

# 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

The July meeting kicks off the new club year. The 1998-99 Board is in place and ready to take on the challenges facing the club, The main priority is to organize and carry out an outstanding 1999 Fresno convention. That's right, Fresno is the venue for 1999. That decision has been made due to business and legal considerations made by the 1996-97 board. George, W6YD, has stepped forward as the 1999 DX Convention Chairman. George will find a large group of club members willing and waiting to assist. Let us pull together as a club, get behind the convention chair and co-chairpersons and make this the best DXconvention ever. If you have any suggestions, bring them forward. If you have any criticisms or complaints, forward those as well, BUT with a recommendation for resolution.

I certainly want to produce an interesting newsletter. However, I would like to receive some input from the membership. I am not among the DX elite, so don't get all the juicy gossip or DX info. Of course, this is a DX club and I guess most members get their DX info via bulletins and off the internet, so I guess we really don't need DX news in the DXer. I once asked members to send in their favorite DX or ham radio related story. Close to 300 members....I got 5 responses. So, I will put in some of my own experiences, such as my first trip to Dayton. I request again, send me your ideas or articles for the DXer. Photos would be great, as well.

We got the bad news that president Doug Westover, W6JD, had to resign due to health reasons. Doug is one of 3 officers who volunteered to lead the club without arm twisting. So, if Doug can be a fine example - where are the rest of you leaders willing to get in or back into heading the leadership of this club? Thanks to Dick, W6KM, for stepping up to fill this important slot.

Only 19 people attended the July meeting for election of club officers. Someone made the suggestion that we might get a better response if we did the elections by mail. The way it is going, we might as well hold the meetings by mail. Someone out there must have some good ideas for increasing attendance at club meetings. Meetings are supposed to be the social aspect of any club. We can hold the business meeting in the newsletter and reserve the meeting night for socializing and programs. I have heard some people say a different night might be better, but then others say that has been tried before. What do you think?

Hope to see a big turn out for the August 14th meeting. Should be a good one.

—73, Dave Earnest, K7JJ

Dues were due July 1st  
Did You Forget?  
Send your check to:  
NCDXC  
P O Box 608  
Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608

### August 14, 1998 NCDXC General Meeting Program

**"EARTHQUAKES"**  
Dr. Bob Uhrhammer,  
WB6VEX  
UC, Berkeley

**Palo Alto 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.**

**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: Doug Westover, W6JD  
Vice Pres: Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW  
Secretary: Jerry Bliss, K6III  
Treasurer: Ted Park, K6XN  
Director: Dick Letrich, W6KM  
Director: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G  
Director: Dave Earnest, K7JJ

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Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD  
California Award: Ruben 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.

## President's Report

This being my first "Presidents Report" to the club I really wanted to make it profound. But alas after hours of pondering I cannot come up with great words of wisdom. I'll leave that to the others and in this club we have many who could! Many have unlimited talents—look around, folks from all walks of life, most at the top of their profession. What brings us all together to share the same goal.....working DX! Its a pretty good bet that those of you reading this are current members of the club and share this very interest. What is hard to understand is that many are not really happy with the club? If you are in that group, I encourage you to please attend some of the meetings and help us point the club in your direction. I understand that for many (an estimated 20%) that do not live in the San Francisco Bay Area, it is really difficult to attend. But what about the other 60% or so that are in the Bay Area and still do not attend? Consider me personally inviting you to attend, get your moneys worth! Lets see some new and old faces. I promise you that your current Officers and the entire Board of Directors are more then willing to listen to your suggestions. We cannot please everyone, but we want to please YOU.

George Allan, W6YD (ex President, ex WA6O) is the Convention Chairman and has already started putting together the 50th International North / South DXconvention. So be sure to put these dates on your calendar now. April 9, 10, & 11, 1999, at the Fresno Downtown Plaza Holiday Inn.

73 es GUD DX.



—Dick, W6KM

## **General Meeting**

The NCDXC met at the Palo Alto Golf Club on Friday night, July 10, 1998. This was the last meeting of the outgoing officers. The new officers will take the reins from now on. The new secretary will be K6III Jerry Bliss, the new vice president is N6VAW Marilyn Bagshaw, new treasurer is K6XN Ted Park. The president elected at the last meeting was Doug Westover W6JD. However, for health reasons Doug resigned, and the new president will be W6KM, Dick Letrich. We welcome Dick, and know he will be a good leader. The July 10 meeting opened with libations, the buffet dinner followed. at 8:05 PM, the vice president George Allan, W6YD opened the business meeting, as the outgoing president K6XN was unable to attend. Guests were introduced, and among them was the well known Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ. Also, coming all the way from San Luis Obispo with Doc, was member Rob Griffin K6YR. Treasurer and secretaries reports were not given as both are in the DXer. It was with much surprise at this point to hear of the resignation of Doug Westover, and we hope for the best with his health. The board position of Dick Letrich will be taken over by Chuck Patterson, K6RK. W6TEX spoke of the upcoming DXpedition of W6IXP to Little Diomedede Island. NA-150, most wanted IOTA in North America. Scheduled for July 22 - July 29, 1998. Call will be KL7/W6IXP. More info will be found from your browser, "find" "KL7/W6IXP" or "NA-150" On the Fresno/Visalia situation, Ted Algren, KA6W explained in detail why the club is contractually bound to fill the contract with Fresno. In order to avoid a suit over breach of contract, the club must go to Fresno in 1999. The presentation of a beautiful trip to Antarctica was given by Josephine Hansen, WB6ZUC. Excellent slides and verbal information on shipboard and ice was very well given by Jo. Many thanks Jo, and the pix of all that ice and snow really cooled us off. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M. Ron, W6VG

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The board of directors meeting of the NCDXC was held July 7, 1998 at the home of president K6XN. This is the meeting of the outgoing & incoming board members. Meeting convened at 7 P.M. and in attendance were K6XN, W6YD, W6JD, N6VAW, W6KM, KN6K, W6NW, K6III, KA6W, Ranger, & lame duck secretary W6VG. Absent were AA6G & K7JJ.

We all hoped that DXer editor & new board member K7JJ, is feeling well after his recent surgery.

As expected, a lively discussion took place regarding the location of the 1999 DX convention. The possibility of NCDXC being in a position of a big lawsuit if Fresno is cancelled, versus going ahead with Visalia. President K6XN and president elect W6JD will hopefully work out the details to enable us to cancel the contract with Fresno with no penalty or suit. The calendar of NCDXC "actions & events" was laid out by K6XN, with W6JD approving all appointees. W6JD will continue to hold the contest chair, as well as the position of new president. W6VG will attempt to sign up a larger storage locker to hold the archives & meeting audio & visual equipment. W6JD mentioned possibility of the club holding a Monday night meeting at the Tide house in Palo Alto. A tour of the beer making facilities will be available, with dinner, and a nice meeting place. Our host will be Ron, the manager of the Tide House. Ron holds an extra class ham license and was very much in evidence at the WRTC poolside open house. Maybe we can interest him in DX. More will be forthcoming on the date of this meeting. Vice president elect Marilyn, N6VAW presented a very comprehensive list of upcoming guest speakers at club meetings, looks very good! So far, many offers of cochairs for the DX convention, but no chair. Program and prize chairs have been set. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Ron, W6VG

Program Notes from Marilyn....

I just got off the phone with Bob Uhrhammer, Professor at UC Berkeley. He will be our presenter on August 14. I want to personally thank Chuck, K6RK, Doug, W6JD, & Bob, W6RGG, for the recommendation. He will speak on earthquakes, he is not sure on what aspects yet. My only regret is that I will have to miss that meeting.

Dick will contact Bob with directions to our meeting place.

Hillar, N6HR, is confirmed for Friday, September 11.

73  
Marilyn  
N6VAW

*Editor's note: I spoke to Walt Marshall, W7SE, who was on the recent Swiss 3B7 operation. He will plan on giving us a presentation about that DXpedition at the December or January Meeting. ....K7JJ*

### **Envelopes Provided for Dues**

Ron Panton, W6VG, has included an NCDXC SAE in this issue of the DXer as an incentive to return your dues for the coming year ASAP.

**Memorable QSO From Tom NW6P**

One Saturday morning about 10 years ago I was paying household bills in the shack. The rig was turned on, tuned up on the low end of 15m cw, beam NE, with the gain just high enough to hear with the speaker if anything was happening on frequency.

I was writing checks when I heard a watery signal tune up and get stronger over about a 15 second period. It sounded interesting and became VERY INTERESTING when "de FR5AI/G" was signed once at about 15 wpm. I reached for the key, pushed the amplifier button for full power, and signed de NW6P NW6P AR.

Back came NW6P de FR5AI/G. The exchange was memorable. It went something like this at very slow cw, letter by letter:

NW6P de FR5AI/G. TKS OM. RST 579 579. OP ROBERT ROBERT. QTH ILES GLORIEUSES ISLE GLORIEUSES. HW? BK.

DE NW6P. FB ROBERT. RST 579 579. OP TOM TOM. QTH NR SF NR SF. HW? BK

BK FB TOM. RIG 100W 100W. ANT DIPOLE DIPOLE. PSE QSL FR5AI, POB 175, SAINT-DENIS, REUNION. HW? BK

DE NW6P ALL OK ROBERT. WILL QSL. TKS FB QSO! 73 DE NW6P

FB TOM. HOPE CUL DE ROBERT. 73 ES TKS FB QSO.

As I sent my final exchange I hit the return key on the packet keyboard and announced: dx 21015 FR5AI/G Glorioso. Within seconds there were dozens of callers. I turned the radio off and filled out the QSL card. It was my first cw QSO with Glorioso.

About 2 weeks later I received FR5AI/G's QSL along with photos of Glorioso and Reunion. Robert included a note saying how nice Reunion was and that I should come visit.

It's funny how hard you can work for a new one and yet once in a while they just drop into the log without much effort.

73 de Tom  
NW6P

***NCDXF PRESS RELEASE  
— FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION***

At its Board of Directors meeting on July 21, 1998 in San Francisco, CA, the Northern California DX Foundation re-elected the following officers and directors:

President	Len Gerald	K6ANP
Secretary	Tom McShane	NW6P
Treasurer	Bruce Butler	W6OSP
Director	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB
Director	Rusty Epps	W6OAT
Director	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ
Director	Steve Thomas	N6ST
Director	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
Director	Glenn Vinson	W6OTC

Al Burnham, K6RIM, formerly a Director, was elected Vice-President.

Bob Fabry, N6EK, was newly elected as a Director.

Jack Troster, W6ISQ, announced his decision to retire from the Board of Directors. President Len Gerald, K6ANP, thanked Jack for his years of service, and presented him with a plaque attesting to his outstanding contributions to the Foundation.

Information pertaining to the Northern California DX Foundation is available at <<www.ncdxf.org>

Al Burnham, K6RIM

Vice President, NCDXF

FAX: (415) 924-6678

E-mail: w4rim@ix.netcom.com

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## **ARRL Proposes Simplified Amateur License Structure**

The ARRL Board has agreed to propose a simplified Amateur Radio licensing structure with four classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during the Board's meeting July 16-18 led to majority support for a plan for four written examination elements to establish amateurs' operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five, and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three.

Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technician examination, but consistent with the privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D.

The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF operation and a 5 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony sub-bands would result from "refarming" of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose.

The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A and a 12 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B.

The final step would be known as Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words per minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective is to rationalize and simplify the amateur licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license. Where reductions in Morse code requirements are proposed, there would be a corresponding increase in written examination standards. On the other hand, Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by amateurs. Therefore, present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, having earned entry-level HF operating privileges, would be granted the new entry-level HF license.

Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work by the Board, during which time the input of literally thousands of ARRL members and other amateurs and prospective amateurs was considered. The Board debated a wide variety of options including both smaller and larger numbers of license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. Nine of the 15 Directors voted in favor of the plan, with six opposed. Following the meeting ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, observed, "The debate was at times contentious and the result was not unanimous. Some Board members preferred greater simplification; others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed. However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is best for the future of Amateur Radio."

Members are urged to contact their ARRL directors to comment on this proposal. E-mail addresses are on page 10 of any issue of QST. Members also may comment on the proposal via the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org> or via e-mail at [restrux@arrl.org](mailto:restrux@arrl.org).

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**1998-99 NCDXC Officers and Board of Directors**

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I was first licensed in 1977 and now hold extra class. I have always been active as a DXer and currently am on the Honor Roll with a count of 332 in the mixed mode. I enjoy both phone and cw and do a lot of SW listening and rag chewing. My station consists of a Kenwood TS-940AT and the antenna is a KT34, the first one sold by KLM (however not the first in the air). It may be a record of some sort but it has been up without a problem since very early 1978. The boom is at 35' and I am only slightly above sea level. I do have a Henry 2KD5 amp, also. Biggest challenge is to finish working 5BDXCC, lacking 35 on 80 meters with a very small city lot. Have been active in the club 20+ years and have held various offices previously.

*President Dick Letrich  
W6KM*



My younger son, Trevor, N6JRO, introduced me to amateur radio when was in high school 15 years ago. I got my first license in 1987, KB6UYT, and used it mainly on ocean races sailing down the coast. Finding fascination with communications at sea, including downloading weather fax, I upgraded to Extra in 1989. In 1990, Rich, W6UDS, introduced me to the world of DX and in 1991 I qualified to join the NCDXC. We have operated from the South Pacific 5 times; my other calls: FO0BAG and ZK1VAW. I am the RACES coordinator for the City of Mill Valley and have been the Vice President and Secretary for the Marin Amateur Radio Club and was a Director on the Board of the Amateur Communications Society which owns and operates the repeater system in Marin county. I was on the Convention Committee in Fresno in 1997. I am a charter member of the Pampanito ARC onboard the WWII submarine docked at Pier 45 in SF Bay and I am a VE.

I am retired as a system's analyst from Blue Shield of California. I have two grown sons: Trevor who has his own business, Console Inc., Advanced Internet Technologies, which communicates live wireless videocasts via the internet including NBC News, and Tyler, who is a Medic in the Air National Guard and is employed by Paramount's Great America as Chief Technical Engineer. Both have EE degrees in physics engineering.

*VP Marilyn Bagwell  
N6VAW*

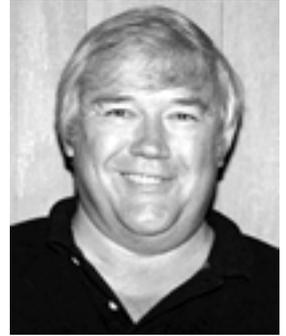


First licensed in 1953 at the tender age of 13 as KN4AHC (Novice), later moved to CA and became KN6JHO (Novice). My license lapsed after a year. In 1957, I joined the US Navy and was trained as a Radio Operator. While in the USN, I was licensed as K6SMH (General). A couple of years ago I changed my call to K6III. After 3 years active USN, joined USNR and went to San Jose City College for an Associates Degree in Electronic Technology. While working at Ford Aerospace, I upgraded to Extra Class. While working in England for several years (software engineering), I was active as G0CLY and did alot of operating at the club station G0FOS (and a few other special event calls, GB5DX, GB75USA, GB4JUL). I'm now retired from USNR having made it all the way to Master Chief Radioman (Submarine qualified, I might add).

I joined NCDXC 20 years ago and just stayed in the background working DX, mostly on CW. The rig is an Icom IC-751a, plus the Icom IC2-KL linear (400W) radiating from wires and a Force-12 C3 at 45 feet. As for the family, XYL Betty Ruth, 3 kids, 4 grandkids. Son is KE6WHD. Daughter is KE6TNX and Son-in-law is KQ6LQ.

*Secretary Jerry Bliss  
K6III*

Ted was first licensed in 1960 and has held his current call K6XN since 1977. He is also the trustee for two club stations in Nevada, NN7NN and N7PR. He has also held the calls VK3CXN, VP2MU, ZF2UD, V2A/K6XN and has operated portable with reciprocal licenses from G, 8P6, VP2V, VP2K, VP9 and VP2M. He is on DXCC Honor Roll and has 5BDXCC and is a Life Member of ARRL. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering and a Doctorate in Law from the University of California. Prior to becoming an attorney, he was on active duty in the U.S. Army, Signal Corps, attaining the rank of Captain. He is a graduate of the U. S. Army Ranger School and served in combat in Viet Nam in 1968 and 1969 and received several decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Viet Nam Service Medal with four campaign clusters. After Viet Nam, he resigned his commission and went to law school on the G. I. Bill. He has been an attorney at law since 1974 and is currently an officer of Tandem Computers, Inc. He is Tandem's Assistant General Consul for Intellectual Property Matters. He loves chasing DX, contesting and building contest stations and antenna arrays!!!!



**Treasurer, Ted Park  
K6XN**

Dave was first licensed as W7YBI in 1954 while an operator at HZ1AB in Saudi Arabia. He got bit by the DX bug as a result. Dave is retired Air Force through a combination of active duty and reserve. He has lived and worked in Saudi Arabia, Japan, England and American Samoa. In the 60's, Dave worked on AF missile tracking ships and operated portable from KG6, KH6, KX6 and KM6, as well as /MM. He has held K7JJ since 1996. Previous calls: W6HUQ, W7YBI, W7KJJ, K0BQE, KA2ZZ, KG6ICD (Marcus Island), KS6DY, ZL1BBA, KX6MX. Operated HZ1AB again from 1977-86 and was an officer of the Dhahran Amateur Radio Club. Trustee for AB1HZ, Former Operators of HZ1AB. Dave has not quite reached Honor Roll, but is always knocking at that door, having 316 confirmed at this time. In his previous life he was a Radio/Data Maintenance manager, but had to adapt to changes and is now a data network operations analyst and works at the NASA Internet network operations center at Moffett Field. Prior to moving to California, he worked at Boeing Computer Services in Seattle. ARRL Life Member.



**Director, Dave Earnest  
K7JJ**

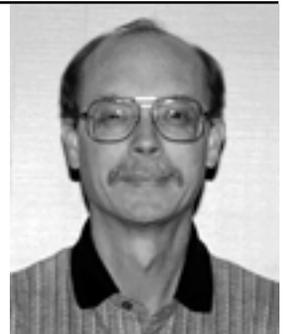
First licensed in 1930 as W6FCN along with Dave Baker W6WX who then was W6BPW. I later was W6ATR. BS in EE from UC Berkeley and MBA from Stanford. Went to work for US Steel in Pittsburg, CA, then off to the wars.

Retired from Air Force Reserve as Lt.Col. Retired from USSteel after 38 years. Hold 5BDXCC and was once at top of Honor Roll. I now need Eritrea and North Korea. Station in Lafayette has TS870 and AL1200 to KT34. Station at Railroad Flat has TS870 and AL1200 to a bunch of Force 12 antennas at 75 ft. My main interest now is 160M DX with 147 confirmed. I have served NCDXC as Treasurer, VP and President. I am pleased to serve again.



**Director, Chuck Patterson  
K6RK**

I was first licensed in 1970 as WN6PCO and upgraded within a year to WB6PCO. I received BSEET from DeVry Institute of Technology in Phoenix in 1975 and started work for GTE Government Systems (formerly Sylvania) the same year. I upgraded to Extra in 1977 and received AA6G in 1978. I joined the NCDXC in 1983 and have served twice as Director. I am an ARRL Life Member, hold 5BDXCC and DXCC Honor Roll #1 - at least until P5 came along. My station is TS-930S with AL-1200 amplifier and a KLM 7 element log periodic at 50 feet and a 2 element 40M KLM at 65 feet. My other major hobby is astrophotography.



**Director, Chuck Vaughn  
AA6G**

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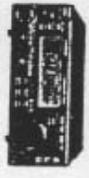


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**TM-177A** 2nd Frequency Band  
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 • 12V Car. Car. Mt. 14.1 x 1.9" x 3.2"  
 • 120db speaker (100 Watts)  
 • 200 sec. auto. scanner (TS-50S only)  
**Call Now For Low Pricing!**



**IC-715/DSP** 1st Frequency Band  
 • 100W 2-band  
 • 12V Car. Car. Mt. 14.1 x 1.9" x 3.2"  
 • 120db speaker (100 Watts)  
 • 200 sec. auto. scanner (TS-50S only)  
**Call Now For Low Pricing!**



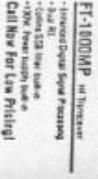
**DX-701** 1st Frequency Band  
 • 100W 2-band  
 • 12V Car. Car. Mt. 14.1 x 1.9" x 3.2"  
 • 120db speaker (100 Watts)  
 • 200 sec. auto. scanner (TS-50S only)  
**Call Now For Low Pricing!**

**YAESU**

**VX-1B**  
 • 100W 2-band  
 • 12V Car. Car. Mt. 14.1 x 1.9" x 3.2"  
 • 120db speaker (100 Watts)  
 • 200 sec. auto. scanner (TS-50S only)  
**Call Now For Low Pricing!**



**FT-50RD**  
 • 100W 2-band  
 • 12V Car. Car. Mt. 14.1 x 1.9" x 3.2"  
 • 120db speaker (100 Watts)  
 • 200 sec. auto. scanner (TS-50S only)  
**Call Now For Low Pricing!**



**FT-1000MP** 1st Frequency Band  
 • 100W 2-band  
 • 12V Car. Car. Mt. 14.1 x 1.9" x 3.2"  
 • 120db speaker (100 Watts)  
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