and for the fact that *The DXer* has received high marks in direct competition with other newsletters. This *is* the best job in the NCDXC. The Editor gets to put his personal mark on the club; he reaches each member, each month. But there is a season for everything, and—after three years—mine is over. This job is challenging and requires effort, but it is not rocket science, and it can be done well by any member with a brain, some basic skills and a willingness

to page 7

Inside

Minutes —KN6BI	2
Roster Changes	2
Whiskey Shots —KA6W	3
Teeing Off at Fresno	
—W6TEX	3
Treasurer's Report	
—W6NW	3
Pedal Wireless —AA6LF	4
Letters to <i>The DXer</i>	4
Anniversary Update	
—AA6G	5
Mystery Photo	5
Regional Super Station	
—N1RJ	6
Coming Events	6
VKØIR QSO's	6
Ladder/Last Call	
—AA6YQ	7
SCDXC Officers	7

March meeting in Tiburon

The March meeting definitely will be out of the ordinary! A full dinner meeting will be held Friday, March 14 at the beautiful San Francisco Yacht Club in Tiburon. The program will be a slide show of the recent and spectacular Heard Island DXpedition, presented by Bob Fabry, N6EK. This will be one of the first presentations about this recent and record-shattering trip.

Cocktails are at 6 in the bar; dinner is at 7, and the presentation at 8, both in the Cove House. Dinner includes salad, chicken, vegetable, garlic mashed potatoes, wine, dessert and coffee. Price is \$25, tax and tip included.

to page 7

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, W6NW
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 Records Manager: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Publications Mgr: Ron Panton, W6VG

Club Repeater, W6TIR

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +
 Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
 Comm. Chairman: Eric Swarz, WA6HHO
 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 Devlet, W6FDU
 QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

W6TI DX Bulletins:

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

Club address: Box 608
 Merido 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 reuse of any article in this publication—provided The DXer and the article's author are credited.

General Meeting

The monthly general meeting was held at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo on February 14th. Ted, KA6W opened the meeting at 8:00 PM.

- Ted introduced Bob, KK6EK to a round of applause, acknowledging his return from the successful DXpedition to Heard Island. Bob thanked his fellow Club members for their good wishes and financial support.
 - Rich, K7ZV, gave a great slide presentation of the XZ1N Myanmar DXpedition—lots of good photos and stories.
 - Minutes from the January meeting were approved.
 - Gordon, W6NW gave the Treasurer's report. Issues concerning funds transfers and CD accounts were voted on and approved.
 - Rich, K7ZV and Rich, W6UDS report good progress with Convention preparations. They are looking for some more help! A convention is a *big* job—please donate some time to help make our club's biggest undertaking its greatest success.
 - Jim, W6CF spoke of possible changes in the ARRL DXCC program. He told the group that the League feels the burden of high costs of running the program, the heavy work load of QSL checking and of diminishing interest among league members.
 - Two reinstatements were approved: Lee Shaklee, W6BH and Steve Stark, KE6FV. Welcome back.!
 - Hiroki "Hiro" Kato, AH6CY (JA4AAO) was voted in as an Associate Member. Welcome to the Club, Hiro!
 - Joe, N6IWI upgraded from Associate to Full Member—the first to do so! Congratulations, Joe!
- Ted closed the meeting at 9:50 PM.



Peter Gerba, KN6BI

—Peter Gerba, KN6BI, Secretary

Roster Changes

New Associate Member

Hiroki (Hiro) Kato, AH6CY (E)
 20 Paso Del Arroyo
 Portola Valley, CA 94028-7900
 H (415) 851-5277
 W (408) 467-5073

Upgrade to Full Member

Joseph (Joe) Talaich, N6IWI

Reinstatements

Raleigh L. (Lee) Shaklee, W6BH (E)
 3083 Sandstone Rd
 Alamo, CA 94507-1616
 H (510) 831-8695
 Steven (Steve) Stark, KE6FV (E)
 21579 Edward Way
 Cupertino, CA 95014-4764
 H (408) 255-4610

Address change

Fredric S. (Fred) Mendes, WX6W
 2322 Ninth Ave
 San Francisco, CA 94116-1937
 H (415) 759-1979
 W (415) 750-6095
 E-Mail fsm@best.com

Callsign changes

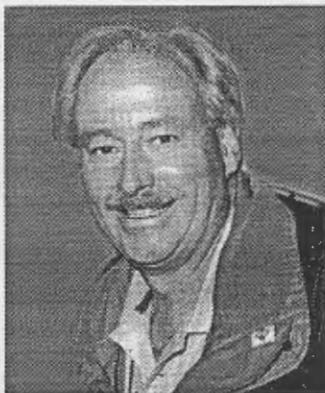
Old	New
AB6EQ	AK6L
K6BWX	K6BV
K6OZL	K6UR
KB6LYO	K6UC
KC6ESL	K6ESL
KN6SO	NC7M
WB6CUA	W6CUA

Whiskey Shots

Associate membership

During the past year, and with your approval, your Board of Directors initiated our Associate Membership program. Since then, a half-dozen Associate Members have joined our Club and I am here to say that the program is *working!* At the February monthly meeting, Joe Talaich, N6IWJ, stepped up to become the first of our recent Associate members to upgrade to Full membership. Congratulations, Joe!

Many of us are in a position to help an Associate member to upgrade—the primary rationale behind Associate membership. This is but one facet of the ancient and honorable act of Elmering, to which many of us owe our own initiation into the wonderful world of radio and DXing. There are many things you can do to facilitate an Associate's progression—your experience and expertise are valuable commodities, and you never stand any taller than when you extend a helping hand.



Ted Algren, KA6W

International DX Convention, April 4-6

As I write, our pre-registration list exceeds 400. Several foreign DXers are on this list and plan to be with us. Meanwhile, your Convention Committee is working diligently to complete the necessary preparations that will make this—the 48th Annual International DX Convention—the *best DX Convention ever!* If you are asked to help, please lend a hand to ensure we do have a great time in Fresno.

ARRL CW and SSB DX Contests

Those of you who participated in the recent ARRL DX contests should submit your scores to the ARRL and a copy of your score summaries to me. Contest Rules are in the December, 1996 *QST*. I will collate the results and submit them to the League for final tabulation. Please do it *now*, as time is of the essence. Although conditions during the SSB weekend were quite poor, every point we can muster will help us flog (yes, *flog*) those Big-Signal, Water-Stealing SCDXC Scoundrels. Help us and the Northern California Contest Club win the Perpetual NOCA/SOCA Contest Cup.

—Ted Algren, KA6W, President

Treasurer's Report

February, 1997

Income:

Dues, app. fees	\$72.00
Badge(s)	42.00
Total Income	\$114.00

Expenses:

DXer	
Copy Cost	\$227.85
Postage	160.00
Repeater telephone	15.42
Meeting Room	100.00
Projection screen	159.50
W6VG postage	43.88
K6WC 9BDXCC	283.98
Badges	35.72
Total Expenses	\$1026.35

CD

Life Membership	9825.09
1st Nationwide Bank 5.6%	5000.00
Great Western Bank 6%	\$10779.93

Checking (B of A):

DX Convention Club	\$3500.00
	8026.34
Total Cash	\$37131.36

Club Members as of 3/1/97

Charter	3
Honorary	10
Life	32
Family 6x2	12
Associate	5
Absentee	24
Full	233
Total	319

—Gordon Girton, W6NW, Treasurer

Teeing off at the Fresno International DX Convention!

The annual DX golf game will be held on Friday, April 4th. Tee time is 12:15 pm. Drive down Friday and join us for this Convention tradition.

The location is the Sherwood Forest Golf Club, 79 N. Frankwood Avenue in Sanger, 25 minutes from the hotel. From the hotel, go east on Ventura Avenue, which becomes East Kings Canyon Rd. (Rte 180). Continue to N. Frankwood, turn left and follow the signs to the golf course.

Total Green Fees/Prizes are \$25.00. Win a Daiwa golf bag! Carts are optional. Please sign up early—we need a count by March 26th. Contact W6TEX via E-mail (w6tex@best.com) or at (510) 538-5134. We will meet in the clubhouse at 11:30 am for a tee prize and score cards. See you there!

—W6TEX



Pedal Wireless and the Flying Doctors

Steve Salmon, AA6LF

When my wife Tina (N6WHJ) and I were in Australia recently, we came across an unusual radio application that I thought might interest readers of *The DXer*—the “pedal wireless” used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

As you doubtless know, Australia is a vast country, with a thin, fertile strip along the east coast, and back of that, the huge area of the “outback”—flat, dry and inhospitable. Scattered across this area are many isolated cattle stations, mining operations, and other hardy bands of settlers.

In 1928, a missionary named John Flynn (“Flynn of the Inland”) was horrified by the lack of medical care available to the pioneers living, working and traveling in these remote areas. He determined to provide a “mantle of safety” for the settlers and their families in the isolated outback.

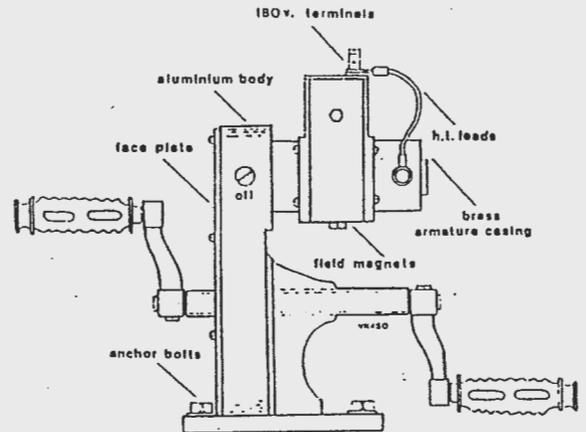
The first ingredient in his plan was aviation, then in its infancy. An aircraft and pilot were recruited, and the first Flying Doctor, Dr. Kenyon Welch, soon joined. But for most of those Flynn intended to serve, there was no telephone or other means of communicating their medical needs and emergencies. Radio, also a fledgling technology, provided the answer.

For most of the outback stations, however, there was also no electricity. Receivers could be powered with

batteries, but transmitting emergency messages required something more; the “thermionic valves” of that time needed potentials of hundreds of volts to supply their plates. A young electrician and radio enthusiast named Alfred Traeger came to the rescue, experimenting first with a hand-cranked bench grinder driving a d.c. motor, rewound to deliver high voltage to a single-tube transmitter. This required two people, however—one to crank the generator, and another to key the

Morse transmission—and in an emergency, something that could be operated by one person was needed. The cranking was also too uneven; output varied widely, and soon declined as arm muscles wearied.

Traeger then substituted bicycle pedals for the hand crank, and this time it worked. The pedals provided even rotation with relative ease of effort. The outback stations readily learned Morse, and found the rhythm of keying Morse could be combined easily with the rhythm of the pedaling motion.



With these two key modern ingredients—airplanes and the pedal wireless—in place coupled with the age-old profession of medicine, the Flying Doctor Service expanded rapidly. It’s still an all-volunteer operation, with no fees and no subscriptions, but it now has eight Beechcraft airplanes, 27 doctors and 70 flight nurses, and performs an average of 40 emergency flights every day, seven days a week. And the communication equipment, needless to say, is much more modern!

Letters to The DXer

Editor:

I’m continuing to enjoy DXing as we make our way slowly around the world on our sailboat. Earlier this month, I activated a “new one” for IOTA, operating from Ashmore Reef in the Indian Ocean. Because of the sea turtles which nest there at night, I was allowed to operate only during daylight hours, but managed to make 467 contacts with hams in a total of 43 countries during three afternoons of operation.

Mail we just received here in Darwin also brought the welcome news that ARRL has accepted the documentation I

supplied for my Mellish Reef operation, so those holding cards for that may now submit them.

—Steve Salmon, AA6LF

Steve sent this letter and the accompanying article from Bali last August. I apologize for the delay—unlike what the New York Times claims, sometimes All the News is Printed to Fit!—NI6T

Editor:

I had heard about Associate Membership in the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) for those Amateur Radio Operators who have not yet confirmed 100

DX countries with QSL cards. I took advantage of the new form of membership immediately—to satisfy a long-held desire to become an NCDXC member.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity, because this form of membership was a stepping-stone to becoming a Full Member. Thus, it provided the urge to pursue those few DX confirmations that I was initially lacking.

Now that I have achieved 100-plus countries, I am proud to be a Full Member of the Northern California DX Club!

—Joe Talaich, N6IWJ

NCDXC 50th Anniversary Update

We are now five months into the 50th anniversary celebration. There continues to be good activity on the repeater with more members working for their 50 QSOs with other members. If you've already completed your 2m QSOs, please take time to work the guys that still need contacts.

A number of submissions have been received from members who have completed all the requirements for a 50th anniversary mug and for the second special award. Send your submissions to me at the address in the Roster. There are still 7 months left for you to earn the awards!

The CQWW WPX SSB Contest, March 28-29, will be another excellent opportunity to work 50 DXCC countries on one band in one month and especially the 50 DXCC countries on any band in any 50 hour period. I hope you avail yourselves of it.

Sign up to use W6TI from Your QTH

Members who have been signing W6TI from their stations have now worked over 135 DXCC countries. All we need are the QSL cards for the club to qualify for DXCC. There are still plenty of time slots available to use the club callsign. DX stations will be looking to work W6TI to get 10 QSO points toward their 50 to qualify for the 50th anniversary certificate. Bill, W6TEX has been signing up club members to use the callsign. Contact Bill as soon as possible to get the week of your choice.

Qualifying for the 50th Anniversary Mug and Special Awards

In order to qualify for a special 50th anniversary coffee mug you need to do the following during the anniversary year:

1. Work 50 club members on the repeater.
2. Work 50 countries in one calendar month on one band any mode.

There will be a second special award for stations who do the following:

3. Work 50 countries in any 50 hour period, all bands and modes.

If you are out of the range of the NCDXC repeater you are exempted from requirement 1. Meeting requirement 2 qualifies for the mug. The 50 QSOs for 2 and 3 are 100 *different* contacts but may be the same countries.

Other Happenings

I have the W6TI 50th anniversary QSLs cards and we are starting to send these out to stations that have already QSLed us. Next, we will get the mugs made and select the special second award. There has been a great response to the 50th anniversary program so far. Many members have commented upon the renewed activity on the repeater and a greater interest in DXing even at the low ebb of the sunspot cycle. If you haven't been participating, you are missing out. Join the fun!

—Chuck Vaughn, AA6G

Mystery Photo

This earnest young DXer was 22 and newly licensed as W2ZRQ in Nutley, NJ when this picture was taken in 1949. Oldtimers will smile at the war-surplus gear—the BC-458(?) serving as the VFO, and the BC-191—which was cheap and widely available at the time. And is that a Sky Buddy he is fondly tuning?

He also had a homebrew 4-element semi-wide spaced "plumber's delight" beam and a homebrew rotator—most people brewed their own gear in those halcyon days. Our Mystery Op fondly remembers the great 10 meter openings of that solar cycle. Who is he?

to page 6



The Regional Super Station—a New Idea?

Based upon recent communications with officials of the ARRL and their interpretations of the FCC rules, I offer the following suggestion: set up a system of Regional Super Stations (RSS) to work DX for amateurs who, for whatever reason, are unable to work the DX themselves.

Here is how the system would work. The ARRL appoints at least one station in each call area as an RSS. The RSS is a well-equipped station such as a multi-multi contest station. The Operationally Deprived Station (ODS) sends a list of needed countries to the RSS. The RSS merges the needs of several stations into a master list and scan the bands looking for needed countries.

When a needed country is found, the RSS is "lent" to the ODS for the duration of the contact. This makes it legal for the RSS to identify using the callsign of the ODS. Following the successful contact,

the RSS communicates the QSO information back to the ODS for QSLing. Since QSLing might be distasteful to an ODS, perhaps some means of electronic verification can be employed to spare him this odious chore.

The advantages of this system would be manifold. No longer would an ODS need to invest in expensive HF equipment or put up unsightly antennas! This would be a real boon to those in areas with antenna restrictions. There would be a significant reduction in QRM: no longer would the 100-watts-to-a-dipole types have to scream their heads off in pileups,

causing interference to real DXers! To defray the costs of operating the RSS, audio tapes of the QSO's could be sold—"Imagine the thrill of hearing *your* call coming back from the rare DX station!" There could also be a lucrative business in T-shirts and coffee mugs.

I urge all of you to contact your ARRL representative in support of this innovative concept.

—Roger Johnson, N1RJ, adapted from the Internet DX Reflector

VKØIR QSO's by Call Area

The original QSO breakdowns for the VKØIR DXpedition were by region, e.g. "Western North America." Jim Reisert, AD1C, has further reduced the USA data by band-mode and call-area. He has also relegated portables to the call areas in which they operated. However, he has not reassigned those stations operating out of their "nominal" call areas. In some cases this may skew the data; for example, of the 4 160 meter QSO's listed for WØ, two were actually not in that call area.

—from the Internet DX Reflector

Band	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	W9	W0	KH6	KL7	KP4
15 CW	58	88	67	188	88	4	5	84	122	104		3	6
15 SSB	39	60	52	118	32	8	20	81	81	59		2	9
17 CW	73	85	59	91	15	12	18	56	51	33		3	2
17 SSB	146	178	109	270	104	15	24	149	154	103		6	17
20 CW	245	348	225	620	355	450	246	307	316	274	7	8	16
20 RTTY	49	80	40	126	80	65	50	60	75	88		1	2
20 SSB	495	673	413	958	568	510	390	526	473	418	14	16	41
30 CW	272	339	213	482	97	97	102	254	228	204		5	16
40 CW	344	427	285	474	204	475	371	321	323	301	1	21	5
40 SSB	169	160	125	166	20	84	111	119	107	88		7	8
80 CW	99	94	65	64	6	50	53	47	50	33		12	
80 SSB	135	112	55	56	7	41	102	51	43	44		8	3
160 CW	54	40	27	15		6	8	20	10	4			
SAT CW				2		1				1			
SAT SSB	1	1	2	9									
TOTAL:	2179	2685	1737	3639	1576	1818	1500	2075	2033	1753	22	92	125

Coming Events

- International DX Convention, April 4-6, Holiday Inn, Fresno
- 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
- WPX SSB Contest, March 28-29
- Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Dayton, OH, May 16-18



from page 5

Mystery Photo

That young man was —and is— Charlie Wirth, WA6MME, of Los Altos. In recent years, Charlie has kept a low profile in a city ready and willing to pounce on would be Big Guns. But that, he promises, will soon change.

Got a photo that interest the rest of us? Send it to The DXer!

—N16T

Ladder Updates: Last Call!

This is your final opportunity to submit your Ladder updates! Please send them to Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ by March 15 for inclusion in the April *DXer*.

The Ladder is the member's record of DX achievements and is updated and published semiannually. Please submit totals for *confirmed* countries only. For the DX Ladder, your submission should include your current total countries by mode—mixed, phone, CW, and RTTY, and by band—160m to 6m, including the WARC bands. Include deleted countries in these totals.

Also list *confirmed* current Honor Roll country totals by mode—mixed, phone, and CW. For the WAZ Ladder, your

submission should include: total zones by mode—mixed, phone, and CW; 5BWAZ—your totals on 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m; WARC zones—your totals on 30m, 17m, and 12m; 160m zones; 6m zones.

You can submit your update via a PacketCluster mail message or snail mail to AA6YQ, or an Internet mail message to dhb@rational.com. To maintain your listing, you must submit an update at least once every 5 years.

—Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ



Antarctic fashions: KK6EK and friends show off the NCDXF teeshirts.

from page 1

Looking for Mr./Ms. Goodpage

to learn. He or she will become a better writer—more skilled in the English language. Moreover, the Editorship is a great creative outlet, and brings immense personal satisfaction.

My successor will also have something very helpful—a personal tutor. He will not be dropped into this job, cold turkey. I started with a great layout format that was developed by Dave Barton, AF6S

and his son, and I had Dave as a mentor to answer questions and give advice. My successor will have the same from me, not to mention state-of-the-art hardware and software tools.

Somewhere out there in clubland is a worthy candidate who can continue *The DXer's* tradition of excellence. I hope he or she steps forward soon—because the June issue will be my last.

—N16T

from page 1

March Meeting

Reservations are required for this dinner meeting, and must be confirmed with Al Burnham, K6RIM at (415) 924-6783, packet or w4rim@ix.netcom.com or with Gordon Giron, W6NWA at (408) 253-4455 or gordon@sypal.org. Reservations must be confirmed by Wednesday, March 12. Only 60 attendees can be accommodated, so make your reservations now!

To reach the San Francisco Yacht Club, take US101. Exit Tiburon/Belvedere. If you are approaching from the south, turn right at the stop sign; conversely, if you are approaching from the north, turn left at the stop sign. Proceed on Tiburon Blvd. for approximately four miles, then turn right on Beach Road to SFYC. There is ample parking in their parking lot.

Ferry service is available from SF to Tiburon. The SFYC is about a five minute walk from the ferry drop off in Tiburon. The ferry is a nice way to go if you are staying over in Tiburon or have a ride back to The City. However, the last ferry leaves Tiburon at 7:45 pm, so it is not feasible to leave the meeting by ferry. The fare is \$5.50 each way. For current information, dial (415) 546-BOAT.

SCDXC Officers

Here are the recently-elected 1997 officers and directors of the Southern California DX Club.

President	Larry Shapiro, K6RO
Vice President	Will Angenent, KN6DV
Secretary	Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ
Treasurer	Rich Bongeorno, WU6T
Membership Chair	Harvey Shore, K6EXO
Director	Dan Magro, W7RF
Director	Harvey Laidman, N6HL

Director Harvey Laidman, N6HL is also the new Editor of the *BULLETIN*, the SCDXC newsletter, succeeding Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

Look for the
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 on the World Wide Web
<http://www.hamradio.com>

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