

DXer



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

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June Meeting Pictures by W6KM & W6YD

New Member



W6JD



Mihaela &
Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ



W6TWO & W6FDU



W6JD



K6DXX, K6LM, W6JD & KG6AM



W6KM



W6MKM



KE6TFS & AE6AI



W6FDU



KG6AM, K6DXX & K6LM



W6JD



W6MKM & W6YD

**General Meeting
July 13, 2002**

**ANNUAL NCDXC PICNIC
at
Amador Valley Community
Park, 4455 Black Avenue,
Pleasanton, CA**

**For More Information
See Page 6**

No Meeting in August

Enjoy Your Vacation!

**2002-2003
Membership
DUES
ARE DUE!**

(See Page 2 for details)

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

The DXer:

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 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
 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

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



Well, we finally had enough volunteers to hold a successful election... Almost. At our election meeting we agreed to defer the election of a president until the July 13th picnic/meeting. I hope that someone will step forward and lead the club in 2002/2003.

Those elected were:

Vice Pres.	K6RK
Secretary	W6JD
Treasurer	KG6AM
Director	W6TWO
Director	W7XA
Director	W6YD

Please join me in welcoming Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ to membership in the NCDXC. Curt became an associate member at our June meeting.

I look forward to seeing most of you at the picnic.



73, 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 Minutes By W6VG

MINUTES OF CLUB MEETING, JUNE 13, 2002

The monthly meeting of the NCDXC was held Thursday, June 3. As is customary, the meeting was held at Harry's Hof Brau in Redwood City. Those assembled at this early time (6 something PM), indulged in eating, drinking and socializing. Club meeting called to order at 8:04 PM by President, Chuck Patterson, K6RK. Voted into the club, as an associate member, was Curt Kolofson, AE6EJ. Welcome, Curt. Members were reminded by W6KM of the club picnic next month, so no general meeting will be held. Contact Dick Letrich, W6KM for picnic details, or to volunteer to help in the b-b-q cooking. President, K6RK then opened the meeting for election of officers. There being no applicant for President, and Chuck Patterson having served his 2 years as president, was voted in as Vice President. W6JD, Doug Westover will be the new secretary. KG6AM, Dewey Churchill will be the new treasurer. Elected board members will be W6TWO, Rolph Stoddard and W7XA, Alan Koblinski. W6YD, George Allan will round out the board, filling the vacancy created by outgoing President, K6RK Chuck Patterson, who will be Vice-president. There was discussion on the suggestion by Rolph, W6TWO in re; to having club meetings every two or three months. It was decided against such drastic measures. Much discussion on lowering the dues, but it was decided against. Many club members had good suggestions on attracting more DXers to the club. Some of these good ideas will be implemented. The long awaited video (belonging to K6MD) (and much TNX from all of us, Jerry). This beautiful tape was much enjoyed by all of us. This FB tape was on the DXpedition to the South Sandwich Islands, and certainly should be seen again.

Meeting was adjourned by President, K6RK, Chuck Patterson at 9:49 P.M.
Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Ron Panton, W6VG



Ron Panton, W6VG reviewing the membership application of Curt Kolofson, AE6EJ with the applicant. Curt was later elected an Associate Member.

Patch Design Contest

Don't forget to try your skill at designing a patch for the 2003 Convention in Visalia. The contest, which was announced last month in the *DXer* is open to all NCDXC members and the winner will receive a FREE registration for the 2003 International DX Convention in Visalia.

As basic requirements, your design(s) should include a mention of DX, International DX Convention 2003, Visalia and, if possible, both the SCDXC & NCDXC. Your design can incorporate any theme that would be appropriate to DX and DXing. The patch design can be any shape. But, bear in mind that the patch will have to be manufactured, so the shape shouldn't be prohibitively intricate.

Contest entries must be postmarked no later than October 19, 2002 and may be sent directly to either Jerry Griffin, K6MD or George Allan, W6YD at their roster addresses.

Judging will be based on originality, eye appeal, theme, ease of manufacture and adherence to the basic requirements mentioned above. All designs submitted will become the property of the Northern California DX Club.

Good Luck.
George, W6YD

NCDXC PICNIC

As a reminder: the NCDXC Picnic is open to all Club members, their families and guests - especially, prospective members.

The NCDXC will provide all of the food and soft drinks - and it's all FREE! However, If you want anything more powerful than sodas, you'll have to bring 'em yourself!

This picnic has been an enjoyable, social event for all who attend. This year promises to be no exception. So, come be a part of the group. Enjoy some fresh air, sunshine, good food & camaraderie.

Hope to see **YOU** there!

W6YD

Why Is It? by W6KM

How do I begin? I have to tell you that I'm really baffled as to why members of this excellent club don't wish to take an active part in its running?

First of all, I excuse those who must travel a great distance to attend meetings. But, for those who live in the heart of the Bay Area, I can't. Traffic is always a problem for those who still work and must fight their way through the traffic to get to a meeting. That I understand. But what I don't understand is this: why, when nearly 80% of our members live within a 40 mile radius of the meeting site, aren't they attending meetings?

I'm a long time member and have watched sadly as meeting attendance dribbled down from nearly 75 to a very few - 20 at best. I have watched some Past Presidents work hard to present a very organized meeting. I've also watched others (who remain nameless) make a mockery of the meetings. But, I can assure you that recent Presidents have tried everything in their power to find the missing element. That's no secret or mystery. The missing element is ... YOU! Don't you realize that half the reward for meeting attendance is the exchange of ideas and interaction with other members? When YOU are missing, we definitely miss YOU!

Chuck, K6RK continues to do double duty for the Club. Both he and we need your involvement. There's no better way to start, than by attending the Club Picnic and Christmas Party. These functions are perfect for those who live outside of the immediate area. Both are being held on Saturday during the day, when the "... traffic is too heavy..." and "I'm so tired, I just can't make it" excuses would be invalid.

Do both yourself and the Club a favor and, for once, put yourself out to actually "be a club member". It's the very least you can do and we would like to see YOU!

Dick, W6KM

Ham IV Rotator Problems? By AF6S

If you have a large antenna system and a Hy-Gain rotator without automatic brake-release delay, you're almost guaranteed to sooner or later strip out the rotator's brake or the gear it engages. A recent Ham Radio article and the ARRL Antenna Handbook both show unduly-complex circuits for eliminating this well-known problem (which Hy-Gain should have fixed years ago).

Commercial remedies are available, in the \$20 range, but the method described here is simple, cheap, passive (no transistors, MOSFETS, ICs, etc.) and probably won't take you any longer to install than the commercial products.

Figure 1 (page 5) is a partial schematic of the rotator control box, showing the changes. Changed wiring and new parts are shown with heavy lines and bold-face type. New parts are: two rectifier diodes, one 1/4-Watt resistor, one aluminum capacitor and a relay. Parts values are shown on the schematic. None are critical. The relay must have a 24VDC coil, but coil's resistance can be anything greater than 500 Ohms (mine was 700 Ohms). My relay had a rectangular plastic case, which allowed mounting without screws or drilled holes.

To build the circuit, first solder the capacitor directly to the relay's two coil terminals. Then mount the relay, dead bug style (terminals up) to the bottom of the chassis, using double-sided sticky-foam mounting tape. I placed the relay close behind the direction-control switch assembly, allowing the two diodes and the resistor to be soldered across directly between the switch terminals and the relay coil terminal having the capacitor's positive lead. This eliminates the need for any terminal strips, Vector boards, etc., but insulated sleeving should be used on any close spaced leads.

Solder a piece of hookup wire between chassis ground (on the top side of the chassis) and the negative-capacitor re-

lay coil terminal. Next, solder a short wire between the two brake re] lever-switch contacts (shorting out the switch). the two wires going to rear-panel terminal #2 a terminal and solder them instead to the relay's common contact terminal. Add a new wire, 20gauge or larger, from the relay's normally-open contact terminal to rear-panel terminal #2.

That's it! What you did was:

1. Shorted the brake release switch, so that the power transformer always has AC power to its primary.
2. Connected the relay contact (normally open) in series between the solenoid and the transformer secondary.
3. Added a diode "OR-gate" circuit to DC-power the relay contact when either the CW or CCW lever is depressed.
4. Wired the relay's contacts to release the brake when the rotator is activated in either direction.
4. Added a capacitor to keep the relay on, holding the brake off for about two seconds after either rotate lever is released.

Note: The delay is set by the value of the capacitor and the relay's coil resistance. It seemed about right when the product of the two was 0.7 seconds, but it's not critical. If you use a relay whose coil resistance is higher than 1000 ohms, the capacitor value should probably be reduced to 500 uF or so.

Long live your rotator! Now, while you've still got that control box opened up, get out your July '89 DXer and look at the simple modification to eliminate the annoying meter drift and the silly "calibration" knob. Put in those changes, too and your control box, if not the rotator itself, will be as good as a Japanese one!

de Dave, AF6S

Continued on Page 5

Ham IV Rotator Troubles? by AF6S

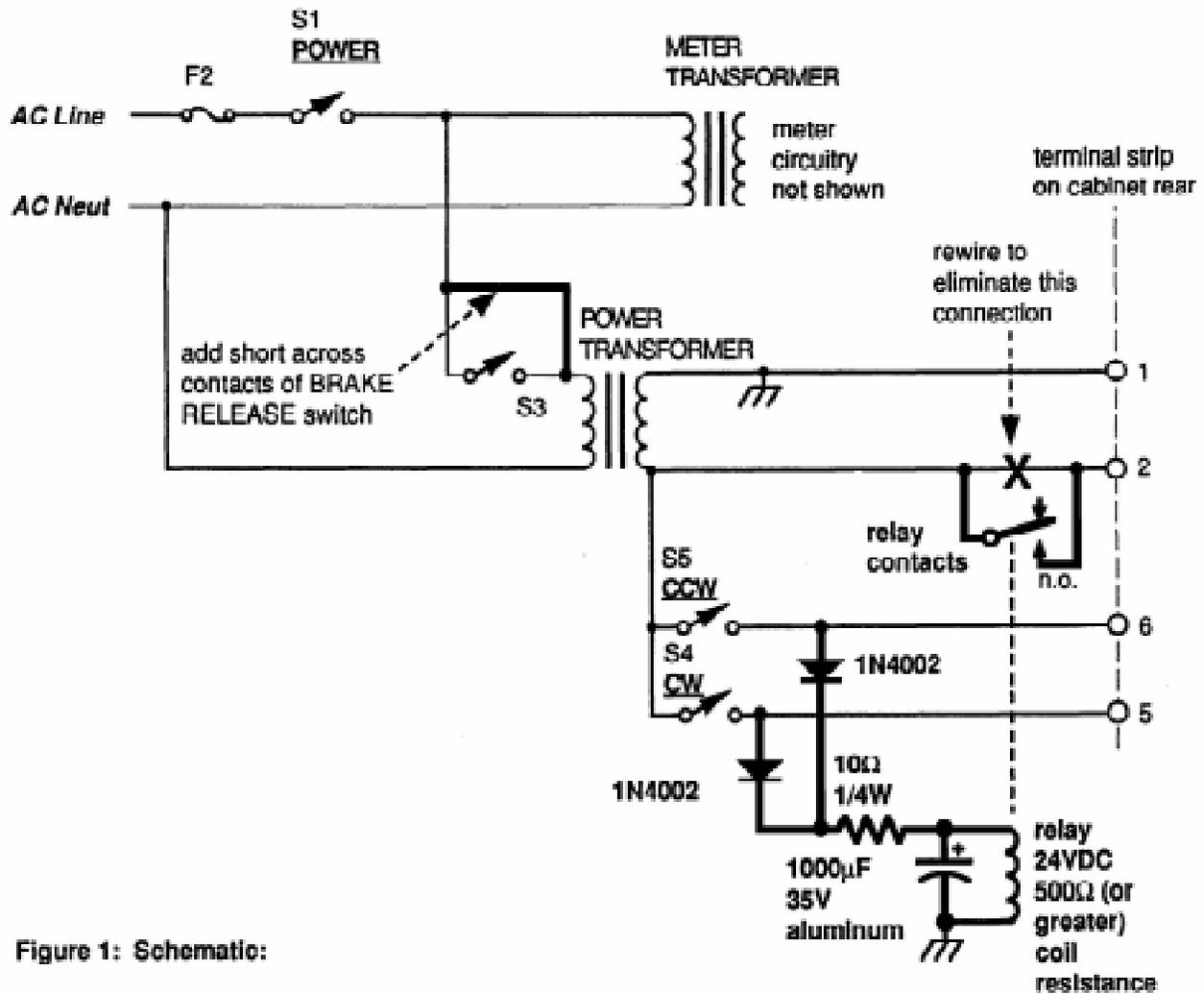
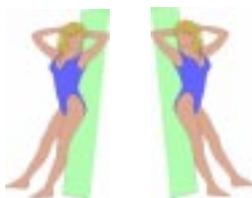


Figure 1: Schematic:

The above schematic and the accompanying article (both by former member Dave Barton, AF6S) originally appeared in the February 1990 DXer. It was brought to our attention by Gary Cervo, K6DXX as an alternative to the Delay 5 solution to this same problem that appeared in an article in the DXer a few months ago. If anyone is interested in the modification from the July '89 DXer that was mentioned in the article, please let us know and we'll see what we can do about resurrecting it. -ED.

NCDXC ANNUAL PICNIC

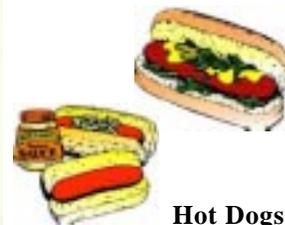
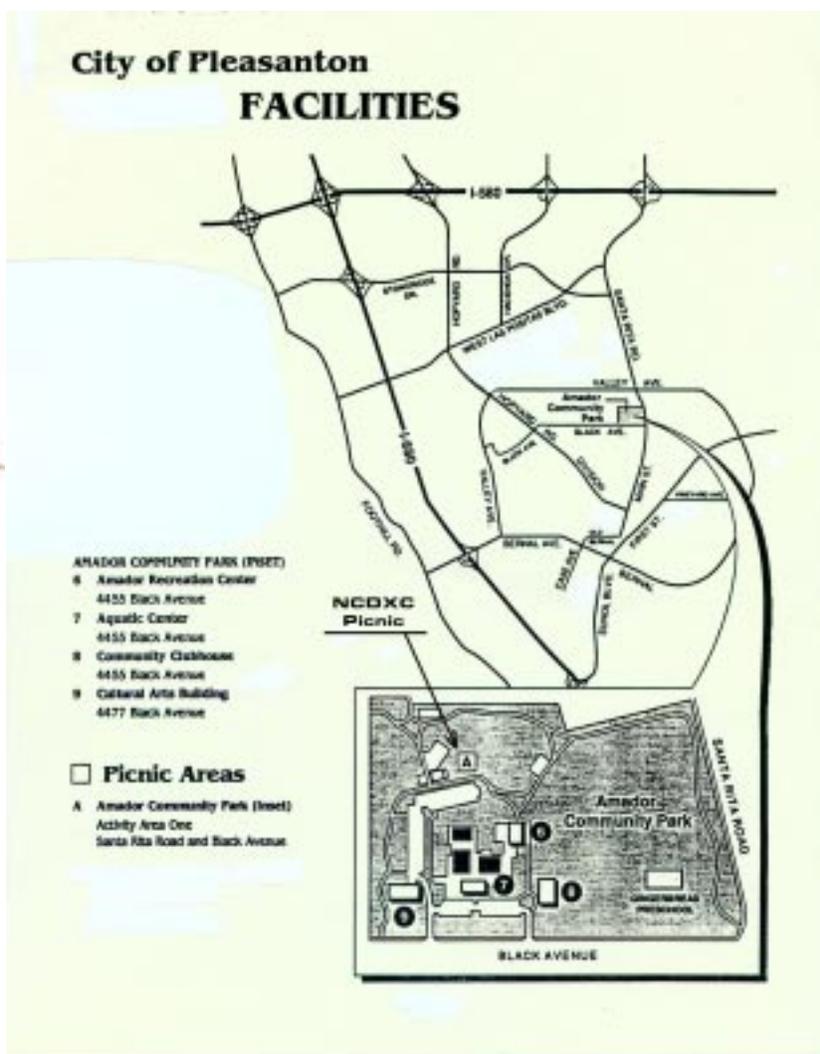
Saturday, July 13th 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Amador Valley Community Park
4455 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, California



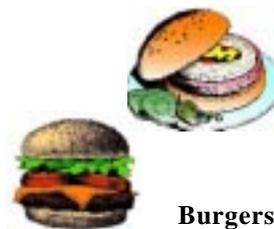
Swimming



Sodas



Hot Dogs



Burgers



DX Digest by W6YD

The following was "gleeped" from NG3K's web site at <http://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/adxo.html> and the Ohio Penn DX web site at <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>. Please, refer to those sites for more complete information. -Ed.

- Now - Jul 31 **Afghanistan, YA** By G0TQJ as YA/G0TQJ: QSL OK via RSGB Buro or direct: C.M. Vernon, 66 Kesteven Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 1SU, England
- Now - Aug 05 **Pakistan, AP2AUM** By 9A4NA/T98N fm Peshawar; SSB only; A4S with 40m kit; QRV as work permits; check around 1200z
- Jul 11 - 18 **Swaziland, 3DA0CF** By K5LBU; SSB, perhaps PSK31 RTTY; QRV for IARU Contest. QSL to K5LBU
- Jul 13 - 14** ***IARU HF World Championship***
- Jul 13 - 14** ***World Radiosport Team Championship***
- Jul 15 - Aug 14 **Benin, TY** By F5MOO/TY7Z, F5CWU/TY9F, F5AOV/TY4DX, F1PJB/TY6FB; 160-6m + satellite
- Jul 17 - 21 **Svalbard, JW4LN** By LA4LN fm Spitsbergen (EU-026); focus on 40 30 20m; CW, perhaps PSK31 RTTY; QSL: Tom V. Segalstad, P.O. Box 15 Kjelsaas, N-0411 Oslo, Norway
- Jul 27 - 28** ***RSGB IOTA Contest***
- Jul 30 - Aug 11 **Maldives, 8Q** By M0DXR, M0TTT, K3XC, EA2AIJ, DJ1YFK (all young DXers) as 8Q7ZZ; 80-6m; CW SSB + digital modes. QSL to G3SWH
- Aug 02 - 08 **Myanmar, XY** By international team as XY3C (via DL4KQ) XY5T (via IN3ZNR) XY7V (via DL8KBJ) fm Yangon; 80-6m; 1 station
- Aug 05 - 15 **Monaco, 3A** By IZ1DSH as 3A/IZ1DSH; 40 20 15 12 10m; QSL OK via Buro or direct
- Aug 09 - 22 **Myanmar, XY** By international team as XY3C (QSL via DL4KQ), XY5T (QSL via IN3ZNR), XY7V (QSL via DL8KBJ) fm Ngapali; 160-6m; 4 stations
- Aug 16 - 19 **Myanmar, XY** By international team as XY3C (via DL4KQ), XY5T (via IN3ZNR), XY7V (via DL8KBJ) fm Apaw-Ye Kyun (IOTA NEW); 160-6m; 2 stations; perhaps more than 4 days
- Aug 25 - 31 **Togo, 5V7XO** By VE2XO fm Lomé; 20-10m (perhaps 6m); RTTY SSB; 1 kw; verticals; also perhaps QRV fm TY (TBA). QSL to VE2XO

Don't forget to jump into the contests on July 13th & 14th - before and after the picnic, of course! It's a good way to boost your totals and it can be a lot of fun. For more information see www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2002/rules-iaru.html. -ED

Editor's Choice

Well, there's hardly enough room left in this issue to editorialize. But, I'm gonna try it anyway.

I was somewhat gratified and yet, disappointed by the results of the "election" at the June meeting. Yes, we have nearly a full slate of officers for the coming year. But, the word "nearly" is operative here. We failed to find anyone willing to serve the Club as President! What a shame!

There was a time when guys stood in line to lead such a fine organization as this one. What happened? Well, in my humble opinion, while becoming an "exclusive" DX Club, we neglected being an "inclusive" DX Club.

We need to welcome all interests and subsets of DXing into our club - not just those who solely chase DX for the sake of DXCC. There ARE other interests. And while we're on the subject: it's high time we made Contesters feel welcome in our club.

Contesting and DXing are not mutually exclusive, but instead, are mutually inclusive. DXers participate in contests and Contesters chase DX. Maybe not for the same purposes, but nevertheless we do. So it's time we opened our arms to contesters and recognized our mutual interests.

That's my opinion. What's yours?

George, W6YD

Kudos 'n Credits

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

NG3K, Bill Feidt's Web Site
Ohio Penn DX Bulletin
K6DXX, Gary Cervo
W6KM, Dick Letrich
K6RK, Chuck Patterson
AF6S, Dave Barton
W6VG, Ron Pantan

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

