

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 September meeting was attended by 20 of the deserving. Hilar, N6HR, gave another sterling presentation on his summer trip to Iceland. The club really appreciates his making the trip from Washington State. His slide show was excellent. Iceland is both stark and beautiful at the same time. Those who could not attend missed a fine meeting.

For those who have stated they don't attend meetings because they are held on Friday night, the board has decided to move some future meetings to a different night from time to time. The October meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th. Our guest presenter, will be Mike Mraz, N6MZ. Mike promises to give us a terrific presentation on the recent North Cook Island expedition. Mike is traveling from Seattle to be with us, so try to make this meeting and show your appreciation for his visit.

Plans are well underway for the December Christmas Party. This is planned as a fun get together, so make plans to bring your wife, significant other, friends, grandkids and kids. There is a report on the plans elsewhere in this issue.

International DX Convention planning progresses. The annual do will be in Fresno the second weekend of April 1999. Gordon, W6NW, is handling pre-registration.

The new Board is trying very hard to accommodate all the membership. This crew is very enthusiastic and eager to make this year a successful one. It would be great if you, who don't participate right now, show up to the meetings once in awhile. Who knows? You might have a good time. Not only is the board willing to try a different week night to hold the meetings, but also move the venue - when a reasonable one is found. I made a 90 mile round trip to attend the meeting and rearranged my work schedule to attend. So, what did you say your excuse was for not attending?

I continue to request articles, photos, and other items of interest for the DXer. My job description says "editor". I am not an author or writer or entertainer. I've got a box full of photos - kids, dogs, cats, radio stuff, Arabian stuff, etc., etc. When I run out of material, I can always fill in the white space with junk that doesn't mean anything to anyone but me. How about, "My transceiver is the best there is, because...." ?

This is the oldest DX club in the world. Is it the greatest, too? As a club, we don't do contests, we don't do Field Day, most of us don't attend meetings. No wonder so many members choose to join other clubs in order to have some active participation in ham radio. I certainly don't have the answer for the lackluster attendance at meetings. On the positive side, the membership remains about the same numbers. Paying dues is a good way to support the club.

73, Dave K7JJ

Christmas Party

December 10, 1998 - Thursday
Mark your calendars now!
Details Inside.

October 15, 1998
Thursday Night!

NCDXC General Meeting
Program
Mike Mraz, N6MZ
North Cooks Expedition

Palo Alto Golf Course
Attitude Modification @ 1800
Supper @ 1900
Meeting @ 2000

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: Dick Letrich, W6KM
 Vice Pres: Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW
 Secretary: Jerry Bliss, K6III
 Treasurer: Ted Park, K6XN
 Director: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 Director: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G
 Director: Ron Panton, W6VG

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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.

President's Comments

Our Club and Hobby are constantly changing as the years pass by. The club goal is the same as it was those 50 plus yrs ago when it was formed by a dedicated group of DX oriented Amateur Radio Operators known as they are still, HAM's. However, if we do not change to meet the interests as they are perceived in 1999 and 2000 and beyond, we stand to become just as rare as the dodo bird. There are a great many who feel that CW is dead, look at the current movement to drop the code speed for ham tickets, who can argue that it is not the right thing to do? Just because most of us have had to work a little bit harder to get to our desired speed, do we also have to require the same for those who do not wish to use CW as their primary means of Hamming? My personal answer is NO. I am one that likes CW but it is not my primary means of Hamming. For those that do, it will not affect them if the new rules are passed. It is time for change and to do so is the obligation of the Club to look at itself and take inventory of where we are and where we are going. We need to seek new members to join our specific interest...DX. We have to expose our interests to other General Radio clubs. We need to RECRUIT. Associate memberships mean nothing if we do not set goals for these budding DXers. We need to assist them, advise them, help them and encourage them. They joined because they wanted to associate with DXers and become better DXers. If we do not offer them help, we fail them as well as our Club.

We must make an organized effort to once again make our club desirable to belong to for the present and the future. We need to consider changes to our current methods to accommodate the interests and needs for as many of the members as we can. That includes making provisions to encompass all of our membership in the California boundaries of our club as set forth in the Procedures Manual.

We will never please 100% of the membership, that is a given, but membership also owes back to the club some input and help beyond "just paying dues". We need participation and it is up to us to provide it by trying our best to accommodate the Club Members interests. We have to go to meetings so as to not deny the other members the right to an interesting meeting. Your current Officers, DXer Editor and the Board of Directors are attuned to your inputs and to begin with we will do everything to accommodate your wishes. We want to overcome the often voiced feelings about Friday night meetings not being practical for many. Beginning in October and until at least the end of this current elected term, we will stagger monthly meeting nights to both Thursday and Friday nights. Our next meeting will be held on a Thursday night, October 15th, and in November we will return to a Friday night followed by December on a Thursday night, etc. Surely you can now find the best night to attend, no less than 6 times a year? Again we need to establish "That Pride of Belonging." It is time for change, membership should be an asset, not only to the member, but also to the club. I am very optimistic about the future of the NCDXC. We are no planning for the entry into the next Century, for all present and future DXers to enjoy this exceptional Hobby. Do you plan to be a part of it?

Dick Letrich, W6KM

From Marilyn, N6VAW... In order for the NCDXC to attract interesting and informative programs, it is necessary to give our presenters a good audience. On Sept. 11, Hillar, N6HR, travelled from Whidbey Island in Washington State, to present a program to our membership on his trips to Iceland, operating TF3IRA - the club station there. He showed some beautiful slides and gave an interesting and informative talk there were (only) 21 members in attendance. Not a compliment to a speaker who has driven 16 hours to our meeting. What is keeping you from our meetings? Your current BoD wants to know so we can address your issues and concerns. Please write, call, or email any of; we are open for suggestions. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, at Harry's in Palo Alto. If each of you would bring a friend to listen to an extraordinary presentation on a Dxpedition to the North Cook Islands, our evening would be a richer experience for all in attendance.

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of the BOD of NCDXC - 14 Sept. 1998

Meeting called to order by the President, W6KM, at 7:30pm at the home of Director W6VG. Present were W6KM, N6VAW, K6III, AA6G, K6RK and W6VG.

The President opened with a statement that we should give something back to the membership for their dues. He suggest many ideas, such as; Membership Cards, Recognition stickers for the club badge in recognition of longevity, past officer, present officer, etc..., a gift of a quantity of NCDXC QSL cards to new members.

Also discussed was:

1. The idea of NCDXC Chapter Clubs to accommodate members who live in the NCDXC Service Area but are too far away to attend the meetings.
2. A mail-in ballot for the election of club officers and by-law changes. This is to be the subject of continuing discussion in subsequent BOD meetings.
3. The need for a new inexpensive NCDXC QSL which also advertised the CA Award.
4. Holding meetings on other than Friday nights. It was observed that the October meeting will be on a Thursday evening. November is on Friday and December (Party) is on Thursday.
5. DXpedition support:

Jim Smith Bhutan solicited contributions - It was recommended that no contribution be made from NCDXC.

Clipperton Island solicited the NCDXC to manage this DXpedition - The BOD declines to manage this but recommends we make a donation - the amount is unspecified.

6. The President and Secretary are to work on the inventory of the Club-Owned equipment and articles.
7. N6IJ Club Station - It was solicited that NCDXC should take over management of this station (at Fort Ord). The BOD declines to accept this invitation.
8. It was recommended that the DXer Editor include a Calendar of Future Events in each DXer.
9. There is a need to appoint a DX Ladder Chairman. The current chairman has resigned.

Membership is invited to contact the BOD to present their view on any and all of the subjects discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Faithfully submitted, Jerry Bliss/K6III, Secretary, NCDXC

General Meeting

NCDXC General Meeting Minutes 9/11/98

Minutes of the NCDXC regular meeting held at Palo Alto Golf Club, Friday 11 Sept. 1998.

The regular dinner was available from 7 PM.

The meeting was called to order by the President, W6KM, at 8 PM. There being 23 members and 1 guest present. Introductions were made and guest recognized. The minutes were approved as printed in the DXer.

The President announced that the next meeting will occur on a Thursday evening, 15 October at the Palo Alto Golf Club. Dinner as usual. The program will be about a recent North Cook Island DXpedition.

The President also announced the December 10 DX Club Christmas Party would be a family affair with special family entertainment. Cost for adults will be \$20 and for youth (16 and under) will be \$10. The location will be Martinelli's Steak Pit in Millbrae. More details to follow in the DXer.

The presentation for the evening featured Hillar Raamat, N6HR, and his recent Iceland operation. Many slides of the beautiful lakes, glaciers and volcano that are abundant on the island were featured. We all understood why the island was named Iceland.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Jerry Bliss, K6III, Secretary, NCDXC.

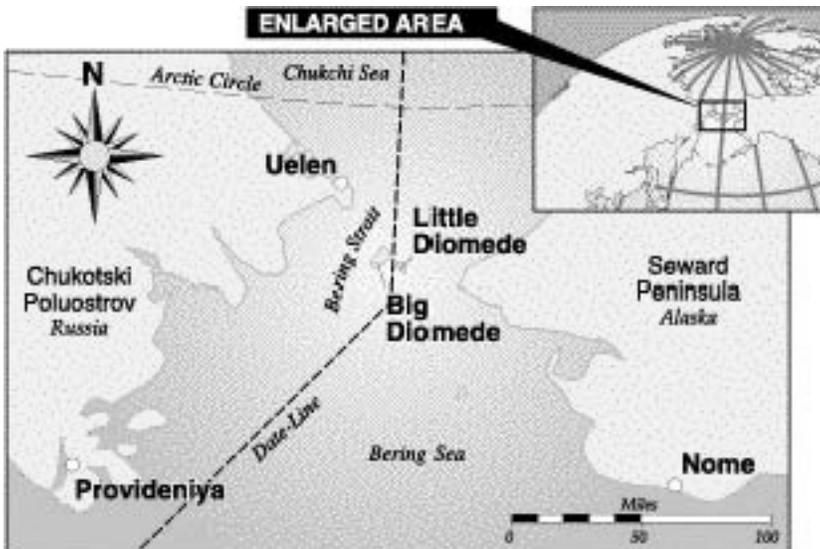
from page 2....Marilyn

Our presentor, Mike Mraz, N6MZ, was part of the DX Forum in Dayton. Please show support for this October program. Mike is also traveling a great distance to be with us.

Please let us hear from you.

Tnx es 73,
Marilyn, N6VAW
Vice President.

K6ST Activates Little Diomed (IOTA NA-150)



Little Diomed Island is located as far west as one can go in the USA. Propagation conditions from this site can be a challenge for many locations in the US. You can find the results of this expedition at "Barry's" WEB site: <http://www.netcom.com/~barryb/na150.html>

Club member K6ST teams with W6IXP/KL7 to put new IOTA NA-150 Little Diomed Island on the air.

Thanks to Bill, W6TEX, for providing this info.



Sue, Dave-K7JJ and Ahmed-HZ1HZ, Dhahran 1984

Correction

Garry, NI6T, sent me a note regarding his JT1 expedition submission in the September issue of the DXer. I had assumed Garry had worked the group on 160 meters. He really wanted to meet them on top band, but he did NOT. However, Garry did work them on 17 meters

.....Editor

Oh, the Joys of Youth - Don, AA6W

I had recently upgraded to a General Class license, after being a novice for about six months. I was 13 years old and was tuning around 20 meters one evening in March of 1978. I settled on 14.275 mhz, and tuned up my old Yaesu FT-101EE. It was early evening and I began calling CQ. Much to my amazement, I had a gentleman respond to my call: " This is Kilo Charlie four Alfa Alfa Delta" (KC4AAD). Wow! I was excited, as a newly licensed general operator, this was my first taste of real DX.

I frantically looked up his prefix in my "Beam Buddy" to find out where to point my antenna. "KC4AAD, this is WD6EPV, where are you located?" "I'm in Antarctica," the voice responded. Sure enough, my beam buddy confirmed that the beam heading for CE9 (the prefix for Antarctica) was indeed 180 degrees from my location. I began turning my beam south and his signal slowly increased in S units on my receiver.

"KC4EED this is WD6EPV. The name here is Don and my QTH is near San Francisco. Your signal is 5 by 7." Mike responded, "Hello, Don, the name here is Mike and I'm near the Ross Ice Shelf, 800 miles north of the South Pole." I was ecstatic, this was my first real DX! After further discussion, Mike informed me he was doing research for Stanford University at the Siple Station. Mike and I carried on a long QSO. After this first taste of DX, I have been hooked as a DXer ever since.

One other memorable moment was when I worked JA1WPX on CW. That was another "first" for me and I will remember that first contact forever.

I'm sure we all have "first" memorable moments that are rare (or not so rare DX). I hope everyone will enjoy this article and the photographs that accompany it. I encourage everyone to get on the bands, now that the current solar cycle is starting to shape up nicely.

Best regards for now, Don - AA6W



Mike, KC4AAD. Ross Ice Shelf, 1978



Antarctic Scene, 1978

OLDEST QSL SOUGHT

Send me the details of your oldest received QSL. I will compile the list and print it in the December issue of the DXer. Please list date and callsign that appears on the card. Send me the details via email: k7jj@garlic.com or regular mail. My mail address is listed on page 2.

Thanks, Dave K7JJ



9-Band DXCC Submissions *by John Brand, K6WC*

Wow, another year has gone by and it's time for 9-Band DXCC submissions. It's been a busy year and I almost forgot to remind you.

First, I want to tell you that two members took advantage of this year's offer to receive new plaques. These plaques were made available outside of the time frame in which they are normally presented. Hillar Raamat, N6HR and Gary Stilwell, KI6T both applied for plaques, both with a sizeable number of endorsements affixed. Congratulations to both Hillar and Gary.

There has been a slight increase in the cost of producing the basic plaque this year. Please note that the cost will rise from \$35.00 to \$36.00. Also, mailing costs have risen slightly.

Here is a brief reminder covering the rules when applying for a plaque or endorsements.

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 any one HF band since October 10, 1987. You don't need to have worked 100 countries on all 9 HF bands to receive the basic plaque.
3. Bands: 160 through 10 meters including the WARC bands.
4. Numbered tags for the plaque are issued in the following increments: 100, 150, 200, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, and 300.
5. The plaques and endorsements are award based on the honor system. After all, who is more honorable than a DXer? No QSL cards are requested or required.
6. You should use the current ARRL country list to determine what is accepted as a claimed country or not. Do not claim deleted countries.

The costs this year are as follows:

New 9BDXCC Plaque (one time)	\$36.00
Band-Country Tags (each)	1.00
Surface Mail - U.S.	6.00
Surface Mail - Foreign	8.00
Airmail - Foreign	22.00

Here is an example of how to request endorsements for your plaque. Maybe you did well on 10 meters this past year. You have never applied for 10 meter endorsements before but now you are requesting an endorsement for 250 countries. You must apply for the 100, 150, 200 and 250 tags. Do not apply for the 250 tag alone. The cost will be \$4.00. If you have applied for 10 meter endorsements before, let's say to 200, then you only need the tag for 250. The cost is \$1.00. Your plaque is designed to display each increment. Your plaque will look rather bare if you don't apply for each endorsement in turn.

Please make request to me, John Brand, K6WC, 9655 Tanglewood Circle, Orangevale, CA 95662 by December 1, 1998. 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 1999. Make checks payable (in U.S. Funds) to the NCDXC.

!CHRISTMAS PARTY!

When: December 10, 1998 (its a Thursday)

Where: Martinelli's Steak Pit
1180 El Camino Real
Milbrae

(we were here 2 years ago)

What's to Eat:

Choice of 8 oz prime rib,
Filet of Sole, or
Chicken saute sec

Includes:

Wine
Green salad, relish tray and pasta starter
Vegetables
Potato (or rice with the fish)
Cheese french bread
Coffee or tea
Ice cream

Price: \$20.00 for adults,
\$10.00, Kids under 16
Includes tax & tip.

Entertainment: a magician to astound
and amaze you!

Bring yourself, the XYL (or OM), kids, grandkids,
but to do so you **MUST** send your check along
with your entree preference(s), by December 5, to:

Doug Westover, W6JD
717 Los Robles Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

For Sale

GAP DX VIII, 80-2 meters
Asking \$225

Parts to build a 4 el Quad:
4 spiders,
16 fibreglas spreaders,
1 aluminum spreader,
30' one piece .300" boom.
\$225 or mostly would like to
trade for a heavy duty 25 amp
power supply.

Bill Schmall, WD6AFC
33266 Granite Dell Ct.
Coarsegold, CA 93614-9128

**The Pacific Division
PACIFICON'98 - Convention**

sponsored by the Mount Diablo ARC
is scheduled for Oct. 16 - 18 at the
Airport Sheraton Hotel, Concord,
CA.

For information call:
(925) 932-6125

email:
PACIFICON98@designlink.com;
or see the web site at
<http://www.mdarc.org>.

Mail reservations to:

PACIFICON'98
P. O. Box 272613,
Concord CA 94527.

Obtain hotel reservations at \$76 per
night by calling 1-800-325-3535
(mention PACIFICON'98 to get this
rate).

If you have ever been interested in a custom built desk or computer workstation, you might consider contacting one of my neighbors in Morgan Hill. I have had a couple of wonderful experiences with Jim, of Accurate Woodworks. We ordered a custom desk that houses my ham rig and computer stuff in the RV. Jim and his crew did a wonderful job and we receive rave comments from our visitors. Recently, I had Jim build me a console mount for my mobile rig (TS-440 and 2 meters) for my new pickup truck at a reasonable price.

