

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

NCDXC Annual Picnic

The Deserving



The Cooks



Chow Time



More Pictures and Story on Page 3

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**No General Meeting
in August !**

Have a Nice Vacation!

**Next Meeting will be
September 14th
at the**

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

Remember:

**Send in your
Survey Form!**

Dues are Due!

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: ~~Ben Anastasia, AA6W~~
 Secretary: ~~Ken Burt, KN6K~~
 Treasurer: ~~Bill Maurer, W6JH~~
 Director: Dick Letrich, W6KM
 Director: Bud Bane, W6WB
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California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX

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Records Manager: Ron Pantou, W6VG

Publications Mgr: Ron Pantou, W6VG

Club Repeater, W6TLR

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



In the good old summer time - we had a picnic! Greater than usual turn out! Great weather and great food, thanks to Dick, W6KM and his XYL, Pat. Thank you both. Thank you Ben, W6FDU for all the prizes. It was nice to see Don, W6YHM and XYL, Marilyn venturing forth.

Ron, W6VG reports that the dues envelopes are pouring in. Remember - we need the dues and we need your input regarding a new meeting place. (See the questionnaire in last month's DXer).

Speaking of summer, we sure are in the DX doldrums, caused by - guess what? Too much sunshine! I dug into George Jacobs' and Ted Cohen's propagation book to refresh myself on what is going on. Briefly, it's the good old "D" layer, through which all signals pass, absorbing the sigs more than usual. The degree of absorption depends on intensity of ionization, which in turn depends on radiation from the sun. In the summer, we have more sunshine hours and the sun is higher in the sky. This, plus higher sun spot activity, gives us the summer doldrums. Stick around for fall and winter!

If you haven't read editor, George's comments in last month's DXer, please do so. He's right on... More members need to step up to the plate!

Remember, no August meeting. In September, once more at the American Legion Hall in Redwood City. At that time we'll settle the matter of meeting location and night.

As I sat down to type this I got an e mail from Ron, W6VG advising that he has a message from Ken Feige informing us that his father, Elvin Feige, W6TT, charter member has become a silent key. Elvin was 94. I can remember many trips to Electric Supply (later Elmars) in Oakland to buy or just look at the goodies. Elvin and Mario Chirone, W6DUB and Horace Greer, W6TI were usually there. Time marches on.

73 - Chuck, K6RK



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 rolls. 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.

Annual NCDXC Picnic

Well the weather cooperated again and we had a very successful picnic. The fifty or so people in attendance, enjoyed dining on the offerings of Master Chefs, Pat and Dick Letrich, W6KM. They were most ably assisted by Doreen and Dick Courtway, K7RC. Chuck, K6RK convened a short business meeting - just long enough to declare the new Board of Directors to be in place and official. The meeting was adjourned and everyone returned to enjoying the sunshine, fellowship and camaraderie. The following is a more complete report from W6KM, who is too modest about his culinary prowess. -Ed.

Thought that a short review of the Club Picnic might be in order for several very important reasons. First of all, it was well attended and without a doubt was a fun event. Lots of credit must go to Ben, W6FDU for putting out the reminder flyers and, along with Rolph, W6TWO for their efforts to provide a nice small raffle! Everyone in attendance was given a (FREE) ticket and the list of prizes were really nice with your Editor, George, W6YD coming away with the Timewave DSP-9. That unit was donated by Tom, K6TS. It's hard to believe that with the small budget allowed, so many nice prizes were passed out.

By now you must all know that the real force behind this picnic effort is Pat Letrich, my XYL. I'm pretty clumsy around fires (as are a lot of us guys) and that is where my direction comes from. It's unfortunate that about 10 members who indicated they would attend, were unable to do so for one reason or another, but I am sure they will try to make it next year. My HAT is off to Doreen and Dick Courtway, N7RC for rescuing me when they saw me choking on the smoke as I sacrificed meat to the gods of the airways. I doubt that anyone would have gotten a decent hamburger without their jumping in. Our master chef, Bill, WB6JJJ had a last minute appointment turn up so he was unable to make it for the early burning of the burgers.

We counted approximately 50 attendees - both members and families. That was great and it helps to make it a fun and worthwhile project. It's no more work to put on a picnic for 75 plus, than it is for 20, so keep it on your agenda and calendar for next year. By the way, this year we did have some members travel for afar, almost DX. Off the top of my head, I would say from as far north as Marysville/Yuba City to as far east as Modesto, Oakdale, Denair and Los Banos. We did miss some of the mountain folk this year, but hopefully we will see them at another event soon. Before I forget, I have to thank Tom Jones, K6TS and friend for taking care of the reservations again this year. For those who I forgot to mention, please forgive me, as my head is still full of smoke and its just now clearing up!

Who says Burger King is the best? Heck, you've never had a better burger than those fixed by the club! After all, Burger King doesn't give away their burgers for free and we do!

73 Dick, W6KM



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Some Thoughts... by Jack Troster, W6ISQ

The World's First DX Club?? So I'm told.

The World's Greatest DX Club????

Dunno about that! One would think that if the above were true, that more folk would show up at meetings. Wouldn't one?

Fourteen folk showed up for the last meeting in Redwood City—out of a membership of 240 or so. Admittedly, we'll guess 40 of those are overseas or otherwise inactive for all practical porpoises. But, of course, the reason for that ridiculously poor turnout was that it was election nite and everyone was afraid that if they showed they might be nominated to run for some office.

May we thank a few distant travelers who did make the meeting to support the club. Rich, K7ZV, and Pete, W6OOL, made the long run up from South Sam Hosay just because they thought they should support the election and to participate. Ole Tom, K6TS, drove from far East Pleasanton all over San Fran trying to find W6WB's house to bring him to the meeting. (swab jockey without his sextant?). But, those are tales of true devotion. Swap Shop and Jazz piano player Ben, W6FDU, hobbled up from Cupertino. And Harry, W6JTC, signed up as a new member. And neighbor Ron, W6VG, our perennial Secretary, attended his 891st consecutive NCDXC meeting. Gee, without those fellas, we would have had trouble fielding a NCDXC basketball team—with a coach but no substitutes.

Howsomever, that is all over. The good guy volunteers were properly erected and the club staggers fohwahd. So you can all come back for the next meeting without fear of being erected to do something.

BUT, there may be another reason for the low turnouts we have been

getting lately. Never complain about something unless you have a suggestion or three to suggest. So, here are some suggestions.

1. Firstly, we thank profusely, those who have volunteered to serve as elected official of NCDXC, now and in the past years. They have done a fine job trying to hold things together. We thank and applaud them for their willingness to serve.

2. Let's have a Round Table at the end of each meeting. We have indeed done that in the past and sometimes recently. i.e. at the end of the meeting, go 'round the room and give all attendees a chance to tell what they have worked lately, what they need, what they have built, new antennas, ask questions of others, ek setera, as they say on TV. This gives everyone a chance to participate so that a meeting is not just a one-way street with the officers reading minutes, announcements, a talk, then go home. We all like to know what the other fellas are doing. It's always good to generate ideas. I always felt it was the highlight of the meeting. Suggestion: make the Round Table a permanent addition to the meetings procedure.

3. Have the same type of Round Table on Thursday night meetings on the W6TI (147.36/96) repeater. Good Ole Swappe Shoppe Ben, W6FDU, is doing this now by calling for check-ins during the course of the on-the-air meeting. Later, after his Swappe Shoppe segment, Ben calls the roll of the check-ins and gives everyone a chance to say something. It works great! During recent W6TI meetings there have been lively, interesting RT's. You are not just a listening ghost sitting out there is VHF land. Also the check-ins let the fellows running the net know they are not just talking to themselves out there. You can contribute. You don't have to stand up in public and talk. You can hide behind your mike-hi. We have had some interested visitors check in too, which is nice.

(Often they are interested in the Swappe Shoppe). Also, it is good for the fellows who cannot attend meetings to still feel part of NCDXC. I am sure this will be continued as an interesting part of the W6TI Thursday nite net.

Please note: if you have never checked into the Thursday night W6TI meeting net (8pm 147.36/96), take a listen, and participate, of course. There is a pretty good turnout and I suspect that maybe those who do not check in do not have 2 meter rigs. Too bad. So, how about telephoning Ben and ask him to put your name out there over the air on his Swappe Shoppe segment that you are looking for a 2 meter rig. Or visit your friendly HRO. (note: I use an Icom IC-24AT hand held. Saves me that 23 stair-step climb up to the rig). That 24AT let me down during one meeting. I was breaking up. Low battery Ben said. Sorry 'bout that.

4. We always seemed to have had better attendance when we had meetings at some sort of a eating establishment. The Board is considering a possible "test meeting" at Harry's Hofbrau, about one mile south of the American Legion hall on El Camino, Redwood City, where meetings are now held. Easy to get to. (This is where the local QCWA group holds their Wednesday noon meeting). This is the same restaurant chain, which used to operate the chow line at the Palo Alto golf course where we held meetings for many years. You can order whatever you want from their long cafeteria line. Eat lots of stuff... or nothing. They also have a long bar, about like American Legion. There is a private room for meetings, which is "quiet" in contrast to the American Legion. And, it is free to the club. Unfortunately, Friday nights are taken up for that room, so we would have to change meeting night. It happens without serious problems to other groups—note: NorCal Contest Club meets on Monday nights. Them as is employed seem to make it to the office OK the next day. In the last DXer you were asked to vote on this as a trial run. I hope

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Thoughts... Continued from Pg 4

you all risked a 34 cent stamp and voted yes. Whatcha got to lose?

5. It would be interesting to hear comments/suggestions from others about these matters. Ted, K6XN, asked for comments at his last meeting as president (some years ago), as I recall. He sat backward on a chair at the Palo Alto Golf Club Harry's Hofbrau, and went around the room asking each member for suggestions. Some good suggestions were put forward (which, unfortunately, I don't remember), but I don't think they were ever subsequently picked up and incorporated into action.

6. Goes without saying that, if you can, go to the meetings. I cannot always go and I know you cannot make it sometimes either. (I could not make the picnic for which I am sorry and guess I missed a great one). If you live too far, try checking into Thursday nite net and know you will have a chance to swap lies with other folk. And, if you're lucky, before the meeting, you may even have a chance to chat with perennial attendee and Director, Bud Bane, W6WB, who was playing the sax at Cal—that other institution—before your parents were born! It is a loooooonng drive for most members, no doubt about it. But if you're a peninsula fella, or close-in Marin, or EB, maybe you can make it OK then and now. You could car-pool so's you won't be lonesome. Try it...you'll like it. Be nice to see you.

7. OK. Now, you say, why don't you (me) be quiet and do something. Well, I been there done that...a little. I am urging "all eager young hands" (that is K6TS-speak) to come up with ideas how we might keep interest high and increase participation at meetings and on-the-air meetings.

8. If we don't get it together now, when there are still a few spots left on the sun, what are you gonna do when them spots dry up? Leave us pass the DX word. Let's get together and work some a that good DX out there before

them sunspots disappear for a few years. You better start charging. Ten and 12 are kinda dead right now in the summer but should come back to a little life in couple months. You'd better be ready when DX perks up a little. Then you can tell everyone all about your feats of glory at meetings and on Thursday nites. Actually during the sunspot dip, you could do what I did last time. Try working all 3076 USA Counties....on CW. I was cruelly challenged to do it by W6CF. Took me 7 years. But I got even with James. I got him elected Director of Pacific Division. And he is doing a wonderful job. So he got back to me again!

9. Another suggestion which will turn off about 97% of NCDXC members: if you wanna get a whole basket of 10 or 15 DX, before the bands go blaaahhh, get in a couple of the fall contests and work 10 - 15 only, especially the 10 meter contest. Start with the attitude that you don't have to take the contest all that seriously. You are not compelled, forced, feet to the flame, iron maiden awaiting, the rack stretching, to work all the G's, HA's, F's, UA's you hear. One is enough, although you might like to have an insurance QSO with another. There is no rule that if you work stations in the contests you have to send in a log. But it would be nice to help out the fellas you worked. Just send in a "check log". Then fill out your QSLs and get the QSL Managers or direct addresses from W6BSY after the Thursday nite W6TI 2 meter net. Contest pileups are usually much less than pileups on the rare DX. You don't like pileups??? — What are you gonna do when a P5 shows? Oh, that's different.

10. Hey, let's join in and have fun. Bring your suggestions to the next in-person meeting or W6TI Thursday Net. You could help our Editor by writing a short paragraph, too! Can you understand the work it takes to produce the DXer? When was the last time you thanked W6YD for his good work?

C ya. — 73, W6ISQ.

New Band?

ARRL Petitions for New 60-Meter Amateur Band

A petition filed this week by the ARRL could result in a new high-frequency band for US amateurs. The ARRL has asked the FCC to allocate 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis.

The League told the FCC that the new band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters. "There are times on certain paths when a frequency in the 80-meter band is too low, and a frequency in the 40-meter band is too high for reliable ionospheric propagation," the ARRL said in its petition. The ARRL said the propagation gap can hamper communication between the US and the Caribbean during a hurricane or severe weather emergency.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the proposal at its July 20-21 meeting. The FCC has not yet invited public comments on the petition. Even if the petition finds favor with the FCC, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

As proposed by the ARRL, amateurs General class and higher would be permitted to operate phone, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power. No mode-specific sub-bands were proposed.

The ARRL said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve substantial overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40. If the new band is approved, hams would have to avoid interfering with—and accept interference from—current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed

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and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL's petition cites the success of the League's WA2XSY experimental operation in the 60-meter band, carried out since 1999, which confirmed the communication reliability of 60 meters.

"An amateur allocation in this band would improve the Amateur Service's already exemplary record of providing emergency communications during natural disasters when even modern communications systems typically fail," the ARRL concluded.

A copy of the ARRL petition is available on the ARRL Web site,

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz>

DXCC Information

T5AR (Somalia) has been approved for DXCC credit. It was on the bad list for lack of documentation. The documentation has been reviewed and it is OK. People can now receive DXCC credit. Anyone who has submitted it and had it rejected can contact us and we'll be able to update their record without having to submit the card again. If not, it can be sent in the next submission.

The operations shown below have been approved for DXCC credit. They were on the bad list for lack of documentation. The documentation has been re-

viewed and they are now OK. People can now receive DXCC credit. Anyone who has submitted these and had it rejected can contact us and we'll be able to update their record without having to submit the card again. If not, it can be sent in the next submission.

3XY1BØ, 3XY7A, 3XYØ3A

73

Bill Moore NC1L
DXCC Manager



NCCC Announces California QSO Party Oct 6-7

CQP is the premier state QSO party. Last year there were over 7,000 active hams involved in some way or other. The vast majority get on the bands and give a few QSO's to the more serious contesters, but then stick around and join in the activity looking for those CA counties. NCCC is again doing advance planning work to insure that all 58 CA counties will be on the air and active during this event. In fact, if you happen to be in one of the rarer counties you could easily have a pile up.

CQP is not just for HF. It also includes 6 and 2 meters. Unknown to many, CQP also has a club competition. It can be a great club activity to organize your club to get as many members as possible on the air and send in their logs to help your club achieve a high total score.

Anyone who needs info and can't get to the Internet address, can send a note by snail mail to Al, AD6E and he'll be happy to help them out. His address is in both the roster and the following.

Rules of the 2001 California QSO Party (CQP)

Begins: 1600 UTC - 6 October 2001 Ends: 2200 UTC - 7 October 2001

Stations outside of California work as many California stations in as many CA counties as possible. Stations in California work anyone. California stations send QSO number and county. Stations outside of California send QSO number and U.S. State, ARRL Canadian section, or Country. Phone contact is worth 2 points. CW contact is worth 3 points. No partial contact credit. Multipliers: California stations count U.S. states (50) and Canadian call areas (VO/VE1-7 and VY0/VY1/VE8) for a possible total of 58. VE9 is considered part of the VE1 call area for this event. All others use California counties for a maximum of 58. CA stations on a county line may be claimed as a multiplier for any or all of the counties they give in their exchange.

CLASS: Single-Operator (High Power, Low Power, QRP), Multi-Single, Multi-Multi, California County Expedition, Mobile, Novice/Tech, Club, and School. There is a 10 min rule for M/S.

Logs should be submitted no later than November 15 to cqp@contesting.com or via postal mail to: NCCC, c/o Al Maenchen, AD6E, 3330 Farthing Way, San Jose, CA 95132-1908. **A \$1.00 donation to help defray costs of printing and mailing results is encouraged.**

Special CQP certificates to all entries with 100 or more QSOs.

Final and complete rules are available at <http://www.cqp.org>

ARRL Board Calls for Congressional Action on CC&Rs

Meeting July 20-21 in Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted a goal of legislative action to provide amateurs the same protections from real estate covenants, conditions and restrictions now enjoyed under FCC rules by home satellite dish owners and others receiving over-the-air broadcast signals.

Board members felt that amateurs should be granted the right to install an antenna having a visual impact similar to that of a home television satellite dish or other antenna that falls under the FCC's Over the Air Reception Devices (OTARD) policy. In 1999, the FCC reaffirmed the OTARD rule that prohibits restrictions that impair the installation, maintenance or use of antennas used to receive video programming... The Board also adopted the revised band plan for 160 meters based on a proposal from the ad hoc 160-Meter Band Plan Committee. The plan adopted

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sets aside a segment for digital modes from 1.800 to 1.810 MHz, maintains CW operation for the entire 1.8 to 2.0 MHz band, recommends a lower limit of 1.843 for SSB operation, and designates QRP calling frequencies—1.810 for CW and 1.910 for SSB.

The 1.830 to 1.850 MHz "DX window" was eliminated. The committee recommended that contest sponsors "consider the use of DX windows as necessary". The plan accommodates established frequencies used on 160 for AM.

The ARRL Board of Directors also endorsed the Logbook of the World. An electronic alternative to collecting traditional QSLs for awards, the project goes beyond simply replacing printed cards with electronic versions. Logbook of the World will make use of electronic confirmations within a giant repository of QSO information maintained by ARRL. Digital security methods will ensure data integrity and authenticity.

The Board also approved a new QRP DXCC award. Applications likely will be accepted starting early next year. No QSL cards would be required, and there would be no time limits or endorsements.

The Board approved a plan to invite all IARU Region 2 countries to take part in Field Day starting in June of 2002. This would expand participation in the popular annual event to include stations in both North and South America.

Hats Off...

It would be impossible to publish the *DXer* without input from our members. Our thanks and a tip of the hat go to the following, whose contributions made this issue possible.

**Al Maenchen, AD6E
Jack Troster, W6ISQ
Dick Letrich, W6KM**

Thank You,
George Allan, W6YD

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YAESU



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• TX 100W 100-999 kHz 2M, 20W 70CM
• Built-in DSP, 500, 1000 Hz
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