

# 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



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## Editor's Choice

As I start writing this column it is already the middle of October. We've already had the furnace on a few nights and since a bit of rain came through the hills seem clearer down at this end of the Santa Clara Valley. October, I can see the hills—must be the start of contest season! This must be the time of year when all the "real" operators in the club either go for a big score or go "cherry picking" to see how many of the multipliers they can work. No matter what your choice, turn those scores in to W6JD so the combined total for the NCDXC looks decent. I will bet that every one who has a station can spend some time on during CQWW SSB the end of October and really enhance our clubs prestige. We surely can put together a score that is higher than our brethren in the Southland. For that matter, pride tells us that our club score should be greater than the combined totals of our friends in the Northwest. Your effort should not be a big burden. After all, this is a good opportunity to see how the station plays during some reasonably good conditions. Indications are that there will be some 10 meter possibilities outside the Western Hemisphere. This leads one to hope the other bands will be jumping. Heck, I only have a stick with some traps on it and don't have a prayer of being competitive. BUT! my score combined with yours will really make an impact on the NCDXC's prestige and honor!



We don't do Field Day, so it is reasonable to assume you have already tuned up some during the CQP? It doesn't take much effort to trudge into the radio room and show 'em what a real DXer can do in a contest!

CU in CQWW test OM?

— 73 de K7JJ

## November Meeting

Palo Alto Hofbrau  
at the Municipal Golf Course

1800 - Stress Reduction  
1900 - Dinner  
2000 - Meeting

### Guest Speaker

Bill Snider, K6KM  
Bill was one of the crew on the recent Willis Island Expedition.

### Directions?

Club Repeater: 147.36, +600  
From 101 take Embarcadero Exit  
and go west. There is a map on  
our web site. [www.ncdxc.org](http://www.ncdxc.org)

## Contest Schedule

November 7-9	Japan International SSB DX Contest
November 8-9	WAE RTTY Contest
November 15-17	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
November 29-30	CQ WW CW DX Contest

## Dues are due!!!

Remit your 1997-1998 dues to:

NCDXC  
P. O. Box 608  
Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608

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 Park, K6XN  
Vice President: George Allan, W6YD  
Secretary: Ron Pantan, W6VG  
Treasurer: Keith Butts, KN6K  
Director: Ted Algren, KA6W  
Director: Gordon Girton, W6NW  
Director: Garry Shapiro, NI6T

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Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF

Historian/archivist: Ron Pantan, W6VG

Records Manager: Ron Pantan, W6VG

Publications Mgr: Ron Pantan, W6VG

**Club Repeater, W6TI/R**

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +600

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, W6CUA

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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**QRM de K6XN**



**YOU ARE DOING IT!**

Last month I led the cheer - "Just do it", whatever that meant to you. From the sounds of it this past weekend in the CW Sweepstakes, alot of you were out there doing just that. I was heartened to hear some of the stalwarts of the club, such as Mac, W6BSY, really in to it. He had a fine total when I heard him and there was still lots of SS to go. I also heard Garry, NI6T, Ted, KA6W and other club members and locals giving it their all.

There are some Olde Tymers that think SS is a bore now, as they did it so many times in the past and have no fun anymore. When was the last time you had a "Clean Sweep"? You know, there are some new sections added that you may not have worked. Have you tried it with the new computer contest logging programs? Or with QRP or low power? With a little change in your usual operating preference, you could turn the next SS into a challenge. How about the phone SS next week? You probably will meet lots of old friends during the weekend, perhaps some you have not worked in years.

Thanks to those of you who have renewed their dues recently. I hope those that are thinking of dropping out this year will reconsider. We need all of you to continue the tradition of the oldest DX club in the world! Hope to see you at the meeting on November 14th!

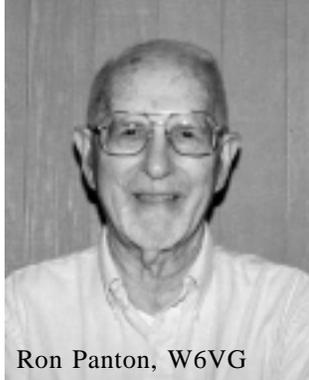
—73 de Ted K6XN

**WELCOME**

New Member

**Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ**

## General Meeting



Ron Panton, W6VG

Minutes of the NCDXC club meeting of October 10, 1997. The meeting was again held at the Palo Alto Golf Course and after the libation hour, and dinner, the meeting got underway at 8:00 P.M. There were about 20 members in attendance. Guests were introduced, and first reading was given for Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ. Alan said a few words about his ham radio life, and it was a pleasure for the secretary to meet a ham with whom a CW contact was made 45 years ago. Contest chairman Doug Westover, W6JD, exhorted the gathered members to get in the DX contests and submit their scores. AA6G gave out 50th awards to Ted Algren, KA6W, and a complimentary mug to charter member Mario Chirone, W6DUB. Ted Algren KA6W spoke on Fresno still being available for the DX convention in 1999 if the NCDXC will go forward in this regard. Fresno dates still available are the weekend of April 9, 10, 11, 1999. Speaker of the evening was Tom Schiller, N6BT, who showed excellent slides of experiments in the West Indies with vertical antennas. Tom also showed data on verticals and beams. His very fine presentation ended at 9:30 P.M and the meeting was adjourned.

**—Ron Panton, W6VG, Secretary**

## Treasurer's Report



Keith Butts, KN6K

Report as of October, for month of September.

Income:

2441.00	Dues
2441.00	Total

Expenses:

None paid in September

Note: September and October DXer expenses were paid in October, as well as badges, ARRL insurance and miscellaneous expenses. These will be detailed in the next report covering the month of October. Deposits for Ads and Dues, made in October, will also be on the next report.

Cash:

33,019	Bank of America Checking (as of 10/8 statement)
9,216	Cal Fed CD (Life Member) (as of 10/7 statement)
1,280	Repeater
43,515	Total

Note:

Great Western CD account (\$21,314) was closed into BofA Checking on September 9. A new CD account will be opened for these funds.

## 1998 License Expiration Information

**Gordon, W6NW**, generously compiled the following information for members use:

License(s) that will expire during 1998.

Format Month/Day/1998

AA6	AD	Bruno	03-22
AA6	T	Lloyd	02-02
AD6	E	Al	05-24
AF6	S	Dave	09-13
AI6	L	Jerry	03-01
K6	BZS	Jan	08-02
K6	ITL	Knock	11-29
K6	RK	Chuck	05-17
K6	SIK	Bill	05-24
K6	UJG	Ron	10-25
K6	WC	John	07-05
K6	WR	Brad	01-19
K6	XN	Ted	03-08
KA6	BIM	Dave	05-24
KB6	GV	Vince	11-08
KB6	LT	Nolan	03-22
KF6	QO	Karl	03-29
KG6	AM	Dewey	03-29
N6	DVR	Jim	09-06
N6	GG	Rich	05-10
N6	IWJ	Joe	02-23
N6	RO	Ken	04-26
N6	TV	Bob	10-25
N6	XG	Walt	02-02
N6	XH	Dave	08-30
NW6	P	Tom	10-04
W6	BSY	Mac	03-01
W6	FGD	Marv	04-05
W6	LQC	Phil	05-10
W6	OAT	Rusty	07-12
W6	TEX	Bill	10-04
W6	WB	Bud	11-01
WA6	AHF	Rubin	09-13
WA6	AUD	Cass	05-24
WA6	LKM	John	05-17
WA6	MME	Charles	10-20
WB6	EXW	Gary	04-12
WB6	GFJ	Ross	04-26
WB6	TMY	TR	02-02

### New Calls.....

W8MEP To K6MD  
K6NE is now K6NN

### The NCDXC is Famed!

*"Famed for what?"*

You might ask that question, and, if you have to ask the question you may not have yet realized the obvious. The NCDXC is famed for the many contributions to Dxing that members of the club have made, to Dxing and to amateur radio. And a good handful of individual NCDXC members have been honored for their own work on behalf of Dxing and Dxers. It is all there in the records, the records of the DX Hall of Fame.

Two additional members of the NCDXC were inducted into that exclusive society at the last Dayton Hamvention. There they joined some five regular members of the NCDXC who previously have been voted into the DX Hall of Fame. Add in the additional five honorary NCDXC members who also are in the Hall of Fame and you have a bundle. A bundle of the best in Dxing.

Add these up and you will come up with twelve NCDXC HOF members who have been honored by HOF inductions, and keep in mind that only 32 Dxers from around the world have been so honored.

John Attaway, K4IIF, then the DX Editor of CQ Magazine, came up with the DX Hall of Fame proposal some thirty years back. John then thought there were some really outstanding Dxers out there who should be recognized. This thinking led to the Hall of Fame Award, possibly the most rare of all the DX awards and through rare, it is still with us today and still recognizes outstanding Dxers.

This all started sometime in the mid-sixties with Gus Browning, W4BPD, receiving the first award on November 1, 1967. As with any major award, there were some teething problems and the initial one was that an impression developed that the award was only for East Coast Dxers. Out of the first 12 HOF awards, seven went to Dxers in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th call areas, plus one each to a KV4 and a VP2V. Martti Laine, OH2BH, was among the first twelve receiving the award. This list also included Ted Thorpe, ZL2AWJ and Chuck Swain, K7LMU. These two were lost in a Pacific storm when on a trip with Don Miller and were returning by small boat from a just ended operation. Also included in the early awards were Ernst Krenkel, RAEM, out of Russia, still one of the icons of amateur radio though some may not easily recall the reason for which Ernst was hailed worldwide by amateurs some fifty or so years back.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

—73 Gordon, W6NW

## Mystery Photo!

Clues: The half hidden man was from the SCDXC, but was being feted by the NCDXC. The place and time was the Fresno Hilton during a DXconvention. The olde tymers in the club should solve this one without going to Page 7!



## 1997 -Marathon Contest -1997

The results of the 1997 NCDXC Marathon Contest are as follows:

Mixed	CW
-----	-----
K6MA / 115	W6BIP / 142
N6JM / 82	W6WB / 134

There were no submissions in the phone/SSB category. W6BIP won the CW Marathon award within the past three years and is therefore not eligible for the plaque; W6WB is the first place CW finisher. And now an editorial comment; guys, 4 logs?, this is pathetic! Short of saying that the marathon is a fun exercise that doesn't require lots of late nights and missed meals I don't know WHAT to do to drum up more interest. Clearly, if the level of participation doesn't increase it makes the marathon almost meaningless. If anyone has ANY suggestions to get you banging on your keys or screaming into your mics between June and August PLEASE let me know. For my part I will produce special log sheets for the marathon and see if they can't be included in a DXer prior to the start date. And I'll try to do more publicize the event as June approaches, but YOU'VE got to be the ones to PARTICIPATE!

Doug W6JD, Contest Chairman

## NCDXF is Famed! (from Page 4)

The first U.S. call signs from beyond the Appalachians showed in 1976, when Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and Iris Colvin, W6QL, were honored for their endless DX trips and multitude of counters that they brought to Dxmors.

A SWLer, strange as it may no seem, was one of the early ones to be voted into the DX Hall of Fame. This was Geoff Watts of Norwich, England. Geoff started up one of the earliest DX bulletins because of his own frustration, as a SWLer, when seeking to obtain information about DX activities. Geoff came on to the DX scene after WWII and published his DX newsletter for several decades. His was definitely being the longest fun of any DX bulletin that has ever come down the DX pike.

Geoff had his own editorial style, everything had to go on one side of a 8X17 sheet. Everything! And that is what he did and dint it by wasting no open space, it mattering not if the space was above or below the item being reported. Geoff used any space available to finish an item.

Geoff is also remembered for developing, if not actually starting, the still popular *Islands on the Air Award (IOTA)*. Geoff passed away only a few years back. Geoff was not an amateur, but his son was.

After the Colvins, the next NCDXC member to be inducted was Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, in 1980. A former president and secretary-treasurer of the NCDXC, he was a long time publisher of the West Coast DX Bulletin, which ran from 1968 to 1979, disappearing in one final issue and a puff of smoke some eighteen years ago, when the bulletin just got to big to handle by WA6AUD alone.

The reticent and hardly known Jack Troster, W6ISQ, was inducted into the DX Hall of Fame on April 23, 1988.

(Continued on Page 6)

**NCDXC is Famed!** (continued from Page 5)

W6ISQ is W6ISQ and no explanation should be needed for his nomination. Jack has been active in Dxing forever. Forever and far, far beyond the ken or even the memory of many of the current club members. W6ISQ years back wrote for the ARRL in a long remembered string of humorous articles. He headed the Northern California DX Foundations, he has served on the ARRL DX Advisory Committee, he has done about everything and has been about everywhere. He also has worked about everything, he being on the DXCC Honor Roll. He developed and perfected the idea of the beacon system to give a clue to where the bands were open. There are few, if any, Dxers who have come with better DX service records than W6ISQ.

There was a lull in the induction of new members into the DX Hall of Fame starting in the late 1980's, but recently the system has come back to life.

Rusty Epps, W6OAT, was the next NCDXC member to be inducted, this for his continuing work on behalf of Dxers and especially with legal matters involving the needed high towers for DXing.

This year there were two NCDXC members inducted; Bob Ferraro, W6RJ, and Bob Vallio, W6RGG. These being not only currently active members of the club, but two whose service with and for Dxers now extends back a couple of decades.

W6RJ was in the crew that searched valiantly across the wide Pacific for Kingman Reef on a long remembered Saturday morning years ago, and having finally found it, put it on the air for a new country. He also operated from Serrana Bank and Baja Nuevo in the Caribbean, plus a few other countries. He also served as a director of the NCDXF.

Bob, W6RGG, has been on a number of Dxpeditions, as well as served as president of the club 30 or so years back. W6RGG endures and is currently the vice president of the DX Foundation.

One might say that California is the home of notable Dxers, more than one could readily count. But on the other hand, you might wish to know how over the years the awards landed south of the Tehachapis. Well, there was one SCDXC member elected to the DX HoF, this being the legendary Don Wallace, W6AM. Look no further for he was the only one from the Southland to be so honored, and he was nominated by a member of the NCDXC.

There is the record. There are some notable ones among the local Dxers and undoubtedly more will be recognized and honored in the future. Be ready to cheer the local winners. And also note that a high DXCC total is not necessarily the top criteria. Service in and to Dxing is often the weighty factor in getting the award.

NCDXC members should walk tall. Always! The club is still No. 1 and in many ways. Believe that.

**It's Time for 9-Band DXCC Submissions Again**

By John Brand, K6WC

By the NCDXC's rules, it's a bit late for me to be reminding you about 9-Band DXCC submissions but in one way, it works to your advantage. Normally this notice should be seen in the October DXer but Ole Rip was sound asleep here. The good part is that there is still plenty of time. What's to your advantage? You don't have to wait so long after submissions to receive your award in January. This year, I will accept all requests received until December 15th. Here is a brief reminder of the purpose and the requirements to obtain the award. Please note that there has been an increase in cost of the Band-Country Tags over past years from 75 cents to \$1.00.

Rules:

1. Purpose: To promote continued interest in DXing by all club members on all HF bands and to recognize DXing achievements by individual club members.
2. To be eligible, you must have worked at least 100 countries on one band since October 10, 1987 - or from when you joined the NCDXC, if after October 10, 1987. (Note: To receive the plaque and begin participation, you need 100 countries on only one band - not 100 countries on all 9 bands!)
3. Bands: 160 through 10 meters including the WARC bands.
4. Numbered tags for the plaque is issued in the following increments: 100, 150, 200, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290 and 300. (If you have over 300 on each band, you may be a DX hog!)
5. This award uses the honor system. No QSL cards are required or requested!
6. You should use the ARRL country list provided by the ARRL. It has plenty of room to keep track of your contacts. Do not claim deleted countries.

Here are the present costs:

New 9BDXCC Plaque (one time)	\$35.00
Band-Country Tags (each)	1.00
Surface Mail - US	5.00
Surface Mail - Foreign	7.00
Airmail - Foreign	20.00

Let's say you are requesting endorsements for the first time on a particular band. You want endorsements for 250 countries on 10 meters. You must apply for 4 tags 100, 150, 200 and 250 (\$4.00). Not the 250 tag alone! If it is not the first request, and you have the endorsements up to 200, then you only need the 250 tag (\$1.00). The award is designed to display each increment. It's a good idea to request your plaque before you have a lot of endorsements to claim! Please make requests to me, John Brand, K6WC, 9655 Tanglewood Circle, Orangevale, CA 95662 by December 15th. Do not list countries, just totals per band 100 and up. Include a check to cover the one-time cost of the plaque, the cost of the tags and the cost of mailing if you do not attend the Awards Meeting in January 1998. Make checks payable (in U.S. Funds) to the NCDXC.

*I hope Cass will not mind if I insert this, an excerpt from one of the last **West Coast DX Bulletins**. There were so many gems found in that newsletter.....and there is no exception with this one.....Editor...*

Last week one of the local QRPers was up the hill, this one to throw himself in a chair and weakly complain that he was tired. "I've had it," he advised us, "I've had it with Dxing and with the work and with this always rushing to catch something just beyond reach. But, most of all I'm tired of Dxing. I've worked them all and there is nothing left in it for me. Just nothing at all." We had to listen carefully to all of this for we know that even the most enthusiastic Dxer can weary and turn from DX, but usually for only a short time. "You really mean it?" we asked and QRPer nodded. "I sure do. And mostly with Dxing. I just don't understand these new type Dxers. Years ago all Dxers were gentlemen, all of us, and always we were trying to improve our station set-up and our DXCC score. It took years for me to get all those monobanders up on their own towers for ten, fifteen, and twenty. And even longer to get up those rotary arrays for eighty and forty. And when running my station I was always most careful not to push too hard so I would not get over the legal power limit. Always! It took years to get all of it together and then along comes these new appliance operators who would have trouble recognizing an 807, but who run right over you in a pile-up without regard for even the most common courtesies. There's none of them a gentleman like we used to be. Back then every Dxer was courteous and more than once they would stand aside to let me work them first because they knew that with my high power and big antennas that I was the one to do it. But things sure have changed." We had to think this one over for a bit. We were wondering how one could find the words assuage the hurts of one who worries because he may no longer be secure as the local top DX dog. "Don't you think," we asked, "that maybe the new crop of Dxers may be good for amateur radio and especially DX?" We no sooner said that then we had a bristling Dxer on our hands. "How do you figure that?" he said hotly, and we began to wonder if we should venture in where angels might hesitate to tread. "Look at it this way," we said, "any activity usually benefits from infusions of new people. They are the ones who bring the fresh willingness and the enthusiasms that we need. The new ones are the large body of doers and the everlasting workers. They really pick up and carry things. We old ones have been around the track so many times that we still expect to be out in front of the pack through we know we cannot run as fast as we once did." We were seeing we were getting no place with the QRPer, but we were not finished. "And what is wrong with those with the

enthusiasms to come up for their turn?" We had missed with our pitch. The QRPer was standing with hands clinched. "The longer I know you, the harder it is to understand you." And with that he was off and down the hill, unrepentant and unconvinced. But things do change and DX does along with them. And those other days were not all robins and roses and "after you, Al". It was war!! But for those who want to find out some other changes, ask about moveable DX rates for this DX bulletin. Everything with our rates is slippery.....like the footing at the top of the DX heap....

*From the West Coast DX Bulletin, June 13, 1979*

## ootin" Who's Horn!

I've never won an individual U.S. operating award before, so I thought I would share this one with you. Wow! Santa Clara Valley, yet! Hi! You gotta love those JA's on 40 meters! My station? TS850SAT to R7 vertical.



73, Dave - K7JJ

### Mystery Photo (from Page 5)

This was probably a challenge, even for the OT's in the club. The photo was probably taken when joint meetings were held at the Fresno Hilton.

Sitting in the chair, half-masked by the artist, is Frank Cuevas, W6AOA, of the SCDXC. The NCDXC was making a special event for W6AOA's birthday. Frank had tears streaming down his face as a speaker extolled the glories of Frank's DXing. Then, as our nymph, Brandy, appeared - rising from the cake -- the tears vanished! Ahhh! The good old days!