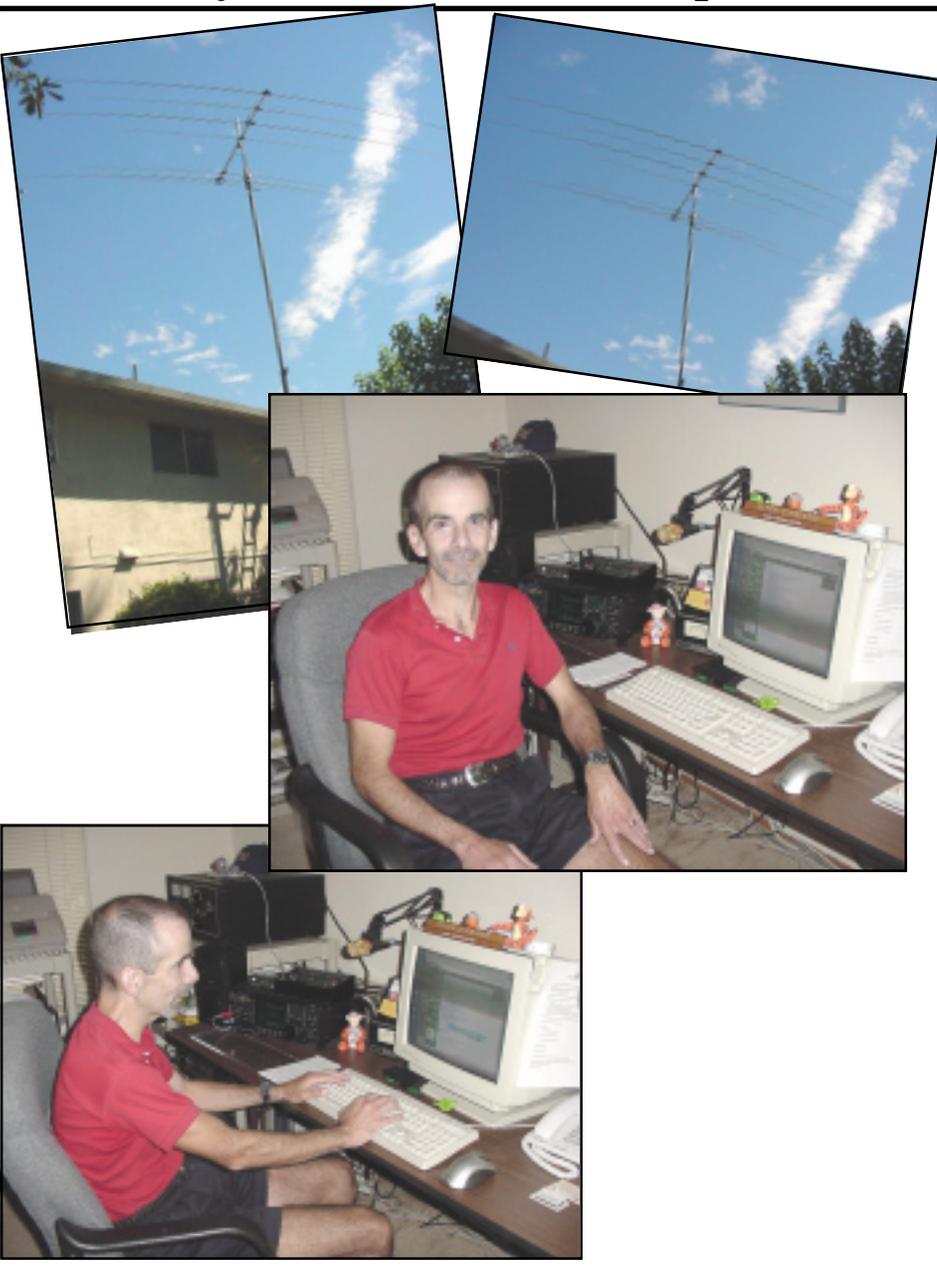


DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

DXer Profile: AE6AI, Mitch Cipriano



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**General Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2002**

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

Program

This will be a do it yourself meeting, i.e. the members will be the program. We will have:

- Show and tell: pictures, QSL's and construction projects

- Problem solving session: you present the problem — the assembled experts will try to solve it

- Round table: trading lies on recent DX.

- Door prizes for the lucky ones.

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

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: Doug Westover, W6JD
 Vice Pres: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 Secretary:
 Treasurer: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Director: Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO
 Director:
 Director: George Allan, W6YD

The DXer:

Editor: George Allan, W6YD
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 Los Banos, CA 93635
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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:

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: Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI

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



First, I would like to thank you all for electing me President. I hope that I will be able to lead the club forward over some of the speed bumps in the road.

Secondly, I apologize for not being able to attend the September meeting; I came down with some sort of "nasty-virus-thingy" the prior weekend and, at this writing (Sept 15) I'm STILL trying to kick it.

We face some immediate challenges. We need a new Secretary, a new Director to replace Al Koblinski, W7XA and a new Contest/Awards Chairman. The line forms to the right. Please give the matter some thought and step forward and volunteer! This is our convention year and George is going to need all the help he can get. I'll help do whatever needs to be done and I hope others will respond to George's help requests.

Don't forget the December Christmas party which Rolph has put together for us and remember the club marathon which begins December 1st.

73. Doug, W6JD. (And I firmly intend to make the October meeting!)

Editor's Choice By W6YD

Well, things are looking up! We have a new President - Doug Westover, W6JD stepped up to the task. Thank you, Doug.

So, now we need to backfill for Doug, who had been secretary and for W7XA, who has resigned from the BOD. The line forms on the right, folks.

The convention is moving along on track. However, we have learned that due to the impending problems in the Middle East, Jerry Griffin, K6MD will be unable to continue as Co-Chair. That means we'll all have to work a bit harder to fill the void that his absence will create. That's the bad news. The good news is — he plans to get a European callsign and work the deserving from there.

You will note that we have discontinued the DX Digest for reasons mentioned last month, so there's nothing to remind you of upcoming DX operations. However, you can still improve your counts by jumping into the CQ Worldwide SSB Contest on Oct. 26-27.

Good Luck & 73, George, W6YD

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 September 12th meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Vice President, Chuck Patterson, K6RK. W6JD was elected President for 2002/2003. There were no volunteers for the offices of Secretary or Director. A new director is needed due to the resignation of Al Koblinski, W7XA. It was suggested that one member be designated to give a thumb nail sketch at each monthly meeting.

KG6AM reported that the Club is still solvent and that dues were still coming in. W6VG reported that the roster goes to press on September 16th.

Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO gave a report on the Christmas Party which will be a luncheon meeting from 12:30 to 3:30 PM on Saturday, December 14th at the Wyndham Hotel (formerly the LeBaron Hotel) in San Jose. Details later.

A question was raised about badges: is W6TEX still ordering them? What is channel for getting orders to him?

An excellent video on D68C, Comoros was enjoyed after someone found the tracking buttons on the VCR.

Respectfully, submitted.

Chuck, K6RK

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of the August 24, 2002 NCDXC BOD Meeting

The BOD meeting was held at the home of Ron Panton, W6VG and called to order at 10 AM by Vice President and Acting President Chuck Patterson, K6RK. In attendance were Secretary W6JD, Treasurer KG6AM, Directors W6TWO, W7XA. Director W6YD is on vacation and was not present. Others in attendance were host and database manager W6VG, K6MD, W6RGG and W6KM.

Dick, W6KM, showed substantial savings to the club with members downloading copies of the DXer from the club web site as opposed to having paper copies mailed to them. Savings appear to be on the order of \$500/year.

Treasurer KG6AM reported progress in resolving some outstanding issues with the treasury and should have a complete accounting shortly. W7XA made the suggestion that both the club rooster and procedures manual be made available in a downloadable format on the club web site so that it would not be necessary to produce a large number of paper copies as is presently done. Any member without a computer would be able to ask the secretary or data base manager for a printed copy from the web page, thus saving a great deal of money in printing costs.

Nothing of substance was discussed with regard to the convention, as W6YD was absent.

An obsolete optical scanner purchased by the club was declared surplus and donated to W6FDU.

W6JD resigned his position as Contest Chairman, having been elected Secretary. The question of finding a President arose and W6JD then offered to take that position upon approval of the membership, leaving the post of Secretary vacant.

Submitted,

Doug Westover, W6JD



We Get Letters...

This is the most difficult article I have tried to write to date. I've composed it in my mind for weeks, I put it down on paper only to read it a day later and throw it away again. So, as the DXer deadline looms, I've decided to just tone it way down so as to not slide to the depths of the ex-member who caused me such anxiety by his terse comments.

To start with, we are all subject to criticism from time to time and Lord knows I am, without question, one of the most vulnerable. But in August, a now ex-member sent a downright mean email to our Editor George, W6YD. In it, he made several comments, but two stand out in my mind and I think should be addressed.

In one, he stated that the DXer had "no content" and that the pictures were "poor quality". This, from a Ham who, so far as I know, contributed virtually nothing to the club and to my knowledge attended only one meeting in (?) years of membership. And, I think that meeting was the one he attended when he joined.

In addition to the insults, he mentioned all of his great DX achievements and the contributions he has made to DXing. But he has virtually contributed ZILCH to the NCDXC. Second he took me on by saying that I sent him a "nasty email" a few years ago when I contacted him about a club data base he had been in charge of. This is, of course, is a complete fabrication. But, all that aside, bear in mind that this is our (my) hobby and neither George nor I are professionals. We do this for the fun of it (not very much fun when we run into this attitude). I know I also speak for George, W6YD when I say we are both open to suggestions about how we can improve things for the Club. But, also remember that we have to hold costs within reason (this will explain the printed picture quality). Remember — we *welcome* your articles and *constructive* comments.

(P.S. Did I mention, I'm glad he didn't rejoin?)

73 Dick, W6KM

100 Most Wanted DX Countries *By Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD*

One of the pleasures of Amateur Radio and DXing is the traditional junk box. The treasure of the years is a delight for all.

Well, delight for most of the way. Some have said that a DXer spends the first half of his life gathering his own personal junk box, then spends the rest of his life trying to get rid of it.

Thus one should listen when one of the "DXers in the Know" speaks. The truth of what is important in life is always to be found in their words. Recently I was cleaning up my own boxes of assorted junk and found the January 2002 "*DXer*" waiting for its "on the shelf" niche of history. And we noted therein a mention of the "100 Most Wanted DX Countries". We knew again that "The Old Refrain" is still being heard by the true-blue DXers.

"The Old Refrain?" Always somewhere a band can be heard playing "The Old Refrain", always there will be a DXer there listening. True blue DXers are often heard whistling the tune. They know and they remember, mostly remembering the lingering hopes of other years when a rare DX one eluded their calling.

Why such nostalgia? Well, if you can understand why you can work the long path when the short path is dead, and you know that the Irish invented radio, you possibly can understand that there is no such thing as a Universal 100 Most Needed Country List. All needed lists are personal. Not only personal but also parochial, some even more so. Listen again to tales of back when "The Old Refrain" was on the ten most heard DX list.

Simply put, just because you need a country does not make it rare — it is often only rare for you. Marti Laine, OH2BH, mentioned how difficult it is for the Finn DXers to work

the Pacific Ocean DX countries, others have said that every one of the Indian Ocean DX countries, including those in the Antarctic, are hardly more than local QRMers at times.

Some may find that hard to believe. Let us take Heard Island for example.

Years back some thought Heard was rare and these baseless claims are still sometimes heard. But there once was a U.S. Navy crew on Heard to make celestial observations needed by NASA. And one of the crew was an amateur with a sister living in Novato. Yes, yes! Novato in Marin County.

And every week he would keep a schedule on twenty meters, to talk to his sister. And every week all you had to do was to wait until the weekly visit ended and you would get Heard Island and generally on the first call.

A rare DX spot? Ha! If you think Heard Island is rare, think of 8X8A on Cray Island and Slim the well-remembered operator. Or others such as Franz Josef, which was really rare until UFOOL was heard. UFOOL showing unannounced and readily greeted by many of "those in the know!" Even some NCDXC members. Now there were a couple of rare ones! Remember that the call is phonetically: You Eff Zero Oh El.

Back in the Middle Ages of DXing the West Coast DX Bulletin asserted that there was no Universal 100 most wanted countries, that all of the needed ones could be argued as being locals to some DXers. So the bulletin set out to prove the heresy.

It compiled a list of needed countries for each call sign region in the U.S. and for every possible DX country in the world, these taken from the foreign and overseas subscribers to the WCDXB. It was very interesting.

Thus there was an individual list of needed DX countries, one for each U.S. call areas, all the way from W1 - land through WO - land, plus every place else where a response could be hoped for.

WIAM neglected chopping his winter woodpile to work out the figures. Then the WCDXB, in a sixteen (16) page issue of its weekly DX bulletin, printed the whole smear. All the countries needed in a worldwide coverage.

It was the first time such a detailed list had ever been compiled. Possibly for some it has been the only one.

What did it prove? Only again that DX is and always has been a moveable feast. DX is always available somewhere. And always somewhere a band is playing "The Old Refrain". Believe that.

Another example from the WCDXB.

A subscriber in England wrote to report that he was scheduled to do some business travel in the UK in his near future. This would include stops in Wales, Isle of Man and a few other spots with their own country prefixes.

He asked an opinion of the WCDXB — asking if it was worth the trouble to carry his amateur gear on the trip as it did seem that every living DXer had already worked anything and everything in the way of the DX countries along his route. Thus, would any DXer at all need such DX countries for their DXCC award.

He was advised as to what he should do in preparation.

First, work out a schedule. Then write to DX bulletins or DX radio societies in countries on the other side of the world. Ask when the various bands were generally found open from their QTH's to the UK and what were the best bands and best times for possible DX operations. That is, if someone there actually might need any UK contacts on the route of his travel.

Then he worked out a schedule, promising that each day he would be on certain bands and certain frequencies and that he would be looking for those countries on the other side of the world who might need a DX QSL from one of his stops. In short he spread the word that he was coming.

How did it work for this G4 DXer? He returned delighted, saying that he had been the King of the DX Ball every time he was

See "Most Wanted" Pg. 3

CHEW THE RAG ON PSK 31? *By Hillar Ramat, N6HR*

The other day I was downtown getting the pickup truck lubed and oiled and thus having an hour to pass I went to the local library. Perusing, I came across a three-volume tome by a Dr Charles Funk who had put down in words — according to him — where our commonly used everyday expression came from.

Like “horsefeathers!” Well, would you believe that this expression originated in the New England building trade? It refers to rows of clapboard laid with butt edges against butt edges of shingles so as to provide a flat surface over which asphalt could be laid? The expression has NOTHING to do with Pegasus and Greek mythology!

Surprised? Well, I went on...

Now, a “HAM” was appropriately described as a ‘poor actor’, albeit, the book does acknowledge amateur radio operators as being ‘hams’. The word ‘ham’ also denotes poor pugilists, ballplayers and other poorly skilled athletes... The term apparently originated by some vaudeville operators in 1902 referring

to low-rated performers who could not afford proper makeup (like Negro minstrels) and had to resort to “hamfatter” as makeup grease...

But - what got me — was to “Chew the Rag”!

Now, all of us, when we were sort of in the novice category - one of the first wall certificates we sought was that blue piece of paper and the membership in the ARRL’s “Rag Chewers Club”! “RCC!” No? It was OK on AM, but better on CW. We could safely make the assumption that the other fellow could not copy code. So we sent the name three times and the QTH at least 3 times and by the time we told him what the rig was - the required 30 minutes were up! And we qualified!

If we happened to be on AM (Ancient Modulation), we would spell the name (John) in various phonetics several times — like “my name is John as in Jerusalem - Okefenokee - Honorife - Nebuccatnezzar” — or whatever — and then go on to spell Philadelphia in simi-

lar terms. Never mind that the other guy was from Trenton NJ and already had his general license...

BUT - to quote Dr. Funk: “to chew the rag...”, “to talk or to make a speech, especially to talk at length, to grumble continuously, or to rant”... This reference is to an army slang used in England and in United States in 1885 - and in newspaper usage later - and thus had no connection to “cloth” whatsoever. The original word is a VERB — “to rag” in dialectical English of the 18th century meant to “scold”, to annoy, to tease, to wrangle... Maybe referring to a still earlier English expression “to bullyrag”... Now, in Shakespeare - in “Measure for Measure” he has Angelo “chewing a name” that is saying it over and over. And, in the 16th century the expression “chewing the cud” - meaning to ruminate upon a matter was already proverbial...

Welcome to the Rag Chewers Club!
Or try PSK31!
de Hillar, N6HR

Most Wanted (Concluded)

on the air and generally the distant DXers who were in need were waiting for him. It was such a good time all around that the G4-DXer intended to repeat the operation in the then coming year.

Enough! You can find always find answers to a true blue DXing problem, but who has the good word about junk boxes? Possibly one of the most vicious thing any DXer might do is to will his Junk Box to another DXer. It often is a really mean thing to do.

That is, unless it is someone in Southern California. Then it is a good thing. They need help down there. □



Map and Directions to Meeting

Harry’s Hof Brau is fairly easy to find. It’s on El Camino Real, just north of Woodside Road (Highway 84).

From Highway 101, take the Woodside Road (Highway 84) West exit to the El Camino North exit. Follow that exit (a short distance) toward El Camino to the stop sign at Main Street. You will practically be in Harry’s parking lot! It will be right across the street on your left.

From Highway 280, take the Woodside Road East exit and follow it to the El Camino North exit. Harry’s will be on your right just past the underpass.

There are parking lots on both sides of the building. So, if one lot is full, just try the other one.



NCDXC



GALA CHRISTMAS PARTY



12:30 - 3:30 PM
Main Floor

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th
SAN JOSE WYNDHAM (old LeBaron) HOTEL
1350 North 1st Street (at I-880)

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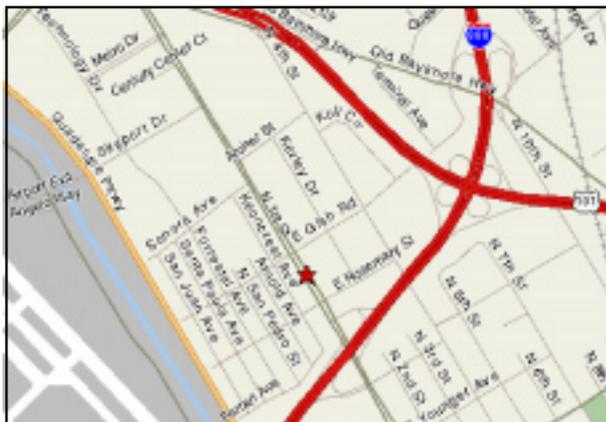
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NEED A RESERVATION)**

**BRING YOUR
QSL CARD
FOR
SPECIAL PRIZE
DRAWING!**

MAP TO WYNDHAM HOTEL



DXer Profile: AE6AI, Mitch Cipriano

This month's Profile is of one of our newer club members, Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI. Mitch joined earlier this year and already has jumped right in and has taken the job of Swap Shop Manager. While Mitch may be new to the club itself, he has been a Ham for several years. His first ticket was in 1988 when his call was KD6BUU. He has only recently started seriously chasing DX and his count is going up rapidly, held up only by the slow QSL replies that we all seem to experience. His station is quite impressive and as you can see in the pictures, it consists of an ICOM IC-756 Pro, his after burner (Linear) is an Ameritron, AL 1200 and all of this is fed to a Force 12 CFS at 40 feet. Mitch likes to work CW, SSB and is now also on PSK 31 using Ham Scope. Mitch and his wife Christine KE6TFS, have just become parents of a new baby girl named Mia. Congratulations on the new YL! Keep up the good support to the club, we really appreciate it.

73 Dick, W6KM

Meeting Pictures *By W6KM*



Rolph, W6TWO & Ron, W6VG



Larry, W6OD & Joe, (Call?)



Mike, W6MDG (Formerly WB6KJE)



Mike, W6MDG & Kurt, AE6EJ

Roster Updates

Dues checks for the following arrived after the roster had been printed.

- WA6AUD Hugh Cassidy**
77 Coleman Dr
San Rafael, CA 94901-1990
H (415) 453-5640
- W6LUX Arthur Johnson**
Absentee
3906 N Atkinson
Roswell, NM 88201
H (505) 627-7959
Email: w6lux@netscape.net
- WA6QVM Natalie Mealer**
2166 Meadowbrook Dr
Lodi, CA 95242
- W7SW Scotty Rathjen**
2257 Glenkirk Dr
San Jose, CA 94124-1224
Email: w7sw@arrl.net
- AA6W Don Anastasia**
18811 Montewood Dr
Saratoga, CA 95070
H (408) 354-5255
W (408) 354-8838
Fax (408) 354-5855
Email: don81@ix.netcom.com
- K7ZV Rich Chatelain**
6706 Elwood Rd
San Jose, CA 95120-5427
H (408) 268-2344
W (408) 433-5880
Fax (408) 434-0764
Email: k7zv@cdsnet.net
- K6WC John Brand**
New Email: K6WC@JPS.net.

Kudos 'n Credits

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

WA6AUD, Hugh Cassidy
N6HR, Hillar Ramat
W6JD, Doug Westover
W6KM, Dick Letrich
K6RK, Chuck Patterson
W6VG, Ron Panton

Thank you, one and all!
George, W6YD

