

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



DXer Profile: W6TWO, Rolph Stoddard

(See Story on Page 6)

Hustler Antenna on "Mobile TWO"



Terradyne Log Periodic at 50 ft



The Main Operating Position at W6TWO being manned by W6TWO



Rigs:

Ten-Tec Paragon driving a Collins 30L1 Linear.

Kenwood TS-50 in Mobile TWO"



Interior Layout of "Mobile TWO"

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General Meeting November 12, 1999

**American Legion Post 105,
651 El Camino Real,
Redwood City**

Program

**Ron Skelton, W6WO
"Colonies and Call Signs"**

**NO DINNER
Social Hour 7:00 P.M.
Meeting at 8:00 P.M.**

**Directions to the Meeting
(See Map on Page 5)
From the North or South:**

Take the Woodside Road exit west off Highway 101 and turn right on El Camino. Drive about half a mile to 651 El Camino (on the right).

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
 Treasurer: Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ
 Director: Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW
 Director: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Director: Don Anastasia, AA6W

The DXer:

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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 come Mother Nature is playing "Trick or Treat" with the bands? Is she holding back to "Let it all hang out" later? Well, I sure hope so! All in all, there is DX to be found, but it only seems to come in spurts. As I write this I have been searching for club members Rich, W6UDS and Marilyn, N6VAW who should be on from FIJI as 3D2UD (Rich) and 3D2VW (Marilyn). I have not heard them or have I heard them announced. However, several 3D2'S have been heard. I know they hoped to work and earn the CALIFORNIA AWARD. Sure hope they make it. Considering this sun spot cycle is well below the last two at this date and time, all we can hope for is a real burst to finish off the next few years.

Elsewhere, you will see that we have had our Board of Directors Meeting, which went quite fast and smooth. I think that it is a reflection on how well all of your Officers and Directors are pulling together.

Hey! I sent in my money for the Christmas Party. Please send yours in ASAP if you are planning to attend, as it will help us to arrange a lot of the Prizes etc. I can hear those Christmas Bells already.

If the pictures of the October meeting are a bit lacking in quantity and quality, you can blame that on me and my big thumbs. It seems that I accidentally punched off the Flash Button setting. The pictures were taken without the benefit of flash. Sorry.

Garry, NI6T gave a fine presentation as expected, and no one went away disappointed. We were proud to present the TROSTER AWARD to him for his effort. Also the TROSTER AWARD was made to our Director, Ron, W6VG for his continued behind the scenes work on behalf of the NCDXC for so many years. Ron has held every office the club has to offer and in some cases held them several times. When not an elected officer, he has continued to work for the club and is truly deserving of the Award. Thanks from all of us in the club, Ron.

Have you tried out our new meeting place yet? Attendance has been good and many of the members are enjoying a pre-meeting and dinner at Rusty's Pizza Shop (Give Pizza a Chance) just around the corner.

Check the information on the November meeting presentation, it should be GREAT. Lots of years of Hamming to hear about. Hope to see you there.

73 Dick, W6KM



General Meeting

NCDXC meeting minutes Oct. 8th, 1999
American Legion Hall, Redwood City

The meeting was called to order at 8pm by President, Dick Letrich, W6KM. Approximately 30 members and three guests, K6MIG, K6KL & KM6IU were in attendance.

W6KM followed with introductions and presented N6NU, Andreas Junge with his full member certificate. Reinstatement for KG6S was approved by the membership. K6MIG applied for full membership and was approved by the members present.

KG6S, Terry N. Wilkins (Terry)
13510 Bonnet Way
Saratoga, CA. 95070
HP 408-867-3464 BP 408-822-2233
Fax 408-822-2203
E-Mail @netgate.net
Extra Class

K6MIG, Miguela Lewis (Gilly)
P.O. Box 1241
Boulder Creek, CA. 95006-1241
HP 831-338-7214
E-Mail kengilly@cruzio.com
General Class

K6RK, Chuck Patterson introduced the guest speaker Garry, NI6T who gave a fine presentation of the Rodrigues Island DX-pedition. Dick, W6KM presented Garry, NI6T the "Troster Award" for his past and present contributions to the club. Also presented the "Troster Award" was Ron, W6VG for his various contributions to the club.

W6CS, Smitty has taken the task of repeater committee chairman upon the resignation of Eric, W6HHQ.

General discussion regarding home made QSL cards; E44; W6RGG, Vice Director; ZK3DX/ZK3CW operation and also; a request for a board meeting by Chuck Patterson, K6RK. Dick, W6KM noted a board meeting will be held before the next regular meeting.

WRTC 2000 was discussed with positive feedback from all who attended the last WRTC bash. Donations for the upcoming event can be forwarded to Carl Cook, AI6V if under \$250.00. Donations of \$250.00 and above can be sent to the No. California DX Foundation (NCDXF).

Club members, W6UDS, Rich and N6VAW, Marilyn said they will be on the air from Kadavu Island (Fiji) as 3D2UD and 3D2VW from October 23rd to 30th.

Dick, W6KM noted that the New Orleans convention has been discontinued.

Dick lamented that we would not want that to happen here and hopes that we all pitch in to support our convention.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20pm.

de W6TEX

Board Meeting

Board of Directors meeting minutes of Oct. 16th 1999.

Meeting was held at Ron Panton's house in Menlo Park, Ca. Dick, W6KM called the meeting to order at 10:40am. AA6W, Don Anastasia only member not present.

The following are the salient points of the meeting and those wishing further details are urged to contact any officer regarding the specifics of any item.

Dick W6KM reported that he is still working on the entertainment for the Christmas party and related that we will have excellent raffle prizes.

Information regarding the 1999/2000 budget was shared with the group and approved. Included and also approved was a \$1000.00 donation to the Northern California DX Foundation NCDXF for the budget year.

Dick, W6KM noted that meeting location at the American Legion Hall is reserved thru June 2000. Also he asked for and got approval to order another 10k of club QSL cards. Dick will be investigating the possibility for forwarding information (mail) via post office boxes. This is planning ahead if we need to move the physical location of our current box.

Currently we do not have a property list. One will be created as of this date and all board members were to send any or all property information with descriptions to Bill W6TEX. We know we are missing a Doppler Direction Finder.

The (2001 IDX) convention hosted by the NCDXC, will be held in Visalia, CA. April 20, 21, & 22nd. All board members concurred.

Ron, W6VG initiated a discussion regarding changes and upgrading the procedure manual. As a result all board members may review the procedure manual and submit request for changes at a subsequent meeting in the future. Ron also noted that some members have forwarded request for membership form from the WEB. This form

Jim Sheley, KA6DXY

It is with a very heavy heart that we must report the passing of Jim Sheley, KA6DXY, who succumbed to a sudden massive heart attack on October 19th. He was 75 years old.



Jim had been a Member of NCDXC since March of 1983. He was on the DXCC Honor Roll with 327 Mixed. He was a member of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK), the VFW and SIRS. He was well known for his RACES participation and efforts on two meter communications for public events.

He was also a member of the India/Burma Survivor Organization, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corp from 1942 to 1945. During that time he "Flew the Hump" with cargo for the China/Burma/India theatre, serving on board B-24, C54 and DC-3 aircraft as a flight engineer.

Jim had retired after a 23 year career at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Pat and a step son.

Jim was a dear friend, a fine gentleman and a first class operator. He was always there to help when called upon. He will be profoundly missed.

when printed out is in two pages so you don't have the information on the back as in the printed form. We currently do not have a form for upgrading from associate to full member. Ron will make up a form and we can add to the next publication of the procedure manual.

de W6TEX

REMEMBER THE MAUNDER:

By Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

It does at times seem a bit strange that something that gripped the attention of amateurs and especially the DXers in other years and other ages turns out to be an almost forgotten incident and not known by many of the younger types. Especially DXers! Especially, those youngsters less than seventy years of age! The real young kind!

One of the QRPers case up the hill last week, we still call them QRPers even though some have heatedly charged that, that is a denigrating term. Not at all, is our response. They may be younger and inexperienced, but at times their thinking is sharper than that serpent's tooth. Treat them kindly and respectfully for they are the DXers of the future.

But back when the Maunder Minimum's return was first rumored, then brought right out into the open, the Big Guns, Big Total DXers and the vigilant one hundred percenters and all-the-time DXers were living in fear for DX and the DXCC. For truly DX and the DXCC are often the product of longevity, a tall tower and years of listening on the bands. That is always a winning combination.

"What can you do when the bands go out" was the chant of the worried DXer at the time of the approaching Minimum. Life and the future was getting to look bleak and it might possibly get even worse. A lot worse with no sun spots to help, no DX to live for.

Anyhow, one of the local QRPers came up the hill last week and mentioned the phrase: "Maunder Minimum" and our ears went to full alert. We can remember those months of concern, worry and anxiety that, that phrase brought a quarter or so of a century back. Every DXer worth his QSL total was worried. For it was widely said that the Maunder Minimum was returning and would soon be upon us.

"Be Prepared" was the admonition and you had better take down that big, high flying tri-hander And think of moving down to the 160m band. The higher frequencies were dying and soon would be gone, not to be seen or heard again in our lifetimes. Warning stories on the Maunder Minimum appeared in QST and in CQ. The years of desolation and darkness were at hand.

Many DX bulletins echoed the fears of the worried and vocal DXers for the

future of DXing. The West Coast DX Bulletin did not, having stumbled onto and found a reason for hope and a possible salvation - this on a visit to Southern California and an almost unknown colony of Sundancers - a really esoteric bunch.

There were DXers of note even then living in the Palos Verdes Hills. Don Wallace, W6AM, lived atop the Palos Verdes Hills and there were a good handful of others in that magic land. It was DX country in a fear of fading DX age and those local DXers had heard of the Sundancers far back in the hills - not much but enough. There was promise there, promise to keep the DX hope alive. Enough to seek them out, to see their dances and note the utter seriousness of their intensity when they talked of DXing and dancing. To their thinking, those two were inseparable.

The Maunder Minimum had happened about five or six hundred years back and the current apprehensive state arose when it was found from studying records that the sunspots had just disappeared for sixty or seventy years. Just gone and no one knew for sure where they had gone or what caused them to disappear. Even now you can look in reference books and not find mention of the Maunder. But, back then Maunder was news and his Minimum told of a period some hundred of years previously when astronomers had not found sunspots on the face of the sun for several decades. Had amateur radio then been in existence, it would have been the end of the good days with little hope left for things to change. It would have been a time of the plague and other annoyances. It had happened once and it could happen again. And perhaps soon! Like next month.

The word from the experts in the know said that solar conditions were showing many of the same characteristics that came with that Maunder Minimum some hundred or so, years back. The skimpy sunspot count did indicate that things were declining, they were showing in the wrong latitudes on the sun's surface and things looked very much as they had during the famine years of the Maunder Minimum"

The end is coming they chorused in the night and many DXers were early on getting rid of their H.F. equipment and moving to the lower bands. It was a time

of stress and sacrifice. Can not you consider and understand even now, the signs that foretold the Minimum? And there were the common sights of many high total DXers dumping their multi-element tribanders for a single hand 80 meter Yagi. And, how that hurt. Times were grim.

But, just about the time that everyone was abandoning hope and bracing because the end was near, a noble band in the mysterious hills of the Southland stood up and said that they would challenge the Maunder Minimum; that they would take strong action to turn things around. And they were all ready prepared to battle.

"DX Knights" some called them but more modestly they called themselves the "Palo Verde Sundancers", denizens of the Palo Verde Hills south of the Los Angeles airport and in the area of Portuguese Bend. They were back in the barrancas but they were also DXers and they danced to keep the hope, the glory and the mystique of DXing alive.

So they danced and every one of their routines was devoted to and dedicated to the health and revival of sunspots. They danced not only the old dances, but also the tarantella, the gavotte, the gaha, the Mexican Quetales, a favorite of the Mexican Sun Dancers as danced down in Tlaco-Jolero. They danced the Tibetan "The Spirit of Barren Mountain", dance. They danced classical ballet, often in sheer ecstasy flying high in a 'Grand Jete' or whirling in the always beautiful, "Fouette en Tourant". Their "Arabesque Penche", was always spectacular And their "Tour en Pair" ending in the fifth position was spectacular and probably of a scale that has never been matched.

But they danced but for one reason. To bring back the sunspots and their endless joy and exhilaration for the DXers. We remember well when that cycle bottomed and some DXers were crying that the end was at hand. The sunspots were gone!

Then the cycle started to go up and up and up - again and again. The sunspots were back!

The relief felt by all true-blue DXers, and a few not quite blue, was evident, and almost audible. It was a good time to be a DXer. The burden of apprehension was lifted. DX and DXing had been saved!

There had been problems. One of the Sun Dancer's treasures was the "Big Bass Bongo"; a simply unbelievable expanse of tanned leather stretched tight

and tuned for the right frequencies. The early use of the Big Bass Bongo had brought a caution from the FAA that advance notice had to be given to Ground Control at the Los Angeles Airport, some miles to the north. When that Bongo boomed, the unprepared and unwarned often took off for shelter, thinking a low flying plane was breaking the sound barrier in the vicinity.

C.W. types revered the Big Bass Bongo. In the Southland, on more than one summer evening, true blue c.w. types would sit outdoors reading, the mail as the Big Bass Bongo rapped out its signal. Ah! Those were the happy days - days of everlasting sunshine, soft winds and bountiful DX,

So that was it. The Palos Verdes Sundancers said that they would save DX and bring back the sunspots. Some scoffed, but the Sun Dancers were undeterred. They danced, the sunspots returned from where they had gone and life was again good for the DXers.

The Sundancers before long dropped from sight. The word was that they had

come when needed; came to save the Sunspots and DXing and they did everything needed and possible. Their work was done and the bands were saved. DXers everywhere were standing in the dawn's early lights and shouting "Hallelujah! I have seen the sunspots". But, the Sundancers were not there. They had gone back to their barrancas in the hills, there to live and to dance until possibly they would again be needed sometime in the future,

Will they come again? Yes, but probably only when needed. Some may have already forgotten the "Maunder Minimum". Some may not even know of that perilous time for DXers. But there are some who do and know that the Sundancers brought back the sunspots when most others thought they were gone. The Sundancers saved Amateur Radio, have no doubt, of that.

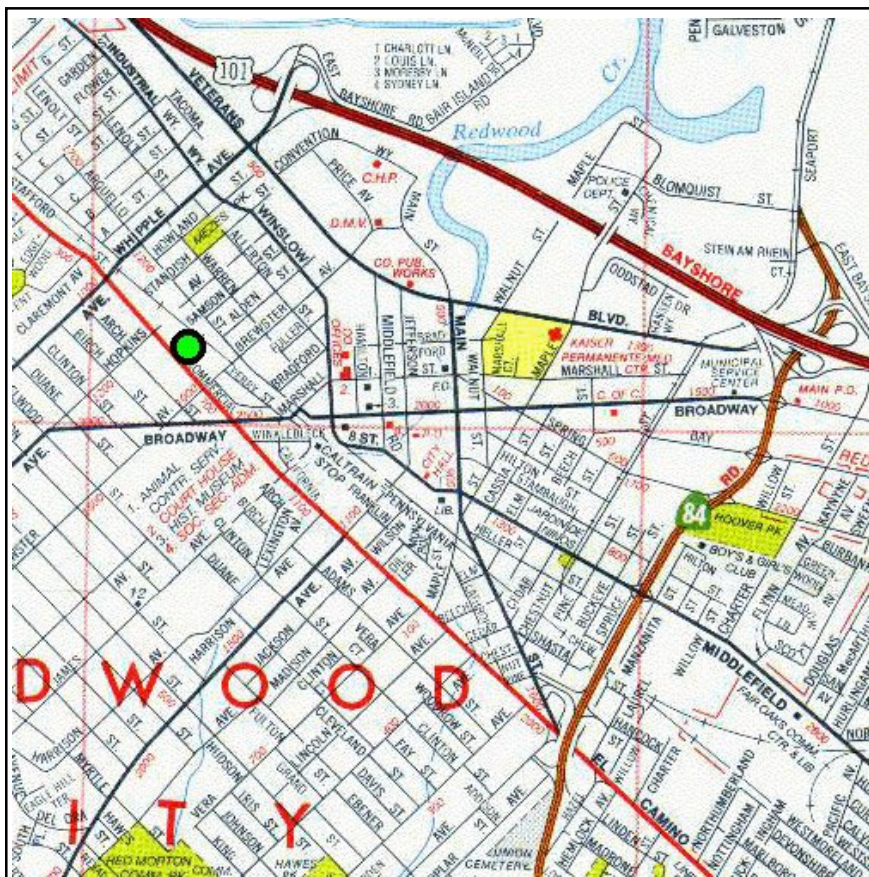
This assertion has been voiced before and it still continues to be heard over the years but it has never been challenged. They came when people were trembling in dread about the heralded, predicted

and expected return of the long gone but still dreaded Maunder Minimum. They said they would stop it with their interpretative and innovative dance routines. They danced, the sunspots returned and DXing was saved. Ita est!

That's the story, the whole truth and an unvarnished report of what did happen. Yet some of the younger DXers know not of the Sundancers. It was heartening to have one such, the local QRPer, who had come seeking the knowledge needed to take him to the Second Level. The Sundancers did not dance for glory but just to save DX.

Honor them always, for certainly they did just that. Believe always that they saved DX, and made it all a better world today.

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD
July 1999



Map to Meeting Site

At left, is a Redwood City Area map, showing the location of the Monthly Club Meeting. This promises to be an outstanding meeting.

Ron Skelton, W6WO will be presenting a program based on his travels in his work and the call signs held while doing so. His presentation is appropriately entitled "Call Signs and Colonies Over 50 Years". It should be a very interesting program

We look forward to having an "eyeball QSO" with you!!

73, W6YD

NCDXC Treasurer's Report -
October 1999

As of 10/26/99

Income:

Dues	\$ 77.25
Reinstatement Fee	5.00
QSL Cards	194.03
Badges & Pins	30.50
CD account - interest this period	131.44
HRO - Advertisement for DXer & Roster	600.00
Total Income	\$ 1038.22

Expenses:

DXer Printing	\$ 334.09
DXer Postage	54.95
Repeater Phone	25.93
Badges	13.38
Club Roster printing - 250 ea.	140.71
Roster postage	76.72
NCDXF donation	1,000.00
Total expenses	\$ 1,645.78

Checking Accounts:

Club acct.	\$ 27,799.54
Repeater acct.	1,807.34
Convention acct.	0.00
TOTAL	\$ 29,606.88
 CD acct.	 \$ 10,247.28
Current Club Total	\$ 39,854.16

DXer Profile: W6TWO, Rolph Stoddard

This months profile is of Rolph Stoddard. Like so many Hams of the late 20's and early 30's, Rolph became involved in the Hobby through his activity in the Boy Scouts, where he became an Eagle Scout. He was licensed on June 7, 1932 as W6GKO. Later, he got his second (and only other) call of W6TWO! He likes to say, "It is my number two call."

His first "DX-pediton" was as a Boy Scout, when he was put in charge of communications at a rig set up on the floor of Yosemite Valley with the Scouts.

Rolph and his wife, Jenny have traveled around the world. They have visited and stayed with many of the Hams that Rolph has made friends with through the years. You can still catch him on skeds with many DX stations all the time. His current station is a Ten-Tec Paragon which drives a Collins 30L1. The antenna is a 5 element, log periodic for 10/15/17/20 made by Tennadyne. His tower is a fold over by Tristao, which puts the boom at 50 feet.

Rolph has held so many interesting jobs in the Commercial Broadcast Radio field and has met so many famous personalities that he could write a book. He has just retired from his last job as an agent for Aetna Services, working mainly with Crop Duster, Tanker and other Professional Airline Pilots. Having had several of his own planes, he talks their lingo. This has also caused him to spend a lot of time driving all over California to see clients. He did not let this keep him from working DX while away from home, though. He is currently running a KENWOOD TS-50 and runs his signal through a special 15 Hustler antenna with an extended whip, in his famous "Two" car.

Happy Retirement Rolph! Now finish working them all!

Dick, W6KM

Christmas Party!!!

When: December 9, 1999 (it's a Thursday)

**Where: Our favorite spot: Martinelli's Steak Pit
1180 El Camino Real
Milbrae**

Cocktails at 1800 hours. No host bar.

**Menu: Entree: Choice of 8 oz. prime rib, fillet of sole or chicken saute sec
Includes: wine, green salad, relish tray and pasta starter,
vegetables, potato (or rice with the fish) & Martinelli's
cheesy french bread. Coffee or tea. Ice cream**

All for the ridiculously low price of \$20.00, (tax and tip included of course) Kids under 12 free.

At this point, entertainment is TBD and all suggestions are welcome. Bring yourself, the XYL (or OM), kids, grandkids. But to do so, you must send your check, made payable to the NCDXC, along with your entree preference(s), by December 4, to:

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

Hope to see you there!!



**Ron, W6VG
with his Troster Award**

New Members

Miguela Lewis(Gilly), K6MIG



Gilly Lewis, K6MIG (C.)
with
Ted Algren, KA6W (L.), and proud
OM, Ken Lewis, AK6L (R.)

Roster Updates

Please incorporate the following additions and changes in your rosters

Additions:

John Farber, KG6I(E)
H (408) 353-4777
18490 Main Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95030-8540
E-Mail: jfarber@sprynet.com

Changes:

Len Gerald, K6ANP
E-Mail: k6anp@pacbell.net

Andy Cooper, W6KQK
Add H (530) 878-6454
E-mail: drnmc@jps.net

Marathon II

Since I never make mistakes, you cannot imagine how shocked, absolutely SHOCKED, I was to discover not only one, but TWO errors in the marathon scores report! Must be my computer, ISP or Y2K...anyway the score attributed to a W6ERR really should be W6EKR and the category should be PHONE, not CW. The 176 countries is correct.

My computer offers its apologies!

73, Doug W6JD

Guest Speaker Biography

Our speaker this month is Ron Skelton, W6WO. He will speak on call signs and Colonies over 50 years. Ron grew up in London and was first licensed as G3IHP. He became a fellow of the Institute Of Electrical Engineers. Ron worked world wide as an engineer for Associated Electrical Industries. He held calls in ZD2, 5N2, VS4, 9M8, VO1 and 6Y5. He came to this country in 1975 as employee of Continental Telecom, which is now part of GTE. He says if anyone needs a QSL for VS4RS or 9M8RS up to Sept 63, please give him a copy of log page. Ron now resides in Capitola.

Chuck, K6RK

NCDXF/IARU Beacon Time Slots

Friday, August 27, 1999

NCDXF/IARU Beacon Transmission Schedule

Slot	Country	Call	14.100	18.110	21.150	24.930	28.200	Operator
1	United Nations	4U1UN	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	UNRC
2	Canada	<u>VE8AT</u>	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	<u>RAC</u>
3	United States	<u>W6WX</u>	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	<u>NCDXF</u>
4	Hawaii	KH6WO	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	NOARG, HARC
5	New Zealand	ZL6B	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	<u>NZART</u>
6	Australia	<u>VK6RBP</u>	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	<u>WIA</u>
7	Japan	JA2IGY	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	<u>JARL</u>
8	Russia	RR9O	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	SRR
9	China	VR2B	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	CRSA
10	Sri Lanka	<u>4S7B</u>	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	<u>RSSL</u>
11	South Africa	ZS6DN	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	ZS6DN
12	Kenya	5Z4B	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	RSK
13	Israel	4X6TU	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	UTel Aviv
14	Finland	OH2B	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	U Helsinki
15	Madeira	CS3B	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	ARRM
16	Argentina	LU4AA	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	<u>RCA</u>
17	Peru	OA4B	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	<u>RCP</u>
18	Venezuela	YV5B	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	<u>RCV</u>

The above table was contributed to us by Al Lotze, W6RQ. Al has been studying propagation and the factors influencing it for more years than either he or I care to remember. Suffice it to say, he has been what I consider to be one of the Club's "Treasures" for as long as I can remember. This is the last installment of his most recent contribution to us and concerns the Beacon System Transmission Schedule.

Many among us may be unaware of the beacon system that was largely deigned and maintained by the Northern California DX Foundation. Since, as you should note in the minutes, we made a contribution to the Foundation, we thought you might want to see just one of the many things in which the Foundation is involved.

George, W6YD