

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

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DXer Profile: NQ6X, Bob Wilson



Bob Wilson at the controls of NQ6X in San Jose, CA. Note how tidy the shack is!

(Complete story on Pg. 7)



General Meeting February 11, 2000

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

Program

Garry Shapiro, NI6T will give a talk on why 160 meters is "Not a band, but an obsession"

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 Real. Drive about one half a mile to 651 El Camino Real (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:

Editor: George Allan, W6YD
 668 Chemeketa Dr
 San Jose, CA 95123-3012
 408-226-0497
 w6yd@aol.com

Printing, Mailing: Don Anastasia, 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: 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

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



I sure am pleased to see the renewed interest and attendance at the Club's regular monthly meetings at the American Legion Post #105, held the second Friday of each month. Much credit must go to our Vice President, Chuck Patterson K6RK (also past president), who has lined up excellent programs. Lots of credit to the presenters for excellent efforts and topics. But, in addition to this, I have to recognize the members who are actually participating in club functions. Those fine folks who not only attend club meetings, but take part in the 2 meter club meetings, attend the club social events and those that contribute by serving as directors and officers. You are the Heart of the Club.

Surely you are aware that many of our members also belong to General Interest Radio Clubs and they are active there also. You should also, know that for the last several years, Tom Jones K6TS has represented the NCDXC as a speaker at the ARRL Pacific Division Pacificon Conventions held in Concord. (It may be of interest to note that the "Pacifcon" name was coined by none other than George Allan, W6YD and the late Dan Dietz, WM6M who were members of SCCARA when they began the series in San Jose). Tom has already agreed to be the speaker to promote DX at this year's Pacificon 2000 to be held October 20,21 & 22 in Concord. MANY THANKS, TOM!

Thursday, January 27th was the inaugural of the new monthly club function held on the club's 2 meter net. It will continue to be held on the last Thursday night net of each month. I would say that it was well received and attended. We had over 8 members (lots more listened but didn't join in) who made some very good suggestions and also, expressed their thoughts on the topic. I want to thank you for jumping right in and helping to make this a very important part of the club's function. Randy, W6CUA did an excellent job of moving the subjects around. I am convinced that, in time, this will become a more and more important part of our club's activities. It provides a time and place for members who cannot make the regular club meetings to actually partake and exercise their rights as club members. The topics will be published each month in the DXer in advance so that you may make your feelings or comments known. The next session will, again, be hosted by Randy Wright, W6CUA. So, if you have a topic or issue that you would like addressed, PLEASE get in touch with Randy on 2 meters, drop him a note or contact him at his email address; wrights@worldnet.att.net

NCDXC Dues Information

Full and Associate Members;

Date Dues are Paid	Member	Family Rate
1 July thru 30 September	\$24.00	Plus \$15.00
1 October and after	\$24.00	Plus \$15.00 Plus \$5.00*

*Members who have not remitted dues by the 30 September deadline are considered dropped from the membership roles. Those desiring to renew membership must both apply for reinstatement and submit the reinstatement fee of \$5.00. Fee will be waived if paid in person.

Absentee Member Dues are \$16.00 per year.

General Meeting Minutes

NCDXC meeting minutes Jan. 14th, 2000 American Legion Hall 651 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8pm by President Dick Letrich, W6KM. 35 members and guests were in attendance. Upon completion of introductions, Dick, W6KM announced that the 2 meter net will, on the 4th Thursday of the month, have a topic for discussion with Randy, W6CUA as the moderator. The first topic will be "what can we do to encourage more activity on the repeater" (See the DX'er page 5 "Forum On The Air").

Dick noted that Rosemary Willis, KF6EKP, XYL of Archie Willis, W6LPJ's wife of 54 years, passed away this week and encouraged display of sympathy. Archie is the Calif. QSL Manager for the 6th district.

Dick, W6KM announced that the DXer of the year chairman this year is Chuck, AA6G. W6KM called for volunteers to help Chuck and serve on the committee. Also asked that those who plan to nominate a candidate to forward the information to Chuck, AA6G prior to March 1st

George, W6YD is looking into getting the DX'er mailed in a more timely manner.

Dick, W6KM announced that he plans to have a Board Meeting next month. Date and time to be announced later.

Dick reminded the members that the Naval Postgraduate School "Radio Fest" will be held at Fort Ord on Feb. 19th. There is no charge for entry.

Chuck, K6RK, Introduced Dean Straw, editor of the "ARRL Antenna Handbook and Antenna Compendium Vol. 6". Dean's program, "Some verticals on the beach" included contest data gathering of vertical operation at two locations; 6Y, Jamaica and YV4, Venezuela in 1998. It was an excellent presentation and enjoyed by the membership at large.

Barry, K6ST, informed the group about a complaint of a antenna that had been up for 20 years (AA6M) and now the neighbors are using "interference" and "eyesore" to attempt removal of the antenna. It appears that the underlying item may be property valuation. More later...

November minutes were approved. The treasurer report was held in abeyance as treasurer is ill with the flu. Dick W6KM adjourned the meeting at about 9:24p de W6TEX

President's Comments (Cont'd)

Most of you are aware that the club has special QSL cards. You can look at them on the club web site. They are quite reasonable (Prices will go up slightly on the next printing order. We order 10,000 at a time for best deals). As a club member, you are not required to use club cards. But, please keep this in mind; if you have any QSL cards made up in the future from any source, please be sure to indicate on them, that you are a member of the NCDXC. This way, the DX will know you are a member of NCDXC and can take advantage of the CALIFORNIA AWARD. Many DXers are searching for cards from club members as they are chasing this highly sought after award. If you don't show it on the card, they will miss the chance to count you. You can also just print NCDXC on any cards that you now have and that will work also. It's a good way to help keep this sought after award active. By the way, if you want an actual sample of a card, you can ask for one at the regular meeting or contact me and I will mail you one to look at. You can contact me via email or the phone or address in the club roster. By the way did you get my message? You know the one; the one I left for you to call me telling me you wanted to be on the nomination committee for the next year's slate of officers! If my line is busy please call back. It's the least you can do for the club. Don't be bashful!

73, Dick W6KM

Treasurer's Report

Everyone,

All bills are paid to date. The list below describes the January 2000

\$\$ activity of the club. The dues are for our new Associate member N6TQS and new member KA6WIF.

Bill, WB6JJJ

Income:

Dues	\$	48.00
QSL Cards		62.25
CD qly interest		<u>133.10</u>
Total Income	\$	243.35

Expenses:

Dxer Printing	\$	253.95
Dxer Postage		79.20
Repeater Phone		27.03
Postmaster –		
Box 608 annual fee		64.00
QSL card imprinting		12.99
WEB hosting fee –		
6 months		119.70
Sec'y. of State –		
annual fee		10.00
Callbook CD		30.00
Club Officer's Expenses:		
President		75.76
Treasurer		<u>33.00</u>
Total expenses	\$	705.63

Checking Accounts:

Club acct.	\$26,396.88
Repeater acct.	<u>1,807.34</u>
Subtotal	\$28,204.22
CD acct.	<u>10,380.38</u>
Current Total	
Club Funds	<u><u>\$38,584.60</u></u>

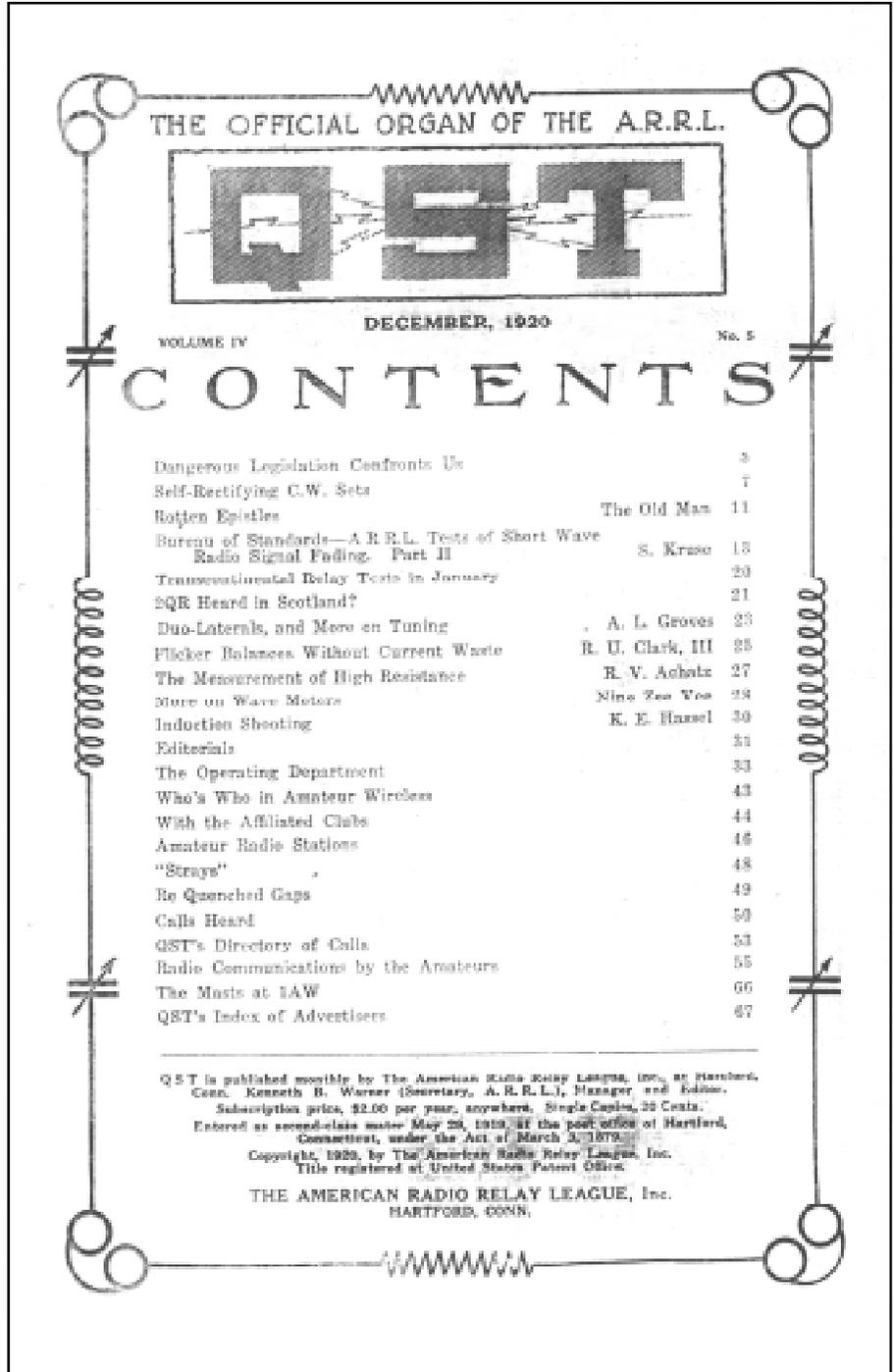


LOOKING BACKWARD By Bud Bane, W6WB

While browsing through a stack of long-forgotten amateur radio periodicals, I happened upon a 1920 issue of QST. This was of particular interest to me because it was the year that I got my first ham license. Of possible general interest is the fact that this was the first year that licenses were issued to U.S. amateurs. Knowing this it's understandable why I would go through this ancient issue, cover-to-cover. Of course, there were several technical articles; elementary today but which have seemed like "Greek" to a thirteen year old kid when, bug-eyed, he tried to decipher them. And there was a "Calls heard" section where, just maybe, your spark signals were heard in another state. In this 1920 issue of QST was a listing of amateur licenses issued to date, all the two-letter and some three-letter call signs. If you have a reissued two letter call with a "W" prefix, the original owner was there.

One would hardly expect to see much product advertising in this eighty year old ham magazine. But how wrong one would be because this old-timer was "loaded"! There were about 120 ads, many of them full pages, four of which advertising vacuum tubes!! This ad activity astonished me until I realized that this was the December issue and a full year had passed since the first licenses were issued. State-of-the art of this fascinating hobby had skyrocketed during this period and manufacturers had kept pace. The puny Ford spark coil—the poor man's spark transmitter, had given way to powerful step-up transformers, the tricky crystal detectors to regenerative vacuum tube, high-sensitivity detectors with audio amplifiers. Cross-town spark contacts expanded to inter-state, to inter-continent; single wire antennas gave way to high, multi-wire flat-tops. The sacred domain of "King Spark" was fast being undermined by those radical CW-ers with their pesky vacuum tubes.

World-wide DX was on its way!



This is a copy of the cover of the December, 1920 Issue of QST Magazine that inspired Bud Bane's Article. Note the titles of the articles and the layout of this early issue. It is particularly interesting to reflect on how much they both changed as the magazine evolved over the years. -Ed.

DXer of the Year

Hi All,

I wish to announce the opening of nominations for DXer of the Year. A committee of 5 members has been formed. I (AA6G) am the chairman. The two known members are Keith (KN6K) and Ted (KA6W). Ted is a past recipient. There are two secret members.

If you have someone you'd like to nominate to be DXer of the Year, please send your nomination to me either by mail at my roster address or via Email at <aa6g@aa6g.org>. You must provide a complete justification for your nominee. I'm not going to research each person, so the more information you provide the better. Use the criteria in the next paragraph. Nominations will close February 29th.

Please review the section on DXer of the Year in your Procedures Manual. To summarize the criteria for nominees which we will consider;

- 1) Assisted/participated in DXpeditions;
- 2) High standards of operating;
- 3) Participation in club activities;
- 4) Achievement awards, DXCC, Honor Roll, etc.;
- 5) Voting member for 3 years.

No Dxeer of the Year Committee member can receive the award. No one can receive the award more than once every three years. Previous year and past performance will be considered.

73, Chuck - AA6G



NI6T Letter re: WAZ & February Program

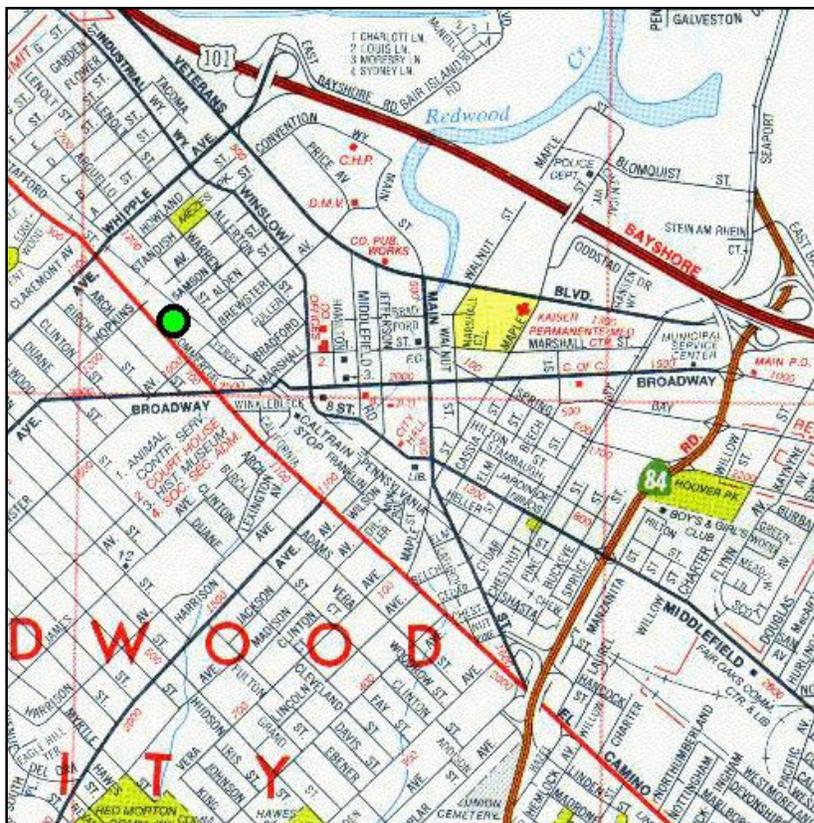
Happy new year.

I wanted to share that CQ has apparently FINALLY gotten the WAZ award program restarted. It had virtually disappeared during Jim Dionne's illness and totally disappeared when he passed away. The new WAZ Award Manager, Paul Blumhardt, K5RT is enthusiastic and appears to be off and running — I helped him to regain a bunch of submissions that were out in the bushes. One of them was mine, and I am pleased to report that 5BWAZ #1101 is on its way to me. I am very happy to have earned that one.

Chuck Patterson asked me to present at the February meeting. The subject will be An Introduction to Topband DXing—or something like that. This is a PowerPoint presentation I gave at New Orleans in August, aimed at informing and enticing seasoned DXers to 160m DXing. I had a prestigious crowd (K4UEE, W4ZV and the usual suspects from California), and it went over well. If I have time, I hope to add a few slides specifically for our California audience.

Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Map to Redwood City Meeting Site



Club QSL Card History by Ron Rasmussen, K6OP

Here is a brief history of how the present NCDXC QSL cards came into being... if you're a greybeard, you can skip this and go to the next article.

About 1978 W6BJH, Ted Davis, was president of the Club and we were meeting at Dinah's Shack in Palo Alto. The multitudes were growing tired of the old orange and black cards showing the San Francisco view looking west. The photo of K6SSJ's card is one of the old ones.



Ted assigned me, the vice president, the task of coming up with a new card design, claiming that that was the vice president's job. Not knowing any better I told him ok.

Since I was a salesman, and could sneak some time off here and there, it was off to San Francisco to look for potential QSL card photos. We had decided we wanted another San Francisco type card, since it was well known world wide and a Northern California landmark.

A good part of the day was spent looking for postcards with just the right shot. But, most of them had writing on the front stating "Greetings from San Francisco" or "I got the crabs at Fisherman's Wharf".

I finally found a few good cards and one place mat that people would put on their tables at dinner. Next, came trying to get a release from the photographers since all of the pictures were copy-written and we didn't have extra club money to be paying photographers.

The picture that was voted as the #1 choice was the place mat. If you look

closely, you may see the silverware since I still eat a couple of meals a day on it, although Nancy says we should "eat out" since we're retired.



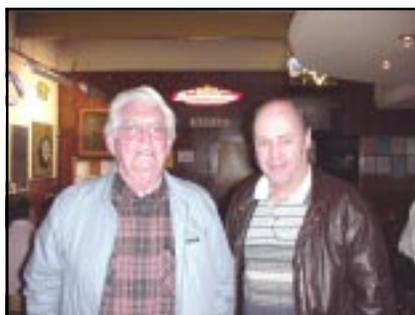
After explaining to the company that owned the copyright, that we were a non-profit DX club and the cards would be sent all over the world (no doubt bringing tourists to the Bay Area in droves) the owners agreed that we could use it for free!

A South San Francisco lithographer that had printed tickets for the Giants did the printing. When W6SC, Howard Hale, and I went to pick up about 60,000 cards it about broke the springs in the station wagon.

Everyone loved the cards—that is until they tried to overprint their calls on the front... But, then that's another story... 73's

Ron, K6OP

As you may know, the qsl card was recently revised. The new cards look exactly like the cards Ron described above, but the overprint problem has been solved. Incidentally, we still have about 5,000 left!

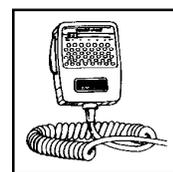


DXXC CW by Anymouse

Now that the FCC (with lots of encouragement from the ARRL and radio equipment manufactures) has eliminated the code requirements (well almost anyway) to obtain a Ham License, it would seem likely that the ARRL should also make adjustments to its DXCC program. Phone country (entities) should remain the same. But, in all fairness, to all new licensees, who after April 15, 2000 will have had to work and study so hard to get their 5 words per minute code tests passed, they should be allowed to partake in a more updated DX program. Since it is very unlikely they are going to make many CW DX contacts, (well maybe with the group in New Zealand that started the effort to abolish the use of CW as a requirement for an Amateur Ticket) at 5 words per minute, let's hope the league will once again make adjustments to accommodate and encourage our new hams. The ARRL could begin to realize that (contacting and confirming) 100 countries (entities) is just too darned unreasonable to achieve. They **could** provide a new award for the new Millennium CW operators: the **DXXC AWARD!** That's the **DX TEN COUNTRIES CLUB**. And, in keeping with the current ARRL tradition, all upgrades would be in increments of 5 until you get to 25 and then it is 1 at a time. The submissions will be as is the DXCC, \$10.00 per submittal.

But, maybe we are getting ahead of ourselves.... Maybe, none of them will ever work CW as it may be of no interest to them. Well, as most of them will say, "Keep the shinny side up and a big 10-4, Good Buddy"

ANYMOUSE



DXer Profile: NQ6X, Bob Wilson

This month's Club DXer Profile is of ex-W5JHH, ex-W6JHH, who has been a Ham since 1940. We know him by his new call, NQ6X. Bob Wilson has been a club member since October 1984. He is a Life Member and has served as a club officer several times in years past as our Treasurer. He has worked all countries except P5. When I went over to visit Bob, his XYL met me out front and thanked me for asking to do the profile on him, "because," she said, "it meant he had to clean up his Shack". Well, I've been over to Bob's QTH on many occasions and it is always as neat as a pin!

His rig is an ICOM 761 which drives an ETO 91B amplifier. Bob says it took him nearly a year from the time he ordered it at the convention, to get it. It is one of the last ones that were previously being manufactured in Bulgaria. This slow response is probably one of the reasons they are now being manufactured back in the USA. He really likes it and is very pleased with it. The Yagi, a TH7DX, is atop a 70 foot tubular crank up tower. His country count is proof enough of the effectiveness of this fine combination.

I live very close to Bob and I want you to know, he runs one of the cleanest stations I have heard for many miles around. As usual, pictures alone do not really show how nice the layout is. Bob also has an inverted Vee along with the other antennas in shown in the pictures. Bob supports the club by attending as many regular meetings as time allows. Gud DX, Bob.

Dick, W6KM

January Meeting Pix Photos by W6KM



Roster Changes

Two new associate applications were processed voted in as NCDXC members:

KA6WIF, Arthur P. Thal (Art)
279 Alameda De Las Pulgas
Redwood City, CA 94062
HP 650-366-6520
E-Mail: apthal@juno.com
Extra Class

N6TQS, Doug Faunt (Doug)
6405 Regent St.
Oakland, CA. 94618
HP 510-655-8604
Fax 510-659-8633
E-Mail: faunt@netcom.com
Advance Class

NCDXC Roster update...

K6ST: E-mail k6st@arrl.net

de W6TEX

SCDXC Officers

The SCDXC sent us this listing of their newly elected officers for the 2000 calendar year. They are;

President Jim Zimmerman N6KZ
Vice Pres. Chuck Constantine KR6C
Secretary Herb Rosenberg KG6OK
Treasurer Skip Bolnick KJ6Y
Membership Harvey Shore K6EXO
Director Charlotte Iseda KB6FXS
Director Neil Kaltman K6SMF
Ex Officio Harvey Laidman W8DX

Official mailing address for the year 2000 will be;

SCDXC
Attn: Herb Rosenberg, KG6OK
17861 Fairhaven Avenue,
Santa Ana, CA92705-1111
EMail: kg6ok@pacbell.net

Complete details can be found at the SCDXC web site, www.SCDXC.org

