

# DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DX CLUB**

## Pre Convention Issue



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**General Meeting  
April 10, 2003**

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

### Program

**Bob Parks, K6SDX  
Developing an Airplane  
to Fly on the Planet Mars**

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

There will be  
**NO MEETING  
NO DXer  
In MAY 2003**

Deadline for  
June 2003 DXer is  
May 28, 2003

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: Keith Butts, KN6K  
 Director: George Allan, W6YD

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DX Ladder: John Kelly, KG6XF

9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Dick Courtway, N7RC

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



I realize this is an old subject but I'll stir it up again: THE REPEATER.

Now I must admit that I do not monitor W6TI/R 24/7 but I do leave it on when I'm puttering around the shack and working around the yard when I don't have some noisy machinery running. And, surprise, there is virtually no activity. With the exception of 2 or 3 "sorta regulars" we have a lot of dead air.

The stated purpose of the repeater is to provide a mechanism for DX announcements yet with the exception of a non-club member who is very diligent in announcing "good stuff" there are few, if any, DX call outs. The oft-cursed "Charlie" used to provide much of this information, but with Charlie in semi-hibernation, even those announcements have been infrequent.

I know that many, including myself, pick up our DX info off the packet network or some other web site, but for those without a computer (and, believe it or not, there are some) W6TI provides a useful source of information. So let's get some more activity on the machine...if you hear something good or see it pop up on packet, for heavens sake announce it. And, my goodness, TALK to someone every now and then!

73, Doug, W6JD



### 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 March 13, 2003

Club meeting was held at the usual Harry's Hof Brau in Redwood City. After the usual eating & drinking, the meeting was called to order by President, Doug Westover, W6JD at 7:48 PM. Guest visitor Harold Johnson was introduced. Two former members were voted back (re-instated) in the club. W6YD very much needs additional help with various DX Convention duties. Please help make this a memorable convention. Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO mentioned a long list of small jobs that need to be covered. Rolph also mentioned that the Christmas party (meeting) reservations have been made with the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose. W6JD reported on the status from the viewpoint of the club president. W6VG had no new membership applications, only the re-instated members. Speaker next month will be K6SDX. A very fine talk, with fantastic pictures was given by Steve Whitt, AD6XV. The subject was the Amateur Radio Involvement in the Croy Road Fire. Steve is Assistant Coordinator for Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 P.M. by the President, W6JD.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Panton W6VG

## April Meeting Details

The April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Northern California DX Club will be held at Harry's Hof Brau in Redwood City. It will feature a presentation by Bob Parks, K6SDX. Bob is Chief Engineer on a Mars Project that is developing an airplane with the ability to fly on the planet Mars. He has been active in testing a half scale model, which has been test flown at an altitude of 100,000 feet to simulate the thin Martian atmosphere. Sounds exciting!

73, Chuck, K6RK

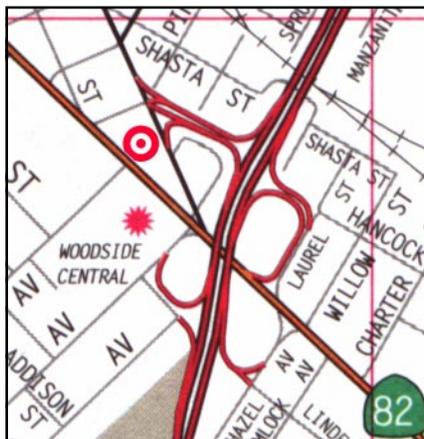
## Map and Directions to Meeting

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.



## W6KOE, Silent Key



*Dr. David DeGregori, W6KOE*

Former NCDXC Member and long time DXer, Dave DeGregori, W6KOE became a silent key on March 23<sup>th</sup>. He was 85 years of age.

Dave was a lifelong resident of Los Banos, California, where he practiced dentistry for 42 years. He retired from his practice in 1993.

Dave had 358 countries confirmed. He was on the Honor Roll and, at the time of his passing, needed only Palestine and Yemen to have them all.

One of the most pleasant times I have had since moving to Los Banos, was the hour or so, I spent getting acquainted with Dave. The above picture was taken on that occasion. I found him to be a thoughtful, kind and gentle man. He will be missed and long remembered.

## No Meeting in May

### Just a reminder...

**In order to give everyone the opportunity to attend the Visalia DX Convention, there will not be a club meeting in May.**

**Also, the *DXer* will not be published in May.**

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## Long Gone Golden Days by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

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Jack Troster called this morning to discuss the Don Miller item in the January DXer. As usual, we old timers like to talk about the long gone golden days of other eras.

The article on Don Miller was first printed in the West Coast DX Bulletin in June 1977, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary month of Miller's visit to the NCDXC at the Fork and Cork in San Bruno. This did not jibe with the opening date on the article you copied off the Internet. It does seem that VE1DX made the date change to make the item more relevant to the present.

The WCDXB ceased publication in July 1979. Frankly it had grown to be too big.

It was trimmed down a bit for inclusion in "DX IS" compiled by the Allen brothers, this a small soft cover book which consisted of quotes from the WCDXB that they put together a good many years ago. What you printed was the original copy as shown in the WCDXB, complete all the way.

Even then it was realized that telling of those days and a recounting of things that happened was a bit complex and still is at times a bit hard to follow. Some have indicated that they did not want to even hear, or read, about it or what the message might be.

Sometimes, for articles in the WCDXB, we were taken to task and castigated for kicking a sleeping dog. I will tell at length one instance that is well remembered.

The CW operators in the Seventies pressed the ARRL for a CW DXCC award. The award was authorized and a good many CW operators set out to be the holder of the #1 CW DXCC Award.

There was soon heard muttering that things were not straight arrow or even flying correctly at the crossroads. Some CW DXers complained to their local ARRL Director about the practices of some CW DXers seeking the CW DXCC award. Eventually, it was brought up at an ARRL Board meeting in downtown Newington. Frankly, the ARRL Directors sitting in a closed session could not get a good understanding of what the complaints were all about. Essentially the basis for the complaint was that some of the CW QSLs accepted for the award were not quite what they seemed or should be.

The problem? One distinguished CW DXer was working stations and getting

credit in situations where the DX station did not even have a key in his shack nor could copy code.

The distinguished one would call on phone an operator in a country he needed for a CW QSL. After the initially contacting the station by phone and after phone report exchanges, he would ask the DX station to stand by for a contact in pure Morse, this for a CW QSL. It mattered not if the DX station said he could not read code, just listen for the signal and then when the dots and dashes stopped, just acknowledge hearing it. As for all of this, just send a QSL and preferably send a QSL showing it was made in a CW mode contact. The latter was often emphasized, the DX station would be instructed: "Show the mode in code, please!".

The question on this matter was raised in a session of the ARRL Board of Directors. Frankly, they were soon going nowhere being a bit stuck in trying to understand what the problem was and why.

Then one director suggested that a CW DXer was right then present in the outer room, he was a CW DXer of some note and perhaps he could be asked to help clarify things. So they called this expert in, put the question to him and they got an answer. "Just jealousy and incompetent operating technique" was the explanation given in pure expertise. That would sound logical, wouldn't it?

The ARRL Board, relieved of a problem that they had bothered them but now was easily and clearly understood, went on to other business on the agenda.

The WCDXB had a different idea. The vice-director called in for his expertise was the most notorious one of the "listen for my signal" activists and "be sure to show the contact was made in CW code". This one was probably the main reason for the increasing vocal complaints being heard out in the wilderness and far from downtown Newington.

So we went and printed what we thought was the whole story as it was seen from the DX bulletin perspective. It got action. Soon the rules were changed so that a two-way CW QSL was necessary, not just a one-sided one with a code illiterate in a needed country..

We later got a terse note from the "DX Expert" on this one. "Why don't you keep

your nose out of where it does not belong" we were told and a fresh and frosty relationship rose with his son-in-law, also a DXer.

I tell this story to show how often little was known, understood or practiced about DX-ing in those medieval times. In the Don Miller case, there was similar puzzlement and the local ARRL Director would often in the evenings phone me (I was an SCM at that time) to ask for an explanation of some developments in the Don Miller/ARRL dispute.

All of the above is well into the past. I cleaned out the shack some years back and sent all the WCDXB file to VE1DX up in Nova Scotia. I also sent some fifty years of my QST files. I thought that it was a good place to deposit all those years of gathered history and information. Paul up there had written asking if it was okay to simulate the way anecdotes and other grave matters had been hauled in the years of the WCDXB.

We had no objections and also managed to pass on to him all the files that I could not touch without having to sit down and read them again.

Though I have never seen Don Miller save for that June night in 1967, I have had the feeling that he has read what we wrote of him. We did try to write on a level field and, while we did, work Don Miller on Heard Island and a good number of places.

We also did sometimes think that it was then a different world and many of the concepts believed in back then often were different than current viewpoints changing with the passage of the years.

Enough—

I still think that the Don Miller caper was a watershed in DX history. Things never were the same again but at the same time one must consider that Don Miller was not a lone instance nor a one time happening. There were others.

Don Miller was a good operator and he did raise the curtains on a lot of new DX countries. Some were good. Some were not. He was intelligent. He also was possibly a bit arrogant. But he was a DXer long remembered. And still is. In spite of everything that happened, I still think that he was a tip top operator.

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

## Convention Report

Convention planning is moving along on schedule, but there is still much work to be done before the Convention opens.

A ton of printing remains to be done. Registration tickets, raffle tickets and tickets for the US Tower BBQ all need to be printed. The program booklets need to be completed and printed, but the vendors' ads need to be received before that can be completed and sent on to the printer. Vendors' badges, Convention Staff badges and visitors' badges must be printed.

As you can see, the activity will hit a peak in the next 2 - 3 weeks. Hopefully, we will get it all done, but if it wasn't for the help I get from Sylvia, my wife, we would be doomed to utter failure. She pitches in and helps, without any coaxing from me. She just does what needs to be done and takes the load off me.

As of this writing, the pre-registration has just exceeded 300, so we're probably on target for 500 or more registrants. We pre-planned for 650, but may fall short of that number for a variety of reasons that are beyond our control.

The programs are pretty well set, thanks to Ken Anderson, K6TA. Programs offerings are available for viewing on the website.

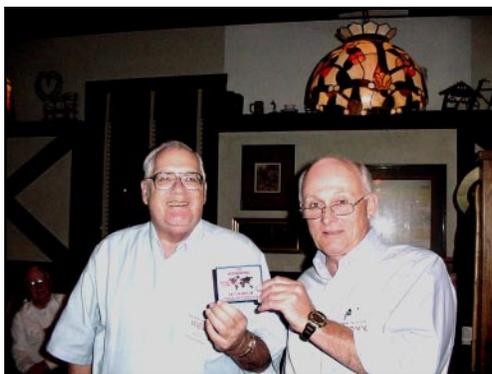
We had a meeting with the Hotel Management on March 21st and settled on the menu items. They're not the usual banquet "rubber chicken" and "grey meat" and I think you will be very pleased with them. Even the veggie plate sounds very tasty.

So there you are!

I plan to attend the April Club meeting and hope to add to this status report. Hope to see you there.

George, W6YD

## Meeting Pictures by W6KM & W6ZX





## Pre-Registration Form International DX Convention (Visalia) May 2-4, 2003

Banquet Meal Choice(s):

C = Chicken, P = Prime Rib, S = Salmon, V = Vegetarian (Circle Below)

		<u>Meal</u>
Name _____	Call _____	C P S V
Name _____	Call _____	C P S V
Name _____	Call _____	C P S V
Name _____	Call _____	C P S V

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country, USA or (?) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration, Post Marked by 4-21-03, \$60.00 per person. --- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After 4-21-03 or at the Convention = \$65.00 per person. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Amateur: Dinner & Breakfast only, \$35.00 per person. — \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please, make check payable to: NCDXC Convention 03.

*( Please, do not send cash! )*

Mail this form with payment to:

IDX 2003, c/o Dick Letrich, W6KM  
3686 Kirk Road  
San Jose, CA 95124-3816

Convention Location:

Holiday Inn Plaza Park,  
9000 W. Airport Drive, Visalia, CA  
Tel. 559-651-5000



1220 MARCIN ST., VISALIA, CA 93291

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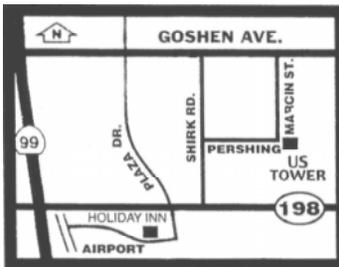
**OPEN HOUSE**

*For Registered Convention Guests*  
**Come See Our Visalia Plant**

**SATURDAY MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>  
10-2 PM**

- > REFRESHMENTS SERVED
- > FREE SHUTTLE FROM HOLIDAY INN TO PLANT

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CALL: WB6UST  
BRUCE  
KOPITAR  
(559) 733-2438**





**FOR ORDERS  
PLACED ON  
MAY 3, 2003  
BETWEEN  
10 AM AND 2 PM**



**Editor's Choice**

As we move into the final phase of preparing for the Convention, I want to thank many folks for stepping up to the tasks of performing the work required to make it a success. I want to especially thank the following DXers for their assistance.

First to volunteer, was Dick Letrich, W6KM, who is serving as pre-registration Chair. Once again, Dick proved to be a member we can count on.

Next, Ken Anderson, K6TA for volunteering to help with organizing and coordinating the programs. His help has been invaluable to the Convention and me and has gone beyond the call of duty.

Gary Stilwell, KI6T volunteered to coordinate the QSL card checking, thereby relieving Ken Anderson of that burden and making it possible for him to take on the above mentioned duties.

And the most recent addition to the list of people who I consider to be my heroes, is Ron (no excuses!) Rasmussen, K6OP. Ron will be serving as Raffle Chair -- even though he lives in Sun City, Arizona!

Please join me in applauding the efforts of everyone who volunteered to serve in the Convention -- especially those mentioned above. Many thanks!

George, W6YD

**Kudos 'n Kredits**

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

- WA6AUD, Hugh Cassidy**
- W6ISQ, Jack Troster**
- W6JD, Doug Westover**
- W6KM, Dick Letrich**
- W6VG, Ron Pantan**
- W6ZX, Alex Meyer**

Thank you, one and all.

George, W6YD



