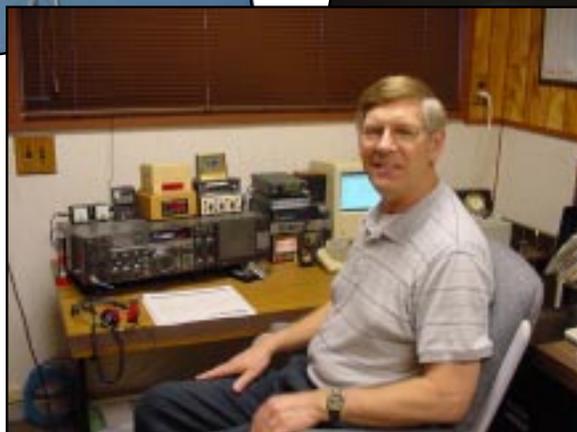


# DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DX CLUB**

## ***DXer Profile: WB6JJJ, Bill Maurer***



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### **General Meeting October 13, 2000**

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

#### **Program**

Larry Pizzella, WR6K brings us a program on crystal radio - both old and new. This will be a new wrinkle on an old subject and looks to be very interesting. Come see & enjoy!

#### **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: Chuck Patterson, K6RK  
 Vice Pres: Don Anastasia, AA6W  
 Secretary: Keith Butts, KN6K  
 Treasurer: Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ  
 Director: Dick Letrich, W6KM  
 Director: Bud Bane, W6WB  
 Director: Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO

**The DXer:**

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<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:  
 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: Robert Smithwick, W6CS  
 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'm sorry to have to report the passing of Knock, K6ITL. He was a long time member of NCDXC and a past president - CUL, Knock!

There has been considerable criticism of the board's decision to not nominate anyone for DX QSL checker. Also there have been several volunteers for the job. Accordingly, we will discuss the matter at our next meeting October 13. We will give the volunteers a chance to plead their cases. I agree that if the Club needs new members (and we do) we should certainly have a card checker in our ranks. If the response at the meeting is favorable, your board will select our nominee at the board meeting on October 28. Remember, the nominee must have a DXCC Award endorsed for at least 250 entities.

Doug, W6JD has set up our Christmas party for the evening of Dec. 8, at Martinelli's Steak Pit in Millbrae. Same place as the last two years. Details later, mark your calendars.

Chuck, AA6G put on a beautiful show of weather satellite images at our last meeting- thanks chuck! How about you? Do you have a pet project or hobby that would make a good program ?

Thanks to Dick, W6KM our roving reporter for all his contributions to the DX'er. It's time to send in any upgrades for the NCDXC 9 Band award. Send them to John, K6WC.

That's all f-f-folks. 73, Chuck, K6RK

**Pacificon 2000 - October 20-22**

Concord Airport Sheraton Hotel, Concord, CA. Outstanding list of speakers has been assembled. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President, will give the Keynote address on the future of amateur radio. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, "Mr. Enforcement," from the FCC will be the banquet speaker. Chris Imlay, W3KD, the ARRL General Counsel, will give a four hour legal seminar on Friday and an additional one hour lecture on Saturday. One entire track will be devoted to QRP, and the NorCal QRPers will have their usual exciting program.

Admission to Pacificon 2000 is only \$5.00 if paid in advance. Further info is available on [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org).

**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

\*Members who have not remitted dues by the 30 September deadline are considered dropped from the membership roles. Those desiring to renew membership may do so anytime, but will not be included in the new issue of the NCDXC Roster .

**Absentee Member Dues are \$16.00 per year.**

## General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of NCDXC Meeting of 9/8/2000

Meeting opened at 8PM by Chuck, K6RK, President

Guests present, AD6IW

Minutes of previous meeting were not available

No Treasurer's Report was made.

Jim Maxwell, W6CF passed out handouts promoting SB-1714, A Bill which if passed will be a new state law similar to PRB-1. This will give Hams more tools in the fight against unreasonable antenna regulations in California.

Ron Panton, W6VG reported on Knock, K6ITL and Al, W6RQ. Dewey, KG6AM reported on W6FGD's illness.

An excellent program on receiving weather satellite images and data was presented by Chuck Vaughn, AA6G The program contained much information and many outstanding images.

Previously discussed changes to the DX Ladder will be implemented.

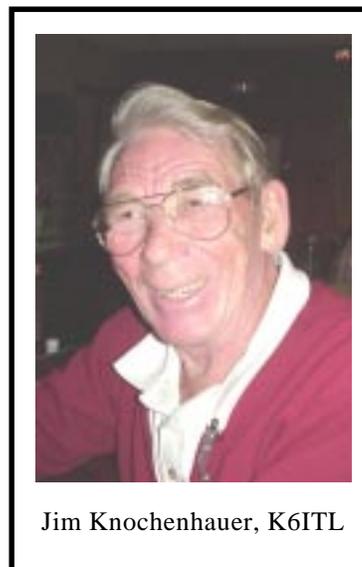
At present there are no nominations for ARRL DX QSL Card Checker, but if volunteers come forward who meet the qualifications a nomination will likely be made as the membership feels this will be in the interest of the Club.

Meeting was adjourned after no further business.



**K6RK & AA6G**

## K6ITL Silent Key



**Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL**

Long time Club member, Jim "Knock" Knochenhauer, K6ITL, became a Silent Key on Saturday, September 16, 2000. He was 73 years old.

Knock was an active DXer and Club member, having joined the Club in August, 1971. He was DXer of the Year in 1992-93, the same year he served the Club as Chairman of the IDXC in Visalia. He served on the Board of Directors twice and was President of NCDXC in 1994-95.

Knock served as Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division for two years, from 1986 until 1988. He was a strong supporter of ARRL and was for many years county RACES officer. He was a member of an ad hoc committee that prepared an early version of the DXCC field checking rules and was Board liaison to the ARRL Bioeffects Committee, the predecessor to today's RF Safety Committee.

The funeral was held Wednesday, September 20, 2000. The family requested that donations be made to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.

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

It's time for your 9-Band DXCC Award submissions again. Forgot what it's all about or how to do it? Here's a brief reminder.

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.

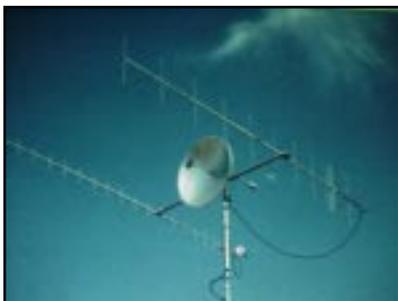
The costs this year are as follows:

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 on 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 previous 10 meter endorsements, 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. The plaque would look rather bare if the only endorsements you ever applied were the 9 for 300 countries.

Please make request to me, John Brand, K6WC, 9655 Tanglewood Circle, Orangevale, CA 95662 by December 1, 2000. 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. Make checks payable (in U.S. Funds) to the NCDXC.

Do you have questions? Try (Best) [john@k6wc.com](mailto:john@k6wc.com) or write to above address.



AA6G's Tracking Antennas



Wx Map Rcvd by AA6G

## Internet DXing by KH2D

*This being a rather lean month for input, I was forced to consult the "holding file" where I found the following article. It was left there by one of my predecessors and, I suspect, it was submitted by Garry, NI6T. Anyway, I found it interesting and I hope you will, too. -Ed.*

From:  
Jim Kehler <kh2d@kuentos.guam.net>  
To: "'dx-list-makelist.com"  
<dx-list@makelist.com>

Gene asked:

**> Why are so many looking for the easy way to work a new country?**

Because we are children of the NOW generation - and because we are suffering from INFORMATION OVERLOAD.

Internet DXing is not an ongoing project, it's a NOW thing....

Used to be, when somebody went DX-ing, we'd see a bulletin that said:

"Mischieff Reef will be activated by two operators from Goombabway from December 1 thru December 21. Look for activity on all bands"

And then we'd turn the radio on and start tuning around to find them. If we worked them, we were happy, if not, oh shucks....

But not any more. Now we see:

"Mischieff Reef - Eric, a 41 year old nuclear waste disposal scientist, who has 4 children, a type A personality, and who likes to eat peanuts while watching the Simpsons on channel 7, and his wife Wendy, who is 39, 5' 2" tall and weighs 126 pounds, will travel (in seats B14 and B15) via a brown C-47 military airplane to Amsterdam, where they will wait in the airport for 3 hours and 20 minutes for their next flight. Eric will have a hotdog (with Ketchup, Eric hates mustard) and a coke and Wendy, who is dieting, will have a salad with Italian dressing and then.... There will be 64 pilot stations, please check our web page at <http://www.frustration.com> for the list of email addresses and telephone number of a pilot station in your area and

(Continued Next Page)

**Internet DXing (cont'd)**

a list of exact operating times and frequencies.”

The WHOLE WORLD knows what time Eric is gonna hit the beach. The time allotted for Eric to put up his antenna has been carefully planned by his pilot stations, so the WHOLE WORLD knows what time and on which specific frequency he is supposed to show up.

And we are all logged on the DX Cluster. Never mind sitting in front of the radio waiting for Eric, we have the red light over the garage wired to the computer so the alarm will sound the first time he gets spotted. Never mind tuning around, we already know what frequency Eric is gonna show up on, so we have the beam pointed, the radio on said frequency, and the PA warmed up and idling...

Now it used to be we'd log on the DX Cluster and watch for DX spots. But not any more. We wait also for IMPORTANT DX INFORMATION, like:

“INFO: KH4/NH6YK will be on Midway Island for the next 2 weeks. Just went QRT to eat. May be back in an hour, or may go to other islands to check the birds.”

Helps us make critical decisions, like waiting an hour or deciding this is for the birds.....

If we found a DX spot, used to be we'd tune to that frequency, listen for a few minutes to figure out what was going on, and then join the fun. Not any more, now we hit the F9 key which QSY's the radio to the frequency of the last spot and send out an announce message to the whole world:

“WHAT FREQUENCY IS HE LISTENING ON ????”

Who, in their right mind, really expects Eric and Wendy to work the whole world on the first day, especially when we ALL show up THE VERY SECOND THEY TURN ON THE RADIO ?

And after a few hours of frustration because of not being able to work Eric

(Continued Page 6)

**Annual Christmas Party**

**When: Friday December 8, 2000. No host bar at 1830, dinner at 1930.**

**Where: Same as usual: Martinelli's Steak Pit  
1180 El Camino Real  
Milbrae**



**Menu:**

**Entree: Choice of 8 oz. prime rib, fillet of sole or chicken saute sec**

**Includes: Wine, green salad, relish tray, pasta starter, vegetables, potato (rice with fish) and Martinelli's cheesy french bread.**

**Price is \$22.00 (tax and tip included).**

**Please send your check, payable to the NCDXC along with your choice of entree to:**

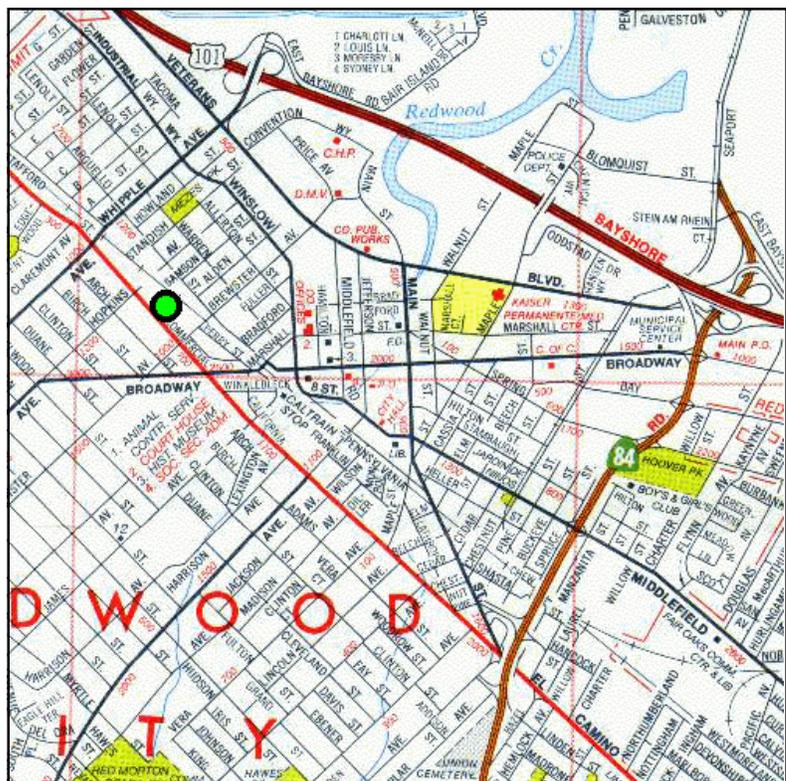


**Doug Westover, W6JD  
717 Los Robles  
Palo Alto, CA 94306**



**Payment must be received by December 4. Bring the XYL (or OM), kids, potential club members. Entertainment is TBD at the moment but it's always a good time!**

**Map to the Meeting**



## Internet DXing (Continued)

and Wendy, we go check our email, where we find an updated list of all the guys who DID work Eric and Wendy, which only frustrates us more.

Personally, I don't care to know Eric and Wendy's most intimate details. I wish they'd keep them out of my inbox.

I don't care which antenna they are gonna put up next, or which one they are gonna take down first. I'm not studying Construction. I'm chasing DX!

I don't care which outfit Wendy has chosen to wear next Tuesday while operating 20 meter CW. I'm not studying Fashion Design. I'm chasing DX!

I don't care what time they have to eat, with whom they have to eat, what they have to eat, and I don't care if the test results show they are eating enough fiber. I'm not studying Menu Planning. I'm chasing DX!

I don't care who they worked or when they worked them. If I worked them, I'll know it. And if I need internet logs or email lists to figure out if I did work them, then I didn't work them. I'm not studying ESP. I'm chasing DX!

I don't need their FAX number or their email address to tell them what time to look for me and on what band. I'm not teaching the world about propagation. I'm chasing DX!

I don't care about the hourly weather report on Mischief Reef. I'm not studying Weather. I'm chasing DX!

I don't care if Eric and Wendy took 10 minutes off to do the nasty, and I don't care which tent they were in, what color the sleeping bag was, who liked it and who didn't, and who finished first. I'm not studying Strange Encounters of the Third Kind. I'm chasing DX!

Don't get me wrong, I think INFORMATION is good. Unless it makes us stupid and lazy, which, in this case, it obviously does. I think PILOT stations need to be renamed. The word PILOT infers 'to fly'. In the case of DXpeditions, seems to me that 'PILOTS' cause a lot of crashes and clashes.

They lure us with the promise of DX, they inform us ad nauseum, and if we dare to disagree, they threaten to 'black list' us. If they continue to do the job they are doing now, I think they would be better named INSTIGATORS. Sad part is we are lazy and stupid enough to let them instigate us.

Eric is a jerk because he didn't show up at 12:33Z on 21.027mhz. Would he still be a jerk if his PILOT stations hadn't promised us he was going to show up?

But I do see a useful role for them. Make them BIOGRAPHERS. Let them collect all this historic, meaningful DX information (meal times, menus, weather information, flight plans, etc.), and then present it to us in an interesting format AFTER Eric and Wendy are safely back home doing the nasty in their own bed. I think web pages are great, and I love to go look at pictures and stories about DXpeditions - after they are over.

There have been a lot of DXpeditions to rare places in the last few months, plenty of DX for all of us. I've tuned around on my radio, found a humongous pileup, listened for a few minutes and thought to myself, "Wow, what a lousy operator. I could do better than that." But I didn't fire up my email program and send a scathing message to the whole world condemning the operation, because I remember the old glass of water story. Is the log half empty, or is the log half full?

Whose operating skills are the standard by which operators should be judged? I don't know. Does my receiver hear the same thing the DX stations receiver hears? I don't think so.... Did they go to Mischief Reef expressly to work ME, and if they don't work ME have they failed? I don't think so....

I think I've noticed a trend. Web pages. Online log lookups. Web Cams in the tent (ha ha). Are DXpeditions these days competing with each other for contacts in the log or are they competing for web

presence? For years we've played "My antenna is BIGGER than your antenna" and "My signal is BIGGER than your signal". Is the new ham game of the 90's "My WEB PAGE is bigger than your web page"?

My inbox was more than half full when I got up this morning, I waded thru it all, and I found only a very few words of wisdom:

"The best DX operations are the ones who work you.

I never did get a QSO with Eric and Wendy. But for some reason I feel like I know everything about them and we've been old friends for years.... In the back of my mind I have this strange thought that the doorbell will ring and it will be Eric and Wendy stopping by for some eggnog.

Happy Holidays, and may Sandy Claws bring you a 56KB modem so you can be a real DXer like the rest of us.

73, Jim, KH2D



**K6RK**



**KA6WIF & N0LZF**



**W6UDS, W6ISQ & K6RK**

## ***DXer Profile: WB6JJJ, Bill Maurer***

This month we profile one of our club officers...Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ. Bill will be a 10 year member the first week of November! He has been the club Treasurer for both last term and this term. No easy job, but Bill has everything perking along quite well. Bill has been extremely busy with his job and this has drastically cut back on his current time to be on the air, but has not dampened his desire to operate. His shack is well laid out and is much larger then the photos suggest. Bill has another computer to his far left that he uses primarily for RTTY. Which brings us to his operating habits? He enjoys SSB, RTTY and CW. His country count is about 256 and again, his time has been very limited in the last several years due to a heavy workload.

His professional background has been in Radio Station Engineering, as well as some time he spent in the military in service for Uncle Sam. Bill has held the following calls; WN6JJJ and KA6WM - the latter when stationed in Okinawa. His main HF rig is an ICOM IC-765. He does not have an Amplifier. He has a couple of 2 meter rigs: an IC 3200M and an IC 2AT that is now set up for packet. His "antenna" farm consists of a Cushcraft A3S at 40 ft., topped with a rotatable WARC dipole. He has an array of several 2 meter antennas.

We are indeed lucky to have Bill as our Treasurer. Thanks for the tour, Bill and your pets are good company in the shack.

Dick, W6KM.



**The Deserving Assemble**



**WB6JJJ & N6VAW**



**W6UDS & N6VAW**



**WA6MME & K6DLC**

## **Roster Updates**

**KM6IU**, Larry Moore has changed his call sign to **W6OD**.

**KQ6RS**, Ron Carmichael has a new call sign. His new call is **NC6U**.

**K6WR**, Brad Wyatt has changed his E-Mail address. His new E-Mail address is **wyatt@attglobal.net**.

## **Editor's Choice**

While on our recent trip to England, we had the privilege of visiting the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and seeing the Cutty Sark (the clipper ship - not the Scotch whiskey) which was docked nearby. Both were IMPRESSIVE; the Observatory due to its importance to navigation and the Cutty Sark due to its sheer size. I recommend them as "don't miss" if you happen to visit England.

So, now our vacation is over and it's time to get back to the business at hand. The first task is to finish this issue of the *DXer* and the next task being to get things organized and moving for next year's Convention in Visalia.

We have the beginnings of our staff for the Convention in place. But, there are other important Chairs that need to be filled. If you are asked to help, please remember that, the more people we have helping, the easier all of the jobs become. So, please respond affirmatively when you are approached. Your help is needed and your contribution will be recognized by all of your peers.

Having said all that, I would like to remind everyone that the Club meetings are where we all assemble and exchange our views and stories. Programs are a pleasant side benefit, but camaraderie is the most important benefit of your attendance. I, for one, look forward to seeing you there, hearing your views and stories about your pursuit of a new one.

So, I hope to see you at the meeting.

73, George, W6YD

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