

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

Editor's Choice

February was a short month, but it seems like it just flew by. It is almost time for the March meeting. Please read Ted's QRM column on the next page. He has a really interesting program on tap for the March NCDXC meeting. It could turn out to be one of the really fun and interesting meetings in awhile.

The club and DX world has lost another giant with the passing of Iris Colvin, W6QL. Iris and her Lloyd were probably the most prolific Dxpeditors that have ever lived. They gave countless "new ones" to the deserving over the years. Iris was not active after Lloyd passed away in Turkey and one can't fault her for that. After all she had lost her partner; they were such a great team. I first met them at the ARRL National Convention in Portland in 1962. 20 years later, I enjoyed entertaining them at my home at Dhahran, when they visited Saudi Arabia. (They operated the ARRL CW DX contest from HZ1AB). The gang at Dhahran sure spent a memorable evening with them, that's for sure. That spring, I had dinner with them at Visalia. They always had so much energy and enthusiasm. I don't think anyone will ever equal their accomplishments.

I'll bet there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of DXers who can relate how the Colvins touched them through the years. If anyone reading this would like to contribute some personal remembrance, I will be happy to include them in a future edition of the DXer.

The photo on the address page of the February DXer was of young Iris operating from Japan in the late 40's.

Peace and SK, dear friend Iris!

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General Meeting Friday, March 13, 1998

Palo Alto Hofbrau
(formerly Harry's)

"State of the NCDXC" Forum
Hosted by Ted, K6XN

Happy Hour: 6 PM
Dinner: 7 PM
Meeting: 8 PM

Directions: From US 101, Palo Alto, take the Embarcadero exit. Drive EAST on Embarcadero approximately 1/2 mile. The golf course and the Hofbrau are on the left by the airport.

Use 147.36 (+600) for assistance

QRM de K6XN

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 Pantou, W6VG
 Treasurer: Keith Butts, KN6K
 Director: Ted Algren, KA6W
 Director: Gordon Gorton, W6NW
 Director: Garry Shapiro, NI6T

The DXer:

Editor: Dave Earnest, K7JJ
 15200 Monterey Rd
 Morgan Hill CA 95037
 (408)779-6662 ext. 203
 Fax machine ext. 209
 k7jj@garlic.com

Printing, Mailing: Jerry Bliss, K6III

Web Page: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G
<http://www.ncdxc.org>

DX Ladder: Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ

9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Rubin Hughes, WA6AHP

Historian/archivist: Ron Pantou, W6VG

Records Manager: Ron Pantou, W6VG

Publications Mgr: Ron Pantou, W6VG

Club Repeater, W6TIR

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +

Trustee: Bob Vallo, W6RGG

Comm. Chairman: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ

Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)

Thurs. Net QTR: 8 pm local time

Net Manager: Randy Wright, W6CLJA

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 Vallo, 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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Ted Park, K6XN

minute time limit unless earlier boo'd by the assembled deserving, and my discretion (merely complaining about something without a corresponding positive uplifting suggestion will*not* merit an award.)

I will also provide a "President's Special Award" of one cold 807 forevery ex NCDXC member that someone brings to the meeting and a corresponding cold 807 for the NCDXC member that brings one in. Also a cold 807 for a member that brings in a senior DXer who no longer canmake the long drive to a club meeting. (I would be willing to substitute a non-alcoholic beverage of choice as a substitute for cold 807s upon individual request). The objectives of the NCDXC Ragchew would therefore include:

- a) getting us all to publicly acknowledge as a group the NICE things about the club, club members and the things that are working well; this would also be an excellent opportunity to publicly praise the many unsung heros of the club who serve the club admirably usually with little official recognition;
- b) having fun;
- c) acknowledging some of the outstanding NCDXC people (alive and deceased);
- d) distributing great NCDXC coffee cups to the deserving;
- e) motivating errant DXers to come to the meeting; (free coffee cups+ cold 807s + an opportunity to have a forum);
- f) having fun (this is important...thats why it is repeated);
- g) also entertaining suggestions for improvement (remembering it is important to keep the meeting *positive* and uplifting)... any bitching must be focused and accompanied with a *reasoned* and realistic proposed solution for improvement.....and an understanding that if the solution is met with applause and cheers and accolades from the assembled deserving that the person raising the issue *will* be asked by the President to help implement the very solution he or she has suggested!

February General Meeting



Ron Panton, W6VG

Minutes of NCDXC meeting, Friday, February 13, 1998. Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Golf Club, and was a combined meeting of the NCCC and the NCDXC.

The attendance was "Wow". Many, many good DXers were in attendance to hear a very fine presentation regarding the World Wide Web and its application to ham radio. The visual presentation was shown high up on the wall of the building, this meant greater visibility to all. Good show!

Pre-meeting libations were very much in evidence, good dinner, with many in the line. An introduction and roundtable of all, followed the opening of the business meeting.

A very sincere eulogy for Eric Edberg, W6DU, followed. We all were touched in some manner by W6DU, and will miss him.

New applicants for membership in the NCCC were introduced, and voted into membership.

There were no applicants for the NCDXC.

After a break, a clear, informative talk on the new FCC regulations for the hams, was given by our illustrious Dr. James Maxwell, W6CF. Meeting closed at 9:55 P.M.

Ron Panton, W6VG, Secretary, NCDXC

February Board of Directors Meeting

The NCDXC BoD convened at the home of president K6XN, Ted Park. Present were: President Ted Park, Ted Algren, George Allan, Gordon Girton, Garry Shapiro, and Ron Panton. W6YD is the D.O.T.Y. chair and will convey proper dates of deadlines to the web page manager, AA6G. Much discussion was made on the subject of a new DXer editor, the necessary knowledge of computers, editing, etc, but nothing concrete as to a new editor yet. There is the possibility of Ted Park obtaining a computer, if necessary, for a new editor. The software, scanner etc is available. The DX convention of 1999 was discussed re the chairperson. Several good possibilities will be contacted. Future DX club meeting programs were suggested, and several very fine ones surfaced. There will be NO meeting in May, but yes, in March and April. Election of new officers will take place at the June meeting, and hopefully the slate will be available and published in the June DXer. The secretary shall re-write and simplify the wording of page 17 in the procedures manual. In the future the club treasurer will send out notices of "dues due and payable". We must abide by the deadline for dues of August 31, each year. The new roster WILL be printed on September 15th. Section 3-104, Page 12 of the procedures manual will be re-written by the secretary. All of the above changes will be reviewed by the entire board of directors. \$400 was approved for payment to AA6G for work done by Tom Bowen. Time was running out at the meeting, so the rules for "SAM" and the E mail from Smitty, W6JZU had to be put aside for later discussion. Moved seconded to close the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Ron Panton, Secretary

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM SMITTY

A few simple ideas:

1. NCDXC Technical Session: Why not a Sat or Sunday morning net on our club repeater discussing each week some technical aspect of DXing and AR in general. Have a moderator, a presenter, with perhaps a panel to follow discussing the subject of the day and fielding Q&A from members. Name the subject a week in advance or more with the names of the presentors. We have a lot of experts in any/all phases of AR and even in use of computers in AR etc. No lacking of topics - or experts! Subjects can also be on operating, and legal matters concerning proposed legis., tower matters, simply no end of subjects to discuss. Those that want to work DX this period - fine, they don't have to listen to the net.

2. Create a tech. committee that consists of volunteers in various subjects that can be called upon as a resource when some newer, or less experienced, or less wise (or merely forgetful!!) members have technical questions they can't quite cope with. Members could fone/fax/e-mail or call on a tech-type cmte. member to help with almost any given problem. Volunteers could state what their peculiar area of expertise is if they wish.

3. Create a Club Help committee - with (probably younger, stronger) members that are willing to volunteer to assist in antenna projects, tower projects, etc. especially to help some of our older and/or disabled members who are just too frail, too weak to do things for themselves and too hesitant to ask for help (Why do I relate to this one I wonder?). What camaraderie and friendships would be created with something like this.

4. Create incentives, or be more aggressive in encouraging ideas members to use the repeater more for rag chewing and simply making friends and the like (between announcements from 'Charlie!'). I simply reject the idea that our members wouldn't - given some encouragement - go back to using our repeater. Many of them now use the Contest Club machine and should be using ours, "instead of or as well as". You get the idea.

5. Consider creating a week-end activity - perhaps at monthly intervals - consisting of planned visits to club members' shacks. Members could volunteer to host a few (maybe would need to limit the number, which is easy to do with a 'first come first served' approach, requiring advanced sign-up if space

Please turn to Page 6



Iris Colvin, W6QL, SK

I am saddened to report the death of Iris Colvin, W6QL on Wednesday, February 18th. No details presently are available other than that she died peacefully at her home in Richmond, CA.

Iris was renown as a prolific DXpeditioner, and along with her late husband Lloyd, W6KG, activated many of the world's rarest DXCC locations. She and Lloyd also were avid QSLers and boasted the world's largest collection of cards—all alphabetized and filed in cabinets which occupied an entire room in their home.

Iris was a member of DXCC Honor Roll, president of the Yasme Foundation and a past president of the Northern California DX Club. She was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in November, 1976.

With her passing, we have lost both a friend and one of the true giants of amateur radio.

de Rusty, W6OAT

YASME in Saudi Arabia

I guess it was the winter of 1981 or 1982, can't really remember. Anyway I distinctly remember the family was all sleeping in our house in Dhahran Hills (Aramco) when I was awakened by a phone call that went something like this...."Hi, Dave, this is Lloyd" "Lloyd who", says I" and it went downhill from there.....my old buddy Bob Walsh, WA8MOA, gave Lloyd and Iris my phone number (without telling me, of course).

Anyway, Lloyd and Iris were in A7 and were heading our way. Could we meet them, etc. etc. These 2 really had the tenacity and managed to arrive in Arabia with their radio equipment (which was immediately locked up by Saudi customs).

The Colvins had the foresight, years before, to have a business arrangement with a Saudi company. As a result, they were able to get visas on short notice, I assume out of the Emirates someplace. Perhaps their construction company did stuff with a Saudi company at one time.

I met them at the airport and took them to the International Hotel at the airport, as no one was prepared - at this time, to put them up. I had a house full of kids and being late at night, I couldn't very well start waking the troops up!

Subsequently, Jerry (K0JJ) and Judy Johnson, provided them with a bed in their home, a couple of blocks away from me, in the Hills.

We did enjoy their stay, had a nice party for them (they did enjoy our home made libation). They operated from HZ1AB in the ARRL CW contest and YASME handled the cards for that operation.

Unfortunately, they could not swing operating permission or release of their equipment for additional operation. You gotta luv 'em! They sure got further than anyone else would have.

In retrospect, this was a highlight for a lot of us local hams. I checked all my personal home logs and am kind of bummed that I have only worked them once - in the 60s when they were in KX6 someplace. I had more eyeball qso's with them though.

Someday someone should write a book about their expeditions over the years.

73,

Dave Earnest, K7JJ
May 2, 1997

(Note: The above appears on the HZ1AB web site)



Iris at HZ1AB, 1982, with Mamouhd, HZ1SA, and Dave, K7JJ. Photo by Lloyd, W6KG

Dear Dave:

Please pass my regrets to the Colvin's daughter. I sent a note to Iris a few months back but got no response. Many fond memories, especially of our wonderful visit on Mothers day, 1982, when they took me to dinner and showed me the shack and rotating pole at the house. Great ambassadors for peace.

73 and DX de Bob Walsh, WA8MOA
... :-

Dave,

Years ago I met Iris and Lloyd at Dayton and spoke to her about HZ1AB. I had worked her from HZ1AB two or three of her stops on a trip she and Lloyd had taken the last year I was in Saudi. She said that she had remembered the contacts because she and Lloyd had operated from the club. She then said I must work for Aramco, I said no Bechtel, she then pulled her self up to her full 4 foot 10 inches and proudly told me that she had worked for Bechtel in Alaska...

73. John DeHart, K1VBM

Garry & I both caught this gem on the **WF1B RTTY Reflector.....**

You know you've been RTTY contesting too long when...

1. The phone rings and you press F2.
 2. You know what TOOAWT means.
 3. You believe that the software capital of the world is Rhode Island.
 4. Your dog is named Baudot.
 5. You think the world would be a better place if everyone used unshift-on-space.
 6. You know how to spell "Ortgiesen".
 7. You suspect your transceiver can do CW and SSB, but you can't prove it.
 8. You are unaware that oscilloscopes have a horizontal sweep mode.
 9. Your family crest is a pair of crossed ellipses.
- and the most telling of all:
10. Your kids are named Mark and Space.

de W7TI.....

Smitty's Ideas from Page 3.....

is limited). Hosts can provide coffee/doughnuts or something simple if desired. Man, I'd host such a group in a minute and would love to be a guest to see others' shacks/equipment/antennas!!

6. Move the board meeting around. Ask for volunteers who would host the Board meeting. It would open up the club governing process in the eyes of members, even if you don't get many offers to host (but I'll bet you will! get offers, that is). You have your first one from me, hi! I mean it.

7. Then, after a few of these ideas are tried, and members finally really get to 'know' each other, and newer members (like our Associate members) are personally acquainted with others, I'll bet you can resurrect the club picnic!!

Well, this'll give you a start. If I really put my mind to it I should be able to come up with some other ideas.

73/Smitty

(Smitty has great ideas here. I never have been able to figure out why there are so few using 147.36? Is it something I said? HI....K7JJ)

3B7 Expedition

This is the 1st bulletin regarding an upcoming DXpedition to St. Brandon, 3B7. I will continue to keep you informed. From Gerry, W6TER (NCDXC member)

3B7 Bulletin Nr. 1

=====

DXpedition to St. Brandon (3B7) From May 5th until May 17 the archipelago St. Brandon will be active in continuous operation with several stations.

What, where?

The destination of the DXpedition, the archipelago St. Brandon (or Cargados Islands, 3B7) belonging to the Republic of Mauritius (3B8) is situated about 400 km to the north of the latter. (QTH: 17°S 58°O)

Organization: Union of Swiss Short wave Amateurs (USKA), Section Zug, HB9RF; Project initiator: HB9JAI, semag@swissonline.ch, HB9JAI@HB9EAS-8.CHE.EU

Participants:

3B8CF, 4X1DF/A, HB9ABO, HB9ADP, HB9AFH, HB9AFI, HB9AHL, HB9AJW, HB9BQI, HB9BQW, HB9BXE, HB9JAI, K5KG.

Schedule of the expedition:

- April 24, 1998: Departure of the assessment team
- May 2, 1998: Deaparture of the team from Zurich
- May 6 to May 17: Operation at 3B7
- May 18, 1998: Dismantling and return

License:

We have a written confirmation by the Mauritian authorities, saying that a radio licence for St. Brandon will be granted.

Financing:

To assure the necessary funds we are left on the resources of the DX community.

Expedition bank account: Swiss Bank Corporation, Bundesplatz 1, CH-6300 Zug, Switzerland. Account numbers Q 824.996.0 CHF, Q824.996.1 USD. Remark: "Cargados-Expedition"

Treasurer: Josef Meier, HB9AJW, 100450.540@compuserve.com

Thank you for your contribution!

Equipment:

4 stations with 1 kW PA and corresponding antennae. VHF Station 6m or 2 m 100 W for tests 3B7 - 3B8.

Operation:

24 hour operation on all bands. Operating modes: CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV.

Logging:

The current state of the log will be daily transmitted onto our web site via Inmarsat standard-M data mode.

WWW site:

A dedicated web site for the St. Brandon DXpedition is under construction. It should be operational by mid February 1998.

The link to this site can eventually be obtained from <http://www.uska.ch> under "Links", "DXPediton"

73 de Urs, HB9ABO

NCDXC LADDER LEADERS

Mixed		Phone		CW		RTTY			
W6BSY	375	W6BSY	369	KI6T	350	W6JOX	310		
K6DC	375	KI6T	363	W6OAT	346	W6ZX	309		
W6KH	372	W6ISQ	362	W6ISQ	337	WA6AHF	272		
KI6T	371	W6ZM	361	K6DT	335	KN6J	245		
W6ISQ	368	K5YY	356	N6JV	335	WG6P	208		
W6ZM	366	K6WR	354	K6MA	335	W6TEX	155		
W6RJ	364	K6PU	352	K5YY	335	KG6I	116		
K6MA	363	W6ZKM	352	WB6CUA	334	NI6T	105		
K6PU	361	K6MA	351	W6TC	334	AA6YQ	48		
K6DT	359	W6LQC	350	WB6ZUC	333	AB6ZV	48		
		W6XP	350						
80m		40m		20m		15m		10m	
W6RJ	300	K6UR	290	KI6T	359	K6SLO	318	K6SLO	304
K5YY	276	W6OAT	289	K6DT	349	W6OAT	317	K6DT	301
K6SLO	246	W6ISQ	282	K5YY	348	K6DT	315	K6XN	300
W6OAT	226	W6TC	278	W6OAT	343	KI6WF	307	N6AN	281
NI6T	214	K6XN	275	K1ER	340	K6MA	305	KA6ING	279
N6JV	210	K6DT	272	K6UR	340	AH7G	300	W6OAT	278
W6ISQ	192	NI6T	262	W6JD	337	W7XA	298	W7XA	277
W6TC	189	K6MA	260	WG6P	334	K6XN	298	N6JV	270
K6XN	182	N6JV	259	K6SLO	333	AF6S	294	K6MA	270
K6ANP	179	WZ6Z	255	W6HXW	332	W6FAH	288	K6PKO	270
								AF6S	270
160m		30m		17m		12m		6m	
K5YY	171	NI6T	186	K6MA	255	K6MA	205	JA1BK	100
KG6I	127	N6JV	185	AF6S	205	K6SLO	176	K6KLY	72
K6RK	123	KG6I	175	N6JV	204	W6TC	172	K6UM	57
N6JV	114	K6MA	160	NI6T	204	N6JV	170	KA6ING	53
KN6J	108	W6TC	160	KG6I	182	NI6T	169	K5YY	42
AJ6T	103	K1ER	133	W6TC	176	K6UM	151	W6KH	35
K6ANP	75	AF6S	120	K1ER	146	AF6S	145	K6SLO	18
NI6T	68	W6JD	119	K6UM	145	K1ER	110	KG6I	13
W6RJ	54	WG6P	103	K6SLO	144	KG6I	110	AJ6T	8
WZ6Z	24	N6HR	100	W6ISQ	142	W6ZX	105	AA6YQ	2

