

# 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

There are two conventions I have always wanted to attend. I made special travel plans when I was working overseas to attend the Visalia/Fresno conventions in 1972 and 1981. I also drove from Oregon in 1986 to attend the convention at Visalia. Now that I live in California, I have been to the last 2 events. The other convention, of course, is Dayton. I finally made the trip to hamdom's "Mecca" this year and had a great time. The thing I liked most about Dayton is you can take in any part of ham radio you wish - whether it is DX, contesting, traffic, moonbounce - whatever. I saw a few NCDXCers at Visalia and Dayton who can't make club meetings due to being too far away from the Bay Area.

DX Convention. I still don't "get it". Why the big deal about where the convention is held? Both places boast mediocre hotels. The only difference I can see is a larger parking lot at Visalia. I guess, way back when, Fresno, then Visalia, were the half way points between SFO and LAX and that is why they were chosen. This speaks of a regional convention. I am told a group wanted to propel the convention to a true "International" convention vice a regional California DX convention. They proposed the convention be held in or near San Francisco, perhaps with the idea of holding it in the Los Angeles area on alternate years. Sounds admirable to me. This idea would have to be shared and worked on by all DX clubs in California. It will never work if there are people that decide what is best for the masses and then get their noses bent out of joint when another faction wants to keep the status quo.

June Meeting. It is election time again. You know you might show up and show you really support the club with more than your dues. I am sure, by election night, there will be a slate of candidates willing to run, get elected, and provide leadership for the club during the next year. This one is very important, as this group will be providing the leadership required to stage the 1999 International DX Convention in (pick one....) Visalia or Fresno. The present board has elected to have the membership attending the June meeting provide inputs as to where "they" want to hold the convention. Elections should take precedence at the June meeting.

73 de K7JJ

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### Dues are Due

Dues are due by July 1, 1998.

Mail your check to:

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

### June 1998 NCDXC General Meeting Program Election of 1998-1999 Officers

Palo Alto Municipal Golf  
Course  
Attitude Modification @ 1800  
Supper @ 1900  
Meeting follows Supper

Take Embarcadero exit from  
101, go east approximately 1/2  
mile and turn left into the drive  
between golf course and airport.  
Talk in assistance on club  
repeater, W6TI/R, on 147.360 +  
600 Khz.

June 1998

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 Panton, W6VG  
 Treasurer: Keith Butts, KN6K  
 Director: Ted Algren, KA6W  
 Director: Gordon Girton, W6NW  
 Director: Vacant

**The DXer:**

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DX Ladder: Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ

9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF

Historian/archivist: Ron Panton, W6VG

Records Manager: Ron Panton, W6VG

Publications Mgr: Ron Panton, W6VG

**Club Repeater, W6TI/R**

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Comm. Chairman: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ

Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)

Thurs. Net QTR: 8 pm local time.

Net Manager: Randy Wright, 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.

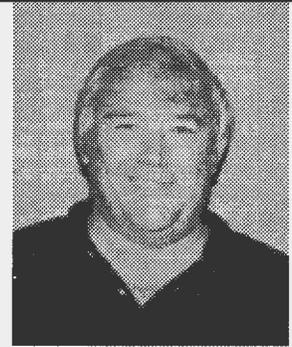
**Club address:** Box 608  
 Menlo Park, CA  
 94026-0608

*The DXer* is published monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members. Unless otherwise noted, NCDXC permits re-use of any article in this publication—provided The DXer and the article's author are credited.

## QRM de K6XN

### POSITIVE GUYS DO POSITIVE THINGS

Have you ever thought about how great it is to be around POSITIVE people.....you know.....the kind of people that add value to whatever it is that we Dxers are trying to do. These are the kind of guys that don't just whine and complain about something or generate unrealistic rhetoric that they don't follow through on....they actually DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR ALL OF US. They often quietly help all the rest of us out by doing nice things every day. They are usually not the arrogant, egotistical, self styled elitists (they know who they are).....but rather these are the nice guys that may have been our Elmers in the early days (or today).....and the guys that may take the time to call out or spot that new one for us. They include guys like Jerry Bliss, K6III, who makes sure the DXer gets printed and mailed.....and Dave Earnest, K7JJ, who is the Dxe editor and puts in long hours and much effort often without any praise and occasionally with underserved abuse...(thanks for your help Dave!!) and Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, who administers and supports the DX Ladder. Its an inspiration to be associated with guys like this. What about our repeater? Its guys like Bob Vallio, W6RGG, our station Trustee and comm. Chairman Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ, that make it work for the rest of us. And who can forget Swap Shop and the help of Ben Deovlet W6FDU and QSL information Mac McHenry, W6BSY, or Net Manager Randy Wright, W6CUA? And for those of us on the Internet (we know who we are) there is that great NCDXC website <http://www.ncdxc.org> supported and creatively nourished by Chuck Vaughn, AA6G! If someone has received an NCDXC award it probably was because of the efforts of Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF (California Award), or Doug Westover, W6JD, (Contests) or John Brand, K6WC (9 Band Award). Any other job has probably been done by Ron Panton, W6VG....he is everywhere: Historian/Archivist, Records Manager, Publications Manager, Secretary, Director etc. etc. Another unsung hero is Jim Duffy, W6EU, who has volunteered to administer the SAM Award (more about that elsewhere in this Dxe. There are many positive nice guys in this club that I have not listed here. The next time you experience something positive or something nice that happens to you because of an NCDXC member's efforts why not tell them thanks. They deserve it! And they do it for us.



*Ted Park, K6XN*

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## General Meeting



Ron Panton, W6VG

There was no general meeting in May. Following are the minutes of the May 21, 1998

## Board of Directors Meeting

The NCDXC board of directors held their meeting at the home of NCDXC president Ted Park, K6XN. Date was May 20, 1998, and meeting convened at 7 P.M. On hand were President K6XN, VP George Allan W6YD, Gordon Girton W6NW, Keith Butts KN6K, Ron Panton W6VG, and ex officio member Dave Earnest, K7JJ.

Discussion early and late in the meeting re prospective officers for the coming year. Board members will be calling possible officers. The letter from Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL, was read by all, and by telephone, permission granted to have Knocks letter printed in the June DXer. Emphasis was placed on dues being due on July 1st, and the Roster will be printed September 15 with all paid up members listed. (proc. manual, 3-111) Regarding Visalia vs. Fresno, a vote was taken of all present at the board meeting. This vote will be presented to the club members at the next meeting. The members who are present will be canvassed as to their preference. The secretary thinks the bylaws should be changed to allow ALL club members a vote in important matters. The SAM 40 meter CW contest details were read and discussed. Letters will be written by the secretary to W6EU (SAM contest chair), and to K6UR Ron Hill, for his work with Sam Canters QSL cards. The album will be available for viewing at the next club meeting. The album will be placed in the archive locker. The board suggests that all members who prefer their DXer via E mail, (Web Site) should make their desires known to K7JJ. Board adjourned at 9:30 P.M. W6VG, Secretary

### Dues are Due

Dues for the 1998-99 year  
are due and payable by  
July 1, 1998.

Regular Dues: \$24.00  
Check by-laws for other rates

Mail check to:  
NCDXC  
P. O. Box 608  
Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608

### Garry Shapiro Resigns

Garry Shapiro, NI6T,  
tendered his resignation  
as a member of the NCDXC  
Board of Directors. His  
resignation was effective  
May 21, 1998.

**Visalia, 1998**

Some random snapshots showing some of the activities at Visalia. Hope you recognize some of the people.



**Jim, N6TJ/ZD8Z**



**Pool side happy hour. K3ZO in the shade**



**Dick, XE2DV/W7ZR, carried home the grand prize - an IC-706!**

**Just a few of the plates in the parking lot**



## DXer

### Electronic DXer

by Dave Earnest, K7JJ,

Early in May, I made up an email address file from the information provided in the club roster. There are over 100 members (out of 200 something) that have email addresses. That is a significant per centage. I proposed to email the DXer to these members who have FULL internet access. Not you Juno.com or limited AOL type accounts. This would also be by preference. Some people feel more secure with a hard copy. Chuck, reminded me of the DXer on the NCDXC web page. (Blush). I modified my proposal to sending an email to the list when the monthly DXer is placed on the web. Those choosing to do so, can download the DXer using Adobe Acrobat Reader from the web site. This download can be viewed on screen and later printed out if you want a hard copy. There were about 10 members whose email addresses bombed (meaning the ISP does not know who they are). The majority of the members who bothered to respond to my email replied in the affirmative - they would prefer to receive the DXer by electornic means. A very few asked to continue mailing the newsletter. A couple of guys wanted to know if they get a discounted membership fee. PUHLEEZ! Whatever we might save in postage as and other materials can be used to cover the cost of maintaining the web site, etc. My proposal was meant to use the benefits of the electronic age to the betterment of mankind. I never intended to rock the boat or make anyone feel insecure. A computer is a tool and so is the internet, if used properly. Thank god, I don't have to use a mimeograph anymore! HI!

Anyway, we will try this email notification for awhile and see how people like it. We have to work out how to keep from not mailing a copy to those who elect to get their copy off the web page. That will be easy and will be worked.

Will the 1999 DX CONVENTION be in Fresno or Visalia and will it bemanaged by the NCDXC or some other club?

The 1999 DX Convention historically should be hosted by the NCDXC. It will be the 50th International DX Convention. As the NCDXC we should ensure that it will be one of the best ever. The NCDXC currently has an agreement with the Holiday Inn in Fresno which in effect reserves blocks of rooms at the Fresno Holiday Inn for a limited time for the convention. As your president and as a director I originally voted for the Fresno location in part with the understanding and expectation that a) there were many members of the NCDXC who strongly supported the Fresno location over the Visalia location and that b) there were NCDXC members who would enthusiastically volunteer to chair and manage the convention if it were held in Fresno. The disturbing reality is that to date NOT A SINGLE NCDXC member has volunteered to chair the committee for a DX Convention in Fresno.

Subsequent to this BOD making the decision to have the next convention in Fresno I have learned additional facts which if I had been aware of them earlier would have caused me to vote for Visalia as a preferred location rather than Fresno. Even with the new information, and my current new personal preference for Visalia I would still be willing to support the convention in Fresno if an NCDXC member with management skills (and preferably some DX convention management experience) would step forward to Chair the convention in Fresno. I would even help him or her if asked. What if no one in the NCDXC is willing to be the Chairperson for a DX convention in Fresno? It seems we may have to consider at least two options: a) change the location to one where an NCDXC volunteer will actually step forward to chair the management of it or b) find someone or something that will manage it in Fresno. There is some precedence for other clubs providing management support and assistance for a percentage of the proceeds. My understanding is that the San Diego DX club assists the Southern California DX Club in managing portions of the DX Convention for the SCDXC. There have been overtures to the NCDXC for another club to provide management assistance to the NCDXC for the convention in Fresno.

It is important to understand and reflect on the fact that most of the discretionary revenue the NCDXC has for a two year period comes from proceeds from a single DX Convention. The membership dues barely cover the costs of printing and mailing the DXer.

This is a critical time for a hero with management skills to step forward and chair the DX Convention committee. The Chairperson will need strong support and understanding from the new club officers you will elect and from the new Board of Directors. If you are one of those who strongly advocated the Fresno location over Visalia and you have management skills and convention experience this is the time to step forward and help to make the 1999 DX Convention in Fresno an outstanding success. You know who you are. If on the other hand no one steps forward for the Fresno location then other alternatives will need to be considered asap by your next slate of officers and Board of Directors.

Ted Park, K6XN

T

## ZL9CI - Campbell Island

from the *Daily DX. tnx WWDXC.*

### **NCDXC Marathon**

**A reminder that the club marathon starts June 1 and goes to Aug 31. Plaques for 1st place CW/Phone/Mixed and certificates for 2nd place...participation certificates for entries with 100 or more countries. Send logs to me. As far as logs go, I will bring some to the June meeting or send me a legal size SASE. As for log info, all I want is the station call and the mode of the QSO, don't need date/time/band...This is a "Scouts Honor" competition.**

**Let's get some REAL participation this year!! The flux is up!**

73,  
Doug W6JD

The Kermadec DX Association DXpedition to Campbell Island in January 1999, represents possibly the last chance for many years for a qso with this DXCC entity and IOTA island (OC-037). The New Zealand Department of Conservation is restricting access to the island greatly and its only with representation at the highest level of New Zealand government and continued hard work by team leader Ken Holdum that permission to visit the island has been secured. Added to this, of course, is the remoteness of Campbell Island, located as it is in the sub-Antarctic ocean.

An international team has been assembled, a team which should ensure that DXers in all parts of the world are expertly catered to.

The team includes:

ZL2HU, Ken Holdom; ZL2TT, Ron Wills; ZL2AL, Lee Jennings; ZL2DX, Chris Hannagan; VE3XA, Brian Biggings; K3VN, Al Hernandez; EI6FR, Declan Craig; N6MZ, Mike Mraz; JH4RHF, Jun Tanaka; G1ONWG, Andrew Williamson; and ZL2URN, Jason Christensen.

QRV from Campbell --

The team will depart New Zealand on January 5, 1999, arriving Campbell on the 9th. We will remain QRV until the 25th of January. It is hoped that this timing will allow adequate time to QSO ZL9CI on the bands and modes they wish. SSB, CW, and RTTY will all be used and maximum use will be made of openings with the more difficult parts of the world. Extensive propagation forecasting is being done and this, together with information from strategically located pilot stations, should be of great assistance.

Pilot Stations --

West Coast USA	- Ron Lago, AC7DX
East Coast USA	- Don Greenbaum, N1DG
Europe	- Rob Cummings, G1OKOW
Japan	- to be determined
Oceania	- to be determined

Budget --

The total budget for the ZL9CI DXpedition will be in the region of \$85,000, of which the members of the team have contributed \$33,000. So far we have received donations of about \$11,000 from DXers and clubs. However, we still require almost \$38,000 to meet the expected costs of mounting this DXpedition. Contributions from individuals and clubs would be gratefully accepted and can be sent to:

The Kermadec DX Association  
PO Box 56099,  
Tawa, Wellington,  
New Zealand

### **CQ DX Hall of Fame Inducts Bob White, W1CW**

**B**ob White, W1CW, long time ARRL DXCC program manager, was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Bob was present to receive the award at the Dayton DX Dinner. The event was held Friday, May 15, 1998, and was hosted by the Southwest Ohio DX Association.

In his acceptance speech, Bob recounted his early days on the DXCC desk and the efforts required to bring the post WWII award to the stature it is today. Prior to leaving ARRL for retirement, he was responsible for creating the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau. Bob and xyl Ellen, W1YL, now reside in Seffner, Florida. They are honorary members of the NCDXC.

—de K7JJ

## K6BSA

Field Day Outing: Boy Scout Post 566 of Saratoga

WE NEED DXer/CONTESTER ELMER VOLUNTEERS

Why aren't there more younger people getting involved with DXing and Contesting....and what are you doing this year for Field Day?

Ted Park, K6XN has invited Boy Scout Explorer Post 566 aka K6BSA of Saratoga to his mountain-top property for Field Day. The site is located approximately 15 miles from Nevada City, California and 11 miles from the intersection of Interstate 80 and Highway 20, in the Sierra foothills, and is at an elevation of 4,800 feet. There is a spectacular 360 degree radio "view" to all parts of the world. There's a two story house on top of the mountain QTH in the middle of the forest with water, 20 KW diesel generator power, propane, etc, though most of us will be camping in tents (as befits an Explorer Post!) We will have 16 acres available to put up antennas. There's also trout fishing nearby, and beautiful old-growth forest, so non-hams who are family members are welcome. This is not a trip for non-campers, the squeemish or "tenderfoots" though as there are rattlesnakes, mountain lions, varmints, etc and the property is in the middle of the Tahoe National Forest in a wilderness area. You could get lost or eaten...unless you have an Explorer Scout with you. There are no power lines, no telephone lines, no paved roads, no neighbors and no known TVI or antenna restrictions. (There is only one flush toilet within 11 miles....preference will be given to Elmers, women and children). If it rains we will need 4-wheel vehicles to get out...if we can get out....and maybe winches as well! (We will have a number of Jeeps on site). Explorer Post members have been invited whether or not they already have an amateur radio operator's license as they will be able to experience ham radio, contesting, DXing and actually create and operate a Field Day radio station, under the watchful eyes of our Control Operators and Elmers!

Dates: Field Day itself is Saturday, June 27 - Sunday June 28. Some of us will leave Saratoga Thursday PM (June 25th) and drive to the site; others can leave Friday morning, June 26th. The radio event starts with setup on site at 11 AM on Friday, June 25th; operation starts at 11AM Saturday, and ends Sunday at 11 AM (a full 24-hour period). We return Sunday afternoon. It's about a 3.5-hour drive (unless you are pulling a trailer full of radio gear).

What we already have:

Four 50-75 foot Army Surplus crank up towers that can be quickly installed; a TA-33 tri-bander, a 40-meter rotatable dipole; an 80M vertical; a 4 element 10 meter monoband yagi, various UHF and VHF all mode radios for 2 meters, 70 cm and 6 meters . We could use more laptop computers, for logging (preferably with CT installed). We need more VHF/UHF antennas and most of all we need experienced UHF and VHF DXers and Contester Elmers to help with the operation, to teach us and to show the Scouts the right way to do it. We also need Elmers to follow through to help the unlicensed Scouts become licensed...and to encourage and help the licensed Scouts to upgrade.

Who's on the K6BSA crew so far? Ted Park, K6XN, and son Andrew Park N6YDZ, Paul Wesling, KM6LH and XYL Gail Wesling KD6KRS, Gordon Girton W6NW, Rick Tavan N7TN and XYL Ann Tavan KD6MOB, Cris Calhoun, N6MAW, Sunny Wesling, YL (ham in training) Tom Caradonna KF6LSH, and George Flammer, W6MT. We'd like another 4 Elmers preferably with UHF and VHF DXer or Contester experience.

Cost: The food and expenses will come to about \$20 per person. We will eat well! (Trust me.)

We need you to sign up now! Please call Ted Park at (408) 867-2740, or email to TED.PARK@TANDEM.COM, to indicate if you would like to join us or if you can otherwise help us with expertise or equipment. If you can bring radio gear, let us know; we're especially interested in VHF/UHF antennas and equipment, digital mode gear and expertise, and an accomplished contester/DXer elmer for Novice/Tech+ station/operation (especially on 10 meters SSB). We'll finalize plans around June 10th.

So, let us know if you can help and want to have fun in the wilderness! Please call or e-mail immediately, with your "YES" or "MAYBE" status, so we can keep you informed!

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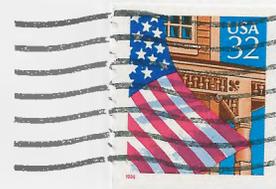
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**DXer**  
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FIRST CLASS



**NCDXC GENERAL MEETING**

June 12, 1998  
 Palo Alto Golf Course Hof Brau

Happy Hour, 6 PM  
 Supper, 7 PM  
 Meeting follows.

Election of New Club Officers. Be there and cast your vote. Make it happen! See you there!

Ron Pantou W6VG  
 5 Cedar Ct  
 Menlo Park  
 CA 94025-5901