

DXer



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

Christmas Party Pictures by W6KM



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General Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2001

Harry's Hof Brau
1909 El Camino Real,
Redwood City

Program

Information
Unavailable at Press Time

Social Hour ..	6:00 P.M.
Dinner	7:00 P.M.
Meeting.....	8:00 P.M.

Next Meeting
Thursday, February 14th

Harry's Hof Brau
1909 El Camino Real,
Redwood City

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: Jerry Griffin, K6MD
 Secretary: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Treasurer: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
 Director: Dick Letrich, W6KM
 Director: Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO
 Director: Bud Bane, W6WB

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 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
 Control Operator: Robert Smithwick, W6CS
 Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)
 Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.
 Net Manager: Randy Wright, W6CUA
 DX News: Net Control Operator
 Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
 QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

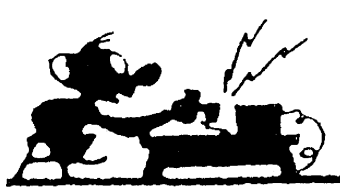
W6TI DX Bulletins:

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



I hope everyone had a great Christmas! This deadline has snuck up on me, but I'll try.

First, we had a great Christmas party thanks to Ben and Jerry (W6FDU and K6MD).

I received a card from Jo, WB6ZUC. She explained that her husband, Doug was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about a year ago. They have moved to a facility where he gets the round the clock care he needs. Needless to say, ham radio and many other things are on the back burner. Her address is;

Mrs. Douglas Hansen
 3939 Walnut Ave #150,
 Carmichael, CA 95608.

We wish them well.

Alex, W6ZX reported that one of our members, A. P. Russell, K6DKQ is a silent key. We are indeed sorry to hear that and we pass along our condolences to the family.

Your board met on December 8th and we feel confident that we will be able to handle the 2003 DX Convention, provided we get enough volunteers to do all the work. More on this later.

Oh yes, if you weren't at the party you missed a classic rendering of the saga of Eric Palmer, Jr., as told by Jim, W6CF.

73 and see you at the January 10th meeting.

Chuck, K6RK.



NCDXC Dues Information

Full and Associate Members;

<u>Date Dues are Paid</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Family Rate</u>
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 - Holiday Party

REVISITING THE DUNPHY

The Annual Holiday Party was held Friday night, December 14th at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, formerly known as the Dunphy Hotel, where the NCDXC held many a monthly dinner meeting. The hotel has certainly had many changes, but we had a very nice room upstairs, and a very fine dinner. Ken Keeler(K6RO) and his fine band of musicians did their usual fine playing, and many holiday songs were played in a Dixieland manner. Very fine. An excellent presentation was given with slides and the spoken word in the usual Jim Maxwell (W6CF) manner. His presentation was on "Whatever happened to Eric Palmer Jr.? Eric was a very early (1920s) avid ham and held several calls. Being such an avid DXer, "Avid" sort of curtailed some of his day and night DX activities. Program was very well researched and presented by Jim. No club business was transacted, but Chuck Patterson welcomed the attending members, their XYLs, and members of the NCDXF and the Redwood Empire DX Club. The dinner and entertainment was extremely well handled by Jerry Griffin (K6MD) and Ben Deovlet (W6FDU). Kudos to these two for their proficient and excellent handling of this monumental event.

Ron Panton, W6VG, Secretary, NCDXC.

Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting - December 8, 2001

BoD meeting was held December 8th at the home of W6VG. Called to order by President, Chuck Patterson, K6RK at 9:50 A.M. Present in addition to K6RK were: K6MD, Jerry Griffin, Vice President; W6FDU, Ben Deovlet, Treasurer; W6VG, Ron Panton, Secretary; W6KM, Dick Letrich, Past President; W6WB, Bud Bane, Board Member; W6TWO, Rolph Stoddard, Board Member and; W6YD, George Allan, DXer Editor & ex officio board member. We were happy to hear from Roland Kretschmann who is re-joining the NCDXC after moving to Bend Oregon. W6YD and the board debated on the exact dates the 2003 DX Convention will be held. The final date will be announced by George in the DXer. Jerry Griffin volunteered to assist in putting on the 2003 convention. General Griffin will be retiring from the army before the date of the convention. Accounting info on the Xmas party was given to the board by Treasurer, Ben Deovlet. Entertainment for the party was also discussed, and of course we will hear N6RO and his well known Devil Mountain Dixieland Band. Programs for future club meetings were discussed, and many very interesting programs will be announced in the DXer. Club meetings will be held in our private dining room on the 2nd Thursday each month at Harrys Hof Brau in Redwood City. On that night, the 2 Meter net will of course not be held. Roll call and round table of the Thursday night club net was also discussed as a possibility, probably calling on the club officers. K6RK will call HRO regarding the advertising on the back page of the roster & DXer. Much discussion on the club web site and we hope to hear more on this from Chuck, AA6G. The club misses the propagation and sun spot reports in the past given by W6RQ(s.k.). We hope someone in the club takes over this very important aspect of ham radio. Jerry Griffin wants to see the club rebuild, re-organize, be more far sighted. Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Panton W6VG, Secretary.

BOD Mtg Pix



W6WB



K6MD



W6TWO



W6FDU



W6VG



W6YD

A HAJI TO MECCA-VILLE...

...or WE'VE SEEN NEWINGTON!
de N6HR & N7YX

This may be a wrong time to speak of pilgrimages, but finally, after 45-some years, I have now been to the Headquarters!!! Like ARRL HQ! Like W1AW! I can now rest in peace...

On a recent trip to East Coast we ran into some unscheduled happenings and decided to take advantage of the extra time to go and see the leaves turn in New England. We were a bit early as the Yankee country really hadn't had any frost yet, so most of the trees were still on the green side. Driving North from New London we overnighed in Hartford and the next morning decided to seek out the ARRL facility in Newington.

Decision made! Step number one - find it!

You'd think the address of Main Street coupled with acres of antennas might stand out like a sore thumb - but, alas, this is not the case. Main Street is not Newington's main street and W1AW is not on top of some hill but down next to some ancient river bottom! Unless one notices the 100-ft tower behind tall maple syrup trees, you can drive right by and never see the place! In fact, W1AW sports 4 towers with beams, but they are on a large city-sized commercial lot with the W1AW building on the street and the ARRL headquarters building some 500 feet into the bush - separated from the W1AW building by a parking lot. But - at least - we found it!

The parking lot had two visitors slots so we anchored our chariot and walzed in. It might have been like any office building, except the front receptionist's nametag showed "NINAG" and Penny swears the HQ troops had something to do with her getting this moniker. She is really a nice lady and does not "nag" anyone. The reception area is adorned

with all kinds of ancient radios and, of course, publications for sale. Ward's N0AX book of puzzles is eminently displayed.

Rather than waiting for the 11:00 am tour, or the 1:00 pm tour, I espied Wayne, N7NG in the hallway and stomped on him to tell that couple people from Way-Out-West had arrived. Wayne was in the middle of the swamp swatting alligators (his office was in the process of being moved) so he called Martin N1FOC - the outgoing QSL Bureau manager - and Martin became our delightful host! No tour!

Custom exhibition of facilities! We first went upstairs and met Bill Moore NC1L - the DXCC boss! A huge room manned by him and three ladies was the centrum for sorting DXCC cards and entering the info into the Big Brother computer. A quick check showed that Elsie's DXCC was already mailed out (N7YX - DXCC #37776) but the boxes and boxes of still-to-be-checked applications were stacked all over. Bill & Co.'s backlog is about 3 months!

Then we visited Martin's realm - the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Another set of stacks and boxes - postoffice style. The scoreboard showed that over 1,400,000 QSLs had already been sent out this year and that Martin would beat his last years 1,8M out easily. Projected count for this year is over 2 million QSLs sent out to various bureaus! Martin iterated that every country that has a QSL bureau gets a mailing at least every 90 days - no matter how few cards go to that bureau. The cards will NOT accumulate dust at his office! Martin mentioned appreciatively of a lady in W3-land who does the sorting for the incoming BOX 88 cards which are sent in no order whatsoever... The rest of the incoming cards go out to W1-W0/VE bureaus in batches of 1000+ as soon as they arrive and are sorted. His office did not have the accumulation that Bill Moore is faced with. Martin has one lady assistant.

Then we proceeded downstairs to the "lab". There, Ed Hare - appropriately with the callsign W1RFI - he is the chap that tests all the equipment that comes from the manufacturers. His lab is a real wringer: the test samples are store-bought and the lab resembles the sonar room of a submarine with frequency analyzers, generators and scopes all over the place, including a fully-RF-quiet 'screen' room. The original Tuna-Tin is one of the museum pieces in his lab's display cabinet. Sans a cat, except for a furry Morris on the tin label.

The rest of the tour was of other ARRL facilities - mostly dealing with finances, mailings, QST editing, publications, and - very important - the QST Advertising Department. Accounts receivable! All hallways are full of memorabilia in glass display cases, ranging from crystal set radios to OSCAR I. The original HQ building was built in 1963, but the back part - almost twice the size of the original building, was added in 1978. One interesting place is "The Gage". Only people with FCC "secret" clearances are allowed in there. This is where all the VE tests are kept!!! As new test questions are generated and distributed, the answers are in The Gage and all old stuff is shredded and disposed of as in Pentagon! Anyone entering that area without permission is really committing a Federal Offence! So there!

Another visit was to the Library. There on the shelves were ALL the publications - including QST #1!!! I asked and was assured that duplicate originals are stored in a safe place at another location - just in case.

The next stop was W1AW in the old Hiram Maxim's building and the site of the present W1AW transmitters. This facility is completely automated and all the bulletins, code practice tapes etc are run off of digital inputs from the HQ building. The W1AW uses racks of Harris linears feeding 20+ antennas on all frequencies. The original Hiram Maxim's "Betsy" spark transmitter is there. With all the copper tubing, it more resembles a Jack Daniels still than a ham rig. But it did the job! The W1AW building also houses two guest

(Continued on Page 5)

HAJI...

(Continued from Page 4)

operators stations in separate rooms, plus a "tech" station. Everything is extremely neat and professionally appointed.

That was the end of the tour. We bought some items and we departed with a good feeling that ham radio will survive - whatever else happens...

Hillar, N6HR and Elsie, N7YX.

AZMap Software

Anyone out there who is looking for great circle bearing (beam heading) software would be well advised to visit the web site of Paul Burton, AA6Z.

Paul, a former NCDXC member, has written what I consider to be a superb piece of software. He initially wrote it for his own use, but now offers it free of charge to the Ham community via his web site at <http://pw1.netcom.com/~burtonpt/mypage.html>.

The software is easy to download and install and can be customized for your specific longitude and latitude. If you've been looking for beam heading software, I urge you to take a look at Paul's work.
W6YD

About QSLing

Jack Troster, W6ISQ sent us the following note last month:

"In Kan Mizoguchi's announcement of his Dxpedit to Ducie Is., he said, '...read April '97 QST about sending QSL cards...'. Here is a print of that page. I'm not sure that we don't already know all about that stuff, but here is the page anyway. Maybe you could excerpt enuf from this to satisfy the curious. 73, Jack."

For the sake of brevity, this is a review of the article with only a couple of excerpts to emphasize its main point.

In the days of handwritten logs, QSL managers processed QSL cards by first looking up the date of the QSO, then the time and then the call sign. In other words, the progression of *indexing* was by date, then time then call. However, the rise in use of computer logging creates a whole new situation, as the log may now be *indexed* by call sign, rather than date and time.

Even handwritten logs are routinely processed into a computer to make QSL handling easier. By call sign indexing, it should be easy to preprint labels for the entire database, with four or five QSO's per label. The article then takes us through a whole scenario of what

happens when things don't match. The important point here is; if you make the contact, QSL for it. That will help minimize the dilemma the QSL manager is faced with when the number of QSO's and the number of QSL cards don't match.

The article goes on to state:

"The computer now makes it possible for one person to QSL's of some 10,000 QSO's in three to six months... However, the QSL manager would like to ask a favor of you. Please put *all* of your QSO data in one SASE. This includes data for each QSO you worked, even if it's just a list, rather than a QSL card. Also, it is certainly better to consider not making that QSO if you don't need the QSL. And it is no longer necessary to make that "insurance" QSO if you can see, via the Internet, that you are in the log".

I guess there will *always* be those who find it necessary to prove their ability to break the pileup, even though they've already made multiple contacts with the DX. We can ALL help the DX-pedition by showing restraint in that area. And we can help the QSL managers by sending all QSL's for all QSO's from the same call in one envelope.

Gimme a Break!

By W6KM

What's Ham Radio Coming to? Over the last year or so, I've listened to many of the "Old Timers" on the bands complaining about how Ham Radio "just isn't what it used to be". They go on to say that Ham Radio is "going to the dogs because all the new Hams didn't have to build their rigs and really learn the code".

GIVE ME A BREAK!

As I approach my 25th year as a Ham, I find that the lower in Frequency I go, the older and more standoffish many of the old hams are. Lately, I've enjoyed

more Rag Chewing and less DXing. Don't get me wrong! I love Dxing. But to sit for hours and hours without making a contact is not fun for me.

I find myself drawn to the 10 meter band, where a lot of action, including DX can be found. The newer Hams are thrilled to work you and are excited to have a real QSO, just like the days when I started my Hamming.

Try calling CQ on 20,40 or 80 meters. Good Luck. You can find DX calling on 20 meters, but you might never find a clear spot to call a CQ on 20 because of the nets and clicks. To me, that's not what Ham Radio is all about or what it means.

Sure I want that "new one". I'm a DXer! But, unless you live for contesting or DX only, you're really missing the best part of the Hobby. Try adding some fun to your operating. Call a CQ and meet some really fine Hams. I'm of the opinion that Ham Radio just might get a whole lot better when the Tech's on 10 meters figure out that if they want to continue Hamming when the sun spots die off, they're going to have to upgrade. Then they'll find their way down the bands. Let's hope they can change the operating habits of those old, stale "Old Timers."

73 Dick, W6KM

The QSL Manager by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

Originally published in the WCDXB, 2 December 1975

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN - Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. One of our local flaky QRPers came by last week and we talked of a number of things. Then he made the big announcement. "I'm a QSL Manager" he announced. I've taken on the duties to handle the cards for the recent operations a month or so back by KG6SX and K4KQB/KG6." We thought this over for something was not meshing in this story. "Wasn't that a pirate signing those calls recently," we asked, "and what will you do when the cards start coming in for them?"

The QRPer Shrugged. "Oh, I'll just tell them that I have not received the logs yet. No logs, no cards! See how simple it can be. Absolutely!" We were beginning to think that perhaps we were missing something here. "That's ridiculous!" we said, "Absolutely ridiculous. Doesn't this being a QSL manager for a pirate operation seem peculiar to you? Awfully peculiar?"

The QRPer leaned forward to fasten his beady eye on us. "Look at it this way, Buster", he growled. "If I were to start getting upset at things that were peculiar, do you think I would have ever got started in DX-ing?" Son of a Gun! We were lost

for words for sure at this point for all we could think was that maybe tomorrow would be a better day and perhaps we will understand things a bit better. Meanwhile we thought about the elusive clues to the Eternal Mysteries of DX. One of these days maybe we will learn the Inevitable Truth . . .



WA6AUD

NCDXC Accounts Status

NCDXC Current Financial Accounts Information

Bank of America		
Type of Account	Account number	Current Balance
Main Checking Account	00418-22388	\$13,241.14
Repeater Checking Account	00413-23040	\$2,000.00
Convention 2001 Account	00418-01258	\$3,500.00
CD Account	00418-05107	\$10,884.96
Total in Bank of America		\$29,626.10

CAL FED- California Federal Bank		
Type of Account	Account number	Current Balance
CD Account	048-010074-2	\$11,251.21
Total in CAL FED Bank		\$11,251.21

Total NCDXC funds	
Total in Bank of America	\$29,626.10
Total in CAL FED Bank	\$11,251.21
Total NCDXC funds	\$42,923.65

Prepared on 12/6/2001 by Ben Deovlet, W6FDU, NCDXC Treasurer 2001-2002.

DX News...

P5, NORTH KOREA

This info was taken from the web site of Bruce Paige, KK5DO (for complete details see www.amsatnet.com/p5.html).

From all of the activity, it appears that **P5/4L4FN** will be a counter. Conversely, the lack of any activity from **P5/YT1AD** or **P5/YU7AV**, who had hoped to operate from P5 from 18 to 22 December, would seem to indicate they were denied permission. Don't look for any more activity from **P5/4L4FN**, however, until after 18 January 2002, when Ed returns from his Christmas Holiday break. His operating schedule had been from 1400 - 1500Z on 14.260 and from 2200 - 2330Z on 28.580 where he operated split and listened between 28.590 - 595. That's no guarantee he'll operate the same schedule when he returns. For the most current and accurate info, check Bruce's web site at www.amsatnet.com/p5.html.

P5, DUCIE ISLAND

The Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association announces that all planning is now complete for their second attempt to activate Ducie Island.

The group plans to depart from Mangareva on **March 12**. They will use a VP6 callsign to be announced at the beginning of the operation, and plans to be operational as soon as possible after arriving upon the island. Those who wish to keep up with the progress of the DXpedition as they move to the island may check 21.260 Mhz for Maritime Mobile operation.

The band plan and schedule of operations is as follows:

21.020 Mhz (CW) and 21.295 Mhz (SSB) will be QRV 24 hours each day.

28.495 Mhz, and 14.195 Mhz will be the prime SSB frequencies, and 14.020 Mhz will be the prime CW frequency other than 15 meters.

It is planned that there will be some operation on all bands, 160 through 6 meters, and RTTY in addition to SSB and CW operations. Low Band and WARC operations are more likely to take place in the last days of the operation.

XV9, SPRATLY

The Vietnam Amateur Radio Club (VARC) is planning to be on the Spratly Islands (**AS-051**) during **April 2002** with the callsign **XV9TH**, however the specific dates are currently unknown. More details are to follow.

5U, NIGER

Paolo, I2UIY is planning another trip to Niger from where he plans to be QRV **3-18 February 2002**. This info comes from Paolo, I2UIY via Jack, W6ISQ. 80 & 160 fans will be interested in the following. Also, you should visit Paolo's web site at <http://loja.kkn.net/~i2uiy/> for more detailed information.

From: i2uiy@cqww.com (I2UIY) To: JMTROSTER@aol.com

Hello Jack!

It's nice reading from you... No problems about 80/160 this year. We will have a Titanex 27m high vertical and a beverage beaming the US so we should be able to put a decent signal into your remote part of the world. Just keep your ears open for us... We will make a new PowerPoint presentation and it will be available for Visalia. Seasons Greetings from Italy! Paolo, I2UIY

KH1, BAKER ISLAND

Hrane, YT1AD, will lead a team here next year. His team plans to set sail from the Fiji Islands on April 25th. The trip is expected to take 6 days to get to this rare island. The group will stay for 10 days and plans to be on all bands.

Most of the above information (except as noted) was gleaned from the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, QRZ-DX, the ARRL DX Bulletin & the web sites mentioned.

W6YD

Editor's Choice

The adjacent column, "DX News" is my first stab at making this a more DX oriented publication. If you, the reader, see value in this, I will try to keep it up. In it, I've tried to do is focus on countries in the top 100 most wanted list, as published by *The DX Magazine*.

I'm sure that this doesn't really satisfy the needs of most of our members, since many need only a handful of countries to have them all. On the other hand, some of our members are Associate Members and still need a bunch just to get DXCC. Further, the DX Magazine list is worldwide in scope, which doesn't really reflect the needs of West Coast DXers.

It would really be interesting to know what the top 25 or 50 most wanted by our Club Members. If anyone else is interested in this, let me know and maybe we can take this on as a project.

Finally, I know there are a great many resources for DX info, but from what I hear on the bands, nobody reads it. Maybe this will help. Maybe it won't. Please, let us know.

73 for this month.

George, W6YD.

Kudos 'n Kredits

This month's issue was made possible by articles and input from the following sources:

- ARRL DX Bulletin**
- OPDX Bulletin**
- QRZ DX**
- WA6AUD, Hugh Cassidy**
- VE1DX, Paul Dunphy**
- W6FDU, Ben Deovlet**
- N6HR, Hillar Ramat**
- W6ISQ, Jack Troster**
- W6KM, Dick Letrich**
- K6RK, Chuck Patterson**
- I2UIY, Paolo Cortese**
- W6VG, Ron Panton**

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

