

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

For those of you who were unable to attend the NCDXC Picnic last month, you really missed a good time. Heck, I saw faces there that I haven't seen in many years. Look through this issue of the DXer and you will see some of them. I have to tell you, Dick, W6KM and Bill, WB6JJJ did a FB JOB with all of the cooking. Dick was, also, ably assisted by his lovely XYL, Pat, who did most of the pre-cooking and even baked up a delicious batch of cupcakes for the deserving. Jim Sheley selected a beautiful spot for the event. And, we were ALL blessed by the Man Upstairs, Who gave us a gorgeous day to enjoy it all. What a NICE EVENT this was.

As most of you already know;

There will be NO General Meeting this Month!!

Just don't want you to miss it. Hi, Hi! But, seriously, the General Meetings will resume in September. And those of us in the Bay area just do not appreciate how fortunate we are to have access to the local repeater, the Thursday Night Net and, yes, to Club Meetings. To wit., last month I received a postcard from K5YY, San Hutson in Springdale, AR. San writes;

"Just wanted to re-express how much I enjoy The "DXer" each month. Have been an Honorary Member for 16 years now, and I look forward to the NCDXC news and DX standings. Just retired last month and looking forward to starting the DXpedition trail again in early 2000. Compared to the old days of DXing, spots to activate are hard to assess as to needs of the DXing majority. In other ways, 1958 seems like just yesterday! Hi. Best 73 to all - San K5YY"

Which really brings me to the point. If the DXer is to be meaningful, it should be chocked full of interesting stories and timely news. That's where your help is needed. Please, help us keep our remote members informed of what is going on in both the DX World and in the NCDXC. In many cases, this publication is their media for getting news about the Club. Please don't be concerned about being (or not being) a literary giant. I'm not, nor are most of the members of our club. And San and others like him, will read what you have to say with great interest. So, please, send me your news articles and stories. I promise you, they will make interesting reading for **all** of our members.

73, George, W6YD

Inside

President's Comments.. Pg 2.

Gen'l Meeting Minutes. Pg 3.

99 IDXC Report..... Pg 3.

Silent Keys..... Pg 3.

Y2K Check - No Joke.... Pg 4.

NI6T Remembers

WA6AHF..... Pg 4.

Picnic Pictures..... Pgs 5-7

**DUES
ARE DUE!!**

August, 1999

No General Meeting!

September 10, 1999

**Bruce Butler, W6OSP
Will talk on the H40AA,
Temotu Island DXpedition.**

October 8, 1999

**Garry Shapiro, NI6T
Will talk on the Rodriguez
Island DXpedition.**

**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: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 Secretary: Bill Fontes, W6TEX
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 Director: Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW
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9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX

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: Net Control Operator

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

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President's Comments



How is your summer going? The dad-gum bands are doing their usual summer thing. Good one minute —poor the next! But maybe you're too busy enjoying the warm weather and getting your vacation in. I am happy to report that the club picnic was well attended. So much so, that I have been encouraged by many to reestablish it again as a yearly ritual. The weather was excellent as the heat wave broke a few days earlier. The DX Gods decided to give the DX club a break. There should be pictures of the happy picnickers elsewhere in the *DXer* to see what you may have missed. We had members come from all over. The PLEASANTON area is centrally located for most of the Northern California area, however I really did expect a few more members from the Central and Sacramento Valley to attend, as we held the picnic in PLEASANTON to make it easier specifically for them to drive to. Maybe next year, after they read of how much fun we had, they may plan on attending. We had lots of room and lots of tables. Jim Sheley, KA6DXY picked a really nice place to hold the picnic.....Thanks, JIM.

We were also very pleased to receive and vote in new members DICK ZUTTERMEISTER, N6TNX and his wife SHIRLEY, N6TNW. Also voted in was KAY ANDERSON who has the neat call sign of K6KAY! She is the wife of longtime member Ken, K6DB. Welcome. QSL cards have been checked and approved, to sprint JON ZWEIG, AD6FX to full membership. Congratulations to all of you. Right behind them are several Associate Members who are victims of slow QSL responses, but they are sniffing victory and charging ahead. Keep up the fight!

Our SWAP-SHOP net controller, BEN DEOVLET, W6FDU is going through a series of medical procedures to repair damaged body joints. (I know a couple of good body and paint shops that are a lot cheaper.) He will return to his post in a short time to resume the swap shop duties. We all wish you a speedy and complete recovery, Ben.

Speaking of the Thursday night club meetings on 2 Meters; it is really a good way to keep informed of club activities. And of course, as a bonus, you can enjoy Ben with the swap shop and maybe pick up a good used rig or antenna or even move out some items in your shack that you no longer use....try it. The price is right. With the increased number of computers in the Ham Shacks, it opens up a world of DX information, hence the more compact DX segment to announce DXpeditions. But current and late breaking information is generally passed on. MAC MCHENRY, W6BSY is a fixture in the QSL INFORMATION slot. He rarely misses being on the net and is a golden source of QSL information and routes. The club provides him with the latest CD DX information, a small price to pay for such devoted duty. Thanks, Mac from all of us.

As mentioned before, we will not be holding a formal August Meeting, but will resume charging into our new club year with just outstanding programs. Vice President, and Past President CHUCK PATTERSON, K6RK has lots of excellent programs lined up for you. This is the last month to pay your dues and make it into the new Roster. Full and Associate membership is \$24, Absentee members are \$16. To quote from the BYLAWS & PROCEDURES MANUAL, "*August will be a grace period and non-paid members will be dropped from club membership September 1st.*" Please get the dues in on time. An accurate roster is really important. I hope that we will see you in September meeting at the American Legion to share a special program presented by member BRUCE BUTLER, W6OSP.

73, Dick Letrich, W6KM

General Meeting

July 17th Picnic meeting minutes.

Approximately 40 attendees at the picnic. All well fed and enjoyable weather.

Short business meeting (2pm) was held and 3 new NCDXC members were elected to our club.

Shirley (N6TNW) & Charles Zuttermeister (N6TNX) both Extra Class operators.
Their address: 10519 Thompson Way, Valley Springs, CA 95250.
Tel. No. 209-786-2231. E-mail tnwtvx@caltel.com

Also,
Kay Anderson (K6KAY) Tech Plus, XYL of long time member Ken Anderson, K6DB.
Kay's address: Box 853 Pinegrove, CA 95665
Tel. No. 209-296-5577. E-mail koa@volcano.net.

Change of address for Bob Artigo, KN6J
2085 Humphrey, Penryn, CA. 95663
Tel. No. 916-663-0406

Adjournment approx 3pm

Bill Fontes, W6TEX

Secretary, NCDXC

International DX Convention Report

Now that all accounts have been settled and the results are in, it appears that the 1999 International DX Convention has netted the Club, just short of \$3000.00. Specifically, \$2997.47. Please, look for a complete financial report in the September issue of the DXer.

Our Convention planning was based on total registrations of 600. Patches, Mugs and Convention Program printing was based upon those figures. Since the actual attendance (approximately 525) fell significantly short of our anticipations, we sustained some major losses in those areas. I still have questions about why the attendance fall-off occurred. Was it a protest and resulting boycott because of the site? Were the shortfall numbers similar in both Clubs? Could it have been due to the advertising methods we chose?

One other concern is; the MAJOR expense of the social hours. In Visalia, we are permitted to host our own bar, use our own people for bartenders and pour our own libations. In Fresno, we MUST use the hotel's bartenders and pay at a set rate for each person attending the function. That is the purpose of the drink tickets; to count noses for paying the bar tab. This is significantly more costly.

These are questions to which we MUST find answers, prior to hosting IDXC 2001 and deciding where to hold it (Fresno or Visalia?). Therefore, in the near future, I will be soliciting your input to assist us in making this decision.

Look for more next month.

George, W6YD
Convention Chairman

Silent Keys

It is with great sorrow and regret that we note the passing of the following DXers;

Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF

A long time ham and stalwart DXer, Rubin had "worked them all". He became a member of the NCDXC in May of 1967 and built a rather enviable country count.

In 1979, he took part in a DXpedition to Niue Island and was later honored by being named the NCDXC DXer of the Year.

Rubin was active in YASME and for many years, he and his departed wife, Ferne, did MOST of the QSL'ing for the Yasme Foundation. Since he ran his own printing business, he supplied most of the QSL's for the foundation, as well. He ALSO provided the confirmation QSL cards for the NCDXC hostings of the International DX Convention until 1995, when failing health forced him to close his printing business.

Having worked them all, Rubin recently turned to the challenge of RTTY DXing, where he again built up an enviable country count... 272 confirmed on RTTY!! And more recently, he could occasionally be heard on the repeater calling out a CW operation. I wonder...

We will miss you, Rubin. 73, OM.

Martin Oppenheimer, K7MJO (Formerly KB6BW)

Former NCDXC Member, Martin J. Oppenheimer passed away of natural causes on July 26th. He was 57 years of age.

Martin joined the Club in March of 1979, but moved to Tempe, AZ several years ago. He did, however, maintain his contact with the Bay area by keeping a regular schedule with some of the Local Hams. He had, only recently, paid a visit to the area.

Martin spent time in the U.S. Army and acquired the skills that made him a fine technician.

73, Martin. We will miss you.

Y2K Check -No Joke

The following "goody" comes from the internet. We thought it would be interesting to those of us who run Windows. Ed.

Subject: CHECK YOUR COMPUTER FOR Y2K—NO JOKE

In a message dated 7/31/99 4:47:12 AM Pacific Daylight Time, KD4XYL writes:

For those of you running Windows, this is a fix for a small Y2K problem almost everyone should do...

After running this quick little test, much to my surprise, I learned that my computer would have failed on 01-01-2000 due to a computer clock glitch. Fortunately, a quick fix is provided, should your computer fail the test.

I submit the following for your consideration:

TEST

Double click on "My Computer".
Double click on "Control Panel".
Double click on "Regional Settings" icon.

Click on the "Date" tab at the top of the page. Where it says, "Short Date Sample", look and see if it shows a "two digit" year. Of course it does. That's the default setting for Windows 95, Windows 98 and NT. This date RIGHT HERE, is the date that feeds application software and WILL NOT rollover in the year 2000.

It will roll over to 00.

Click on the button across from "Short Date Style" and select the option that shows, mm/dd/yyyy. (Be sure your selection has four Y's showing, not two) Then click on "Apply" and then click on "OK" at the bottom.

Easy enough to fix. However, every single installation of Windows worldwide is defaulted to fail Y2K rollover.

Please feel free to pass this on to your friends and associates.

NI6T Remembers WA6AHF

The following anecdote from NI6T was gleaned from the Internet. Since this is a fitting tribute to Ruben, I deemed it appropriate to also share it with those who are restricted to this medium. Ed.

All:

I just learned about (WA6AHF) Ruben's passing from a message relayed from Ken, K6DB to Mac, W6BSY.

Although Ruben's failing health was known to his friends, as was his tragic loss of XYL, Ferne several years ago, the death of a friend is always a shock. Ruben's many years of service to NCDXC are well remembered. He was a true DX character and those of us who knew him will miss him.

I think some Ruben stories are in order here. And I know W6TEX remembers this one.

Ruben Goes to 30 Meters.

Everyone knows Ruben was not a great CW aficionado, and also that he was a RTTY maniac in recent years - reputedly with considerable power. When VP8SGP on South Georgia was active in 1995, Ruben and the rest of us with RTTY leanings waited for them to show on that mode. But there was no RTTY for the first week of the operation. That was less of a concern to me than to Ruben - I was sucking them up on 160 and other needed places--but Ruben was getting almost surly about it.

When VP8SGP finally appeared on RTTY, it was on 30 meters! This was, of course, unheard of -- DXpedition RTTY is ALWAYS done first on 20 and/or 15 meters and NEVER on the WARC bands. So there we were, posting and working the RTTY op on 10 MHz and Ruben was whining on 2 meters about not having a 30m antenna - only his tribander. "Ruben," I said, "load up your tribander on 30m. It will work. Ruben protested that he was afraid he would blow it out. "Ruben, you don't need 3 kW on 30m, I said. "Just try it barefoot. Hardly anybody has more than a dipole on that band." Ruben grumbled and bitched -- and finally tuned up on 30m.

Naturally, he got through right away. But, if I recall correctly, he did not hear the comeback doubling, I think. So he called again. Bill can verify this, but I think he worked the poor guy on SGI three times before he was satisfied he had a QSO. I think the rest of us laughed ourselves sick.

73, Ruben - it was nice knowing you, OM.

Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Picnic Pictures



Picnic Pictures (continued)



Picnic Pictures (continued)



