

DXer

N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C C L U B



Inside

MARCH 1999



NCDXC Meeting Information at the Palo Alto Hofbrau

Presenter for March 12th Meeting will be Ken Millman, Manager of the Sunnyvale HRO Store. He will have to display several new products. The new Yaesu FT-100 ultra-compact HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver, also the new Kenwood TH-D7A 144/440 MHz FM DUAL BANDER that features many state of the art innovations.

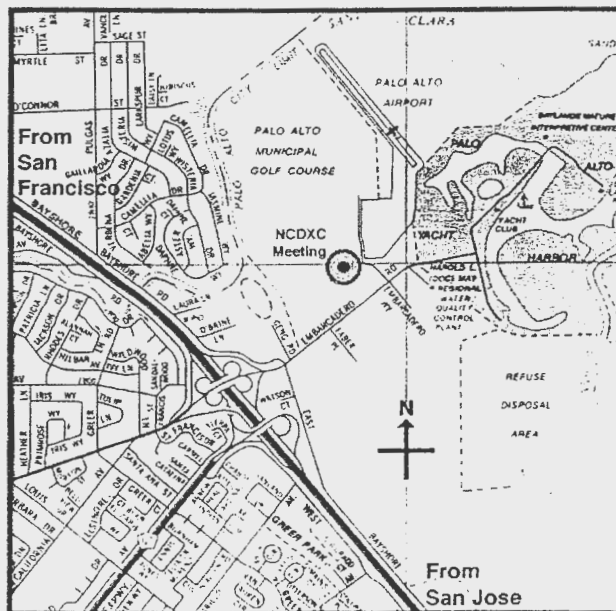
Built-in TNC
APRS/GPS mapping
& messaging.
Advanced sky
command and
11 functions.



TH-D7A
2 meters &
440 MHz w/TNC

Agenda

- Cocktails: 6:00pm
- Dinner: 7:00pm - Entres will likely be turkey and beef. Price is \$14.
- Meeting: 8:00pm



(The Palo Alto Hofbrau is formerly Harry's Hofbrau and is the NCDXC's previous meeting location.)



FT-100 HF/6M/2M/70CM Transceiver

- Compact Transceiver w/detachable front panel
- Rx 100kHz to 970mHz (cell blocked)
- Tx 100W 160-6M, 50w 2M, 20W 70CM
- Built-in DSP, Vox, CW keyer
- 300 Memories

I want to thank the many members that have been sending in short articles for the DXer. I hope to see all of them included in the future issues. I appreciate the input and want to thank Garry NI6T, Steve W6MKM and others for your support. Full size copies of the Antenna article submitted by Chuck K6RK can be obtained by sending me an SASE. Special thanks also to Bob NQ6X for making suggestions to give more details on the meetings each month.....TNX es 73 Dick W6KM

MARCH 1999

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 Pantone, W6VG

The DXer:

Editor:

DXer Editor Needed Now!
Please don't trample each other,
rushing to fill this most
important position!
Call or e-mail Dick, W6KM

Printing, Mailing: Don Anastacia, AA6W

Web Page: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G

<http://www.ncdxc.org>

DX Ladder: John Kelly, KG6XF

9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Ruben Hughes, WA6AHF

Historian/archivist: Ron Pantone, W6VG

Records Manager: Ron Pantone, W6VG

Publications Mgr: Ron Pantone, W6VG

Club Repeater, W6TIR

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Comm. Chairman: Eric Swartz, 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

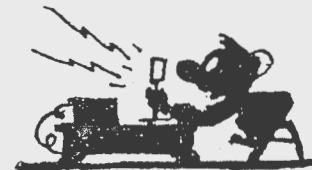
W6TI DX Bulletins:

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



Here it is already March! Where does all the time go? The convention is only a few weeks away and looks to be an excellent 50 year celebration of Ham Radio. If you lost last months Dixer you can find all the details in this issue. I wish that I could print a list of all of the speakers and events but they are still in the last stages of being formalized. I can promise you an excellent turn out and the prizes are fantastic. Lets hope that one of you will make off with the loot! Quite a good line up of Vendors to show off their wares also. Parking as mentioned in past Dixer's is under control. George Allan, W6YD and his crew have it well under control and have only one more convention meeting planned before the final wrap-up.

Since the membership is reluctant to attend our meetings we are going to attempt to move to a site that does not require a fee if dinners are not purchased. The wheels are in motion to start this new approach for the May meeting. That means we will have to chow down prior to attending, I really feel that this will be a better way to serve the membership. Details on this as soon as it is firmed up. If this approach does not seem to work...I will suggest that we go to a quarterly meeting. (4 times a year). I have to tell you that you should look at the ROSTER ADDRESSES and you will see that the largest majority of the membership lives right in the local Bay Area and I have been a member for over 20 years and can only remember meeting about 1/3 of them. So we will (as long as I am in office) try and find the magic combination.

Bands are getting better all the time (must be an echo as I said that before), and with the addition of a new country in Palestine, there is every reason for you to turn the rig back on and burn out the spiders and cob webs! In fact even Charlie has risen from the dead, thanks to John Cronin, K6LLK. I had been asked by several members to see what could be done to revive Charlie. When I talked to John he felt that it was a hopeless task as it has a chip in it that is no longer manufactured and he did not think that he could locate another. He also said that the company that made Charlie was out of business so no chance to get any future help. He also said that if we bought a used unit that it might not last very long and would not be a wise choice. So for all of you members that can't live without Charlie, count your blessings and hope that it will not bite the dust soon.

I am happy to report that the CLUB QSL CARDS are now available again. You should find more details here in the Dxe along with the information for ordering the cards themselves. I would like someone to take over the task of getting the cards printed, the printer that is doing them has priced them fairly and from this point on should respond pretty fast. He is in the South San Jose Area so anyone who volunteers should be close by this area to make it easy for his or herself. I will assist in shipping the cards if that is any help.

I have announced that the Board of Directors will have an important meeting in May so if you have anything that you feel would improve the club, put it in writing and send it to me. Email is OK also just be sure and identify what it is in the heading, cause if I think its Spam or Porno it gets deleted without even being opened. Any member can attend, but we need notice prior and what if any subject he/she will present.

Please review your busy schedule to see if you can squeeze the time to attend the next club meeting on Friday, March 12th at the Palo Alto Golf Club house. Since many have not attended in a long time feel free to go to the club website and print out the map again the site is at <http://www.ncdxc.org/>

Dick Letrich, W6KM

CLUB QSL CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

Now accepting orders for NCDXC QSL CARDS. The club now has a stock of QSL cards and we are ready to take your order.

Cost is \$65 per thousand and your overprint of call sign and address information is only \$25. Minimum order is for 500 and it carries the same \$25 imprint fee. Tax and shipping is additional. Shipping is via Priority Mail and is fast. You can have 4 lines for name address and can add county and grid square numbers. Contact Dick Letrich at roster numbers or via email DLW6KM@AOL.COM The card is of the same view of the Golden Gate from the Marin Headlands... a beautiful color card with the normal back information.



Minutes of the NCDXC, 11 February 1999

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm by the President, Dick Letrich, W6KM. There were 15 members present.

Gordon Girton, W6NW, announced that Ted Park, K6XN, was in hospital in Houston, TX, suffering from a severe infection in his lungs. He should be released from hospital and return to his home, soon. A Get Well card was pass around for signatures and was sent to K6XN.

President Dick Letrich, W6KM, introduced Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ (who is also our Repeater Chairman), Eric presented a slide program and technical presentation on the Elecraft HF radio kit. The basic cost of the kit is about \$550 (and more with several options available). Elecraft is shipping now with about a 2-week delivery. See the Elecraft web site:

<http://www.elecraft.com>. Eric can be reached by email at erics@elecraft.com.

A short business meeting followed.

President Dick Letrich, W6KM, announced that the new NCDXC QSL cards will be available early next week. He is accepting orders now. Cost is \$65/1000 or \$32.50/500. In addition, there is a \$25/1000 charge to print your call on the card. See Dick for more details.

The January minutes approved as printed in the Dxer.

A Second Reading for Regular membership for Roger Miller, AC6BW, was postponed since neither of his sponsors were present and a quorum of members was not present.

A report on the International DX Convention (Fresno) was presented by George Allen, W6YD. The program is pretty well set which includes: IOTA, DXpedition from 3B7RF, H40AA & BV9, DXAC forum. The banquet program will be the 6Y2A DXpedition; Breakfast program will be XZ1N DXpedition. Parking for registered guests and RVs is available on the hotel grounds. Security is provided. Other parking is available at the Convention parking lot, near by. Registration form is available on web site:

<http://www.amateur-radio.org>.

Dxer of the Year is chaired by Glenn Venson, W6OTC. Contact him with your nominations.

The repeater's robot voice 'Charlie' is back on line, thanks to John Cronin, K6LLK.

The President reiterated the need for someone to step up as Editor for the Dxer.

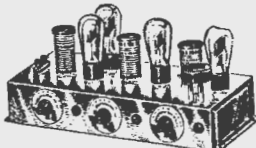
A nomination committee has been set up for NCDXC officers for next term. Co-Chairmen are Dewey Churchill, KG6AM and Ted Algren, KA6W. Contact them with your nominations or present yourself as a candidate for office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Faithfully submitted,
Jerry Bliss, K6iii
Secretary, NCDXC

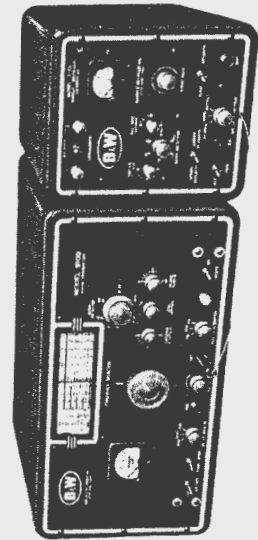
TYPICAL GROSS VALUES!!

THE NEW "20-W JR." Crystal Controlled Transmitter Kit, \$10.95



This efficient little transmitter is very low priced, making it possible for anyone to use crystal control at less than it would cost you to get the parts together for a self excited rig of this type. The "20-W Jr." is simple to wire and get on the air and the most inexperienced operator will have success with it. The size of the transmitter is only 6" x 17" and is therefore suitable for portable use. Only one milliammeter is required for tuning the transmitter and jacks are provided for this purpose, for each stage. The plug-in crystal holder is supplied with the kit at no additional cost. The "20-W Jr." uses one 47 ac crystal oscillator, one 46 ac buffer or doubler and two 46's in the amplifier. One set of three coils is supplied with the kit for either 20, 40, or 80 meters, 50 cents extra for the set of 100 meter coils. When ordering mention your choice of coils.
88 or 100 meter X cut crystals supplied for only \$2.75 if purchased with the "20-W Jr." kit. Hoyt milliammeter if purchased with the kit, only \$1.25.
Power Supply Kit, \$4.95.

B&W PRODUCTS of the YEAR



**Model 5100 Transmitter
with Model 51SB Single
Sideband Generator**

— 150 watts peak envelope power input (100 watts peak envelope power output) on SSB, 150 watts on CW, 135 watts on AM phone; VFO or crystal operation; pi-network final and — you've got a rig guaranteed to flutter the heart of the most critical operator. The 51SB comes complete — factory wired and tested — with all tubes and components ready to bolt right onto the transmitter cabinet. This combination provides a superlative driver for any high-powered linear amplifier.

Here is really sparkling performance on SSB, AM phone, or CW. Teamed up with the famous 5100 Transmitter, the new B&W Single Sideband Generator gives you outstanding SSB operation on all frequencies covered in the 5100. Tuning and operation are a breeze. No test equipment is required. And you get extras as voice operated and push-to-talk, speaker deactivating circuit, TVI suppression, and unitized construction. Combine this generator with the features of the Model 5100





CONVENTION MEETING

*50th Annual
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April 9, 10 & 11, 1999

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center

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2233 Ventura Street,

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Special DX Related Programs, plus

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First 600 Registrants Will Receive a Special Commemorative Coffee Cup

Pre-Registration before March 27, 1999 \$ 60.00

Registration after March 27, 1999 \$ 65.00

Non-Amateur Registration (XYL or OM) \$ 35.00



CUP IS BLUE & GOLD!



**REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN
GORDON W6NW**

Pre-Registration Form

International DX Convention (Fresno) April 9-11, 1999

Banquet Meal Choice(s):

C = Chicken, P = Prime Rib, S = Salmon (Circle Below)

Meal

Name _____ Call _____ C P S

Name _____ Call _____ C P S

Name _____ Call _____ C P S

Name _____ Call _____ C P S

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country, USA or ? _____

Email address: _____ @ _____

Pre-Registration, Post Marked by 3-27-99, \$60.00 per person. — \$ _____

Non-Amateur: Dinner & Breakfast only, \$35.00 per person — \$ _____

Total — \$ _____

After 3-27-99 or at the Convention = \$65.00. — Your Check # _____

Make check payable to: (NCDXC Convention 99.) —No cash please.

Mall this Form and payment to:

NCDXC, PO Box 60307, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0307

Convention Location: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center,

(Formerly the Holiday Inn Center Plaza)

2233 Ventura St, Fresno, CA

Tel. 209-268-1000

COAXIAL RADIALS

CREDIT PAUL MASON WA6EUZ FOR DEVELOPING COAXIAL RADIALS. PAUL KEPT TRYING TO IMPROVE HIS 160M SIGNAL FROM A SMALL CITY LOT. HE KEPT VERY ACCURATE RECORDS OF THE CROSS TOWN SIGNAL STRENGTH. HE USED A TOP LOADED VERTICAL SITTING ON INSULATORS. WHEN HE USED QUARTER WAVE RADIALS CUT TO FORMULA LENGTH, HE NOTED THAT THE SYSTEM RESONANCE WAS MUCH LOWER THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN. HE REASONED THAT CAPACITY TO GROUND WAS THE CAUSE OF THIS. AFTER RAISING THE RADIALS OFF THE GROUND USING APPLE BOXES ETC, THE RESONANCE RETURNED TO WHERE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN- UNTIL IT RAINED, THEN THE FREQ WOULD AGAIN GO LOW. I'M NOT SURE WHAT LED HIM TO THE IDEA OF USING QUARTER WAVE TRAPS MADE OF COAX AS RADIALS, BUT HE TRIED IT AND IT WORKED. IN FACT HIS SIGNAL OUT OF RICHMOND WAS OUTSTANDING.

THE RADIALS CAN BE MADE OF ANY SORT OF COAX INCLUDING RG8, RG57, RG59 OR EVEN OLD TV CABLE. BECAUSE OF THE VELOCITY OF PROPAGATION, THE RADIALS WILL BE SOME WHERE AROUND 90 FT IN LENGTH. THE RADIALS SHOULD BE CUT TOO LONG AND TRIMMED TO RESONANCE USING A DIP METER OR IMPEDANCE BRIDGE. THE FOLLOWING FORMULA GIVES THE LENGTH.

$$L_{FT} = \frac{462}{f} \times \frac{1}{2} \times v \quad v = \text{VEL FACTOR EG } .7c$$

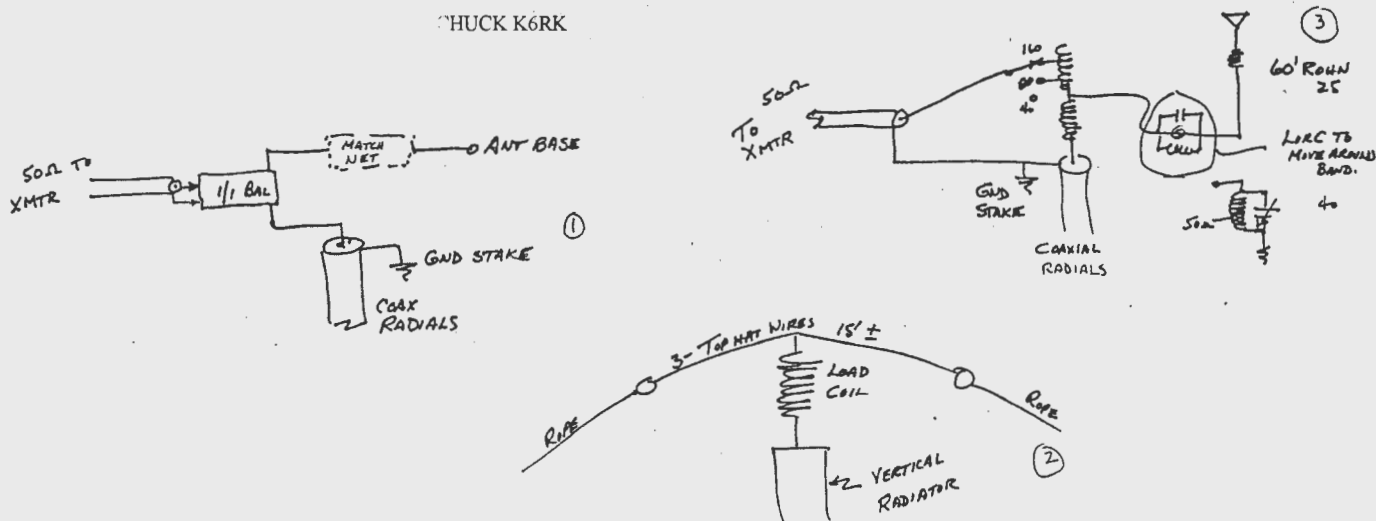
THE FAR END OF EACH RADIAL IS OPEN. THE ENDS ARE SEALED AGAINST WATER. THE RADIALS CAN BE STRAIGHT, BENT OR CURVED AROUND CORNERS ETC. ONE WILL WORK, TWO IS BETTER AND MORE UP TO TO TEN IS EVEN BETTER.

THE ATTACHED SKETCH (1) SHOWS HOW THE VERTICAL TOP LOADED RADIATOR IS CONNECTED TO THE FEED LINE AND RADIALS. THE MATCHING NETWORK CAN BE AN L NETWORK OR THE BALUN AND THE NETWORK CAN BE COMBINED AS A TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER MATCHING 50 OHMS TO ABOUT 27 OHMS. (2) SHOWS ONE WAY OF TOP LOADING A 60 FT VERTICAL RADIATOR. THE LOADING COIL WILL BE ABOUT 90 UH DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE TOP HAT.

AT RRFLAT I HAVE 60 FT OF ROHN 25 SITTING ON INSULATORS. IT IS TOP LOADED WITH A 90 UH COIL AND ABOVE THAT A TOP HAT MADE OF FOUR CB WHIPS STICKING OUT HORIZONTALLY. VARY THE LOADING COIL OR THE TOP HAT TO RESONATE THE TOWER TO 1830 KHZ FOR EXAMPLE. (3) SHOWS THE SWITCHING SYSTEM AT THE BASE OF THE TOWER. A SMALL SERIES L OR C AT THE BASE CAN BE USED TO MOVE AROUND THE BAND. THIS SYSTEM WILL ALSO WORK AS A QUARTER WAVE ON 80 M AND A HALF WAVE ON 40 M. THE BASE IMPEDANCE IS ABOUT 27 OHMS ON 160 AND 30 OHMS ON 80 M. I HAVE ABOUT TEN COAX RADIALS CUT FOR 160M, SIX FOR 80M AND FOUR FOR 40M. TIE ALL THE SHIELDS TOGETHER AND TIE ALL THE CENTER CONDUCTORS TOGETHER. THE 160/80 FEED USES A BIFILAR TAPPED TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER. THE 40M FEED USES A PARALLEL TUNED CIRCUIT WITH A 50 OHM TAP ON THE COIL. THE COUPLING DEVICES ETC ARE SWITCHED IN AND OUT WITH RELAYS. I USE SMALL RJ1A VACUUM RELAYS.

I'M NOT SURE HOW THE COAXIAL RADIALS WORK. SOME PEOPLE INSIST THAT THEY CAN'T WORK! THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING! THEY DO WORK! TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT. THESE IDEAS ARE APPLICABLE TO INVERTED ELLS TRAPS VERTICALS ETC. ANY ANTENNA THAT NEEDS RADIALS TO FUNCTION.

CHUCK K6RK



DXer of the Year Nominations are now being accepted. Chairman this year is Glenn Vinson, W6OTC and you should send to him at his Roster address any nominees for that award. Deadline is March 15th, but do not wait until the last minute to make your nomination.

**TO
OMUC
HDXINGCANB
edangeroustoy
ourfamilylifeandhealth**

RRFLAT TOP LOAD. VERTICAL



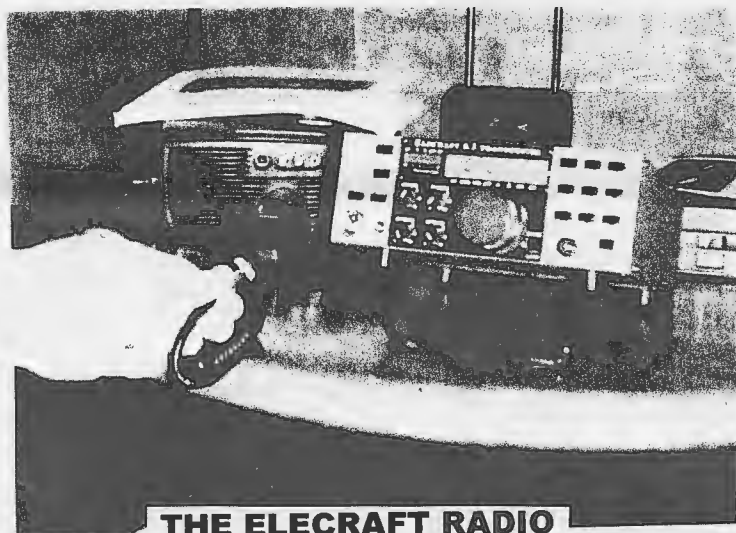
STAN "THE MAN"



PRESENTER ERIC WA6HHQ



LLOYD AA6T



THE ELECRRAFT RADIO



JIM KA6DXY & CHUCK K6RK



JERRY AI6L

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- 5w. 2m, 5.5w. UHF @ 13 & VDC
- Alphanumeric Display
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- 50W/25W - 280 Memos - Visual Scan
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- 100W 6 Meters
- 20W 2 Meters
- Slots for two optional filters

Call For Low Pricing!



IC-775/DSP HF Transceiver

- 200W HF Transceiver - 101 memories
- DSP built-in - Digital noise reduction
- Digital automatic notch - Digital LPF and HPF
- DSP, Digital CW filter - Built-in AC supply
- Twin PBT - Dual watch

Call Now For The Ultimate Radio!

ALINCO



DJ-S41T/DJ-S11T

- 440 Tiny HT 2m/440
- 340 mW
- 21 memories
- Uses 3 AA Batteries
- Encode built-in
- Pivotal antenna
- Less than 5" high, and 2 1/4" wide (DJ-S41T)

Call For Low Pricing!

(DJ-S41T shown)



DX-70T HF Transceiver

- 100W 160-10 Mtrs - 10W 6M Gencov Rx
- Full QSK, 100 Memos - Compact, Removable
- Dual VFO, 12VDC - 6.2 lbs.
- 100W/6M DX-70T Now Available!

YAESU

VX-1R

- 2M/440 Sub-Mem HT
- 280 Memory Channels
- 5W output
- Receives 76-999mHz plus AM BC9 (Call Band Blocked)
- Lithium Ion Battery

Call Now For
Your Low Price!



FT-5DRD

- 2M/440mHz Compact HT
- DFR Decode Paging Built-in
- Alpha numeric display
- Wide Band receive
- Battery Saver
- 112 Memories
- Mid-Spec
- HiSpeed scanning

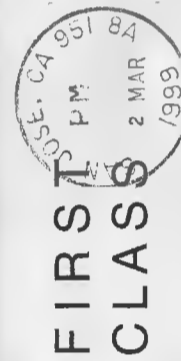
Call For
Your Low
Pricing!



FT-1000MP HF Transceiver

- Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
- Dual RX
- Collins SSB filter built-in
- 100W Power Supply built-in

Call Now For Low Pricing!



DXer

P. O. B O X 6 0 8
M E N L O P A R K, C A
9 4 0 2 6 - 0 6 0 8 U S A



W6TI

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PO Box 608
Menlo Park
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MARCH 1999