

DXer



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

2003 NCDXC Picnic



Chow Time!



The Multitude



W6NW



W6VG



W6PHF



DX/Chow Hounds!



NQ6X, W6VG, WA6MME & WR6M

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**General Meeting
October 9, 2003**

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

Program

**Videotaped Presentation
of the
DX-Pedition to
Heard Island**



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

**DXer Deadline
for
November 2003 Issue
is
October 29, 2003**

President's Comments



Club Officers:

President: Doug Westover, W6JD
 Vice Pres: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 Secretary: Mike Gavin, W6WZ
 Treasurer: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Director: Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI
 Director: Keith Butts, KN6K
 Director: Ron Panton, W6VG

The DXer:

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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.

Thoughts from the Prez:

Hey, was that a great picnic or what! As always BBQ specialist extraordinaire, W6KM, outdid himself in supplying us with the great eats and a terrific time! So thanks to Dick and all his helpers: assistant chef Mitch, AE6AI; Mike, W6WZ and Dewey, KG6AM as the "ice men" and; the many wives who supplied brownies, cut veggies and kept us all civilized. The weather couldn't have been better and the new venue seemed to meet with approval.

Next. We had a director's meeting several weeks ago and the minutes of the meeting should appear elsewhere in this issue. However the major action item was the board authorizing \$1000 to be donated to the ARRL fund to defend our HF spectrum from the scourge of BPL. At the picnic, ARRL Pacific Division director Bob Vallio, W6RGG thanked the club for its commitment and emphasized the importance of winning this battle if we want amateur radio as we know it to continue to exist.

Another subject of discussion was the repeater. Nothing new here and I've made my feelings known a number of times. Folks, the repeater is a wonderful asset that we just don't use! DX announcements are important but, face it, next to "Charlie" there are virtually NO DX announcements. So, please, let's USE the repeater. Talk to each other. Make DX announcements. Make small talk. Greet newcomers — don't chase them off! Invite them to a meeting if they show any interest at all, in DXing. Promote membership,.... yada, yada, yada.

See you all at Harry's on October 9th.

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.

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting.
September 6, 2003.

The meeting was held at Ron Panton's (W6VG) house in Menlo Park. In attendance were: President, W6JD, Doug Westover; Vice-president, K6RK, Chuck Patterson; Treasurer, KG6AM, Dewey Churchill; Director, W6VG, Ron Panton, and; Secretary, W6WZ, Mike Gavin.

Meeting commenced: 10:00 A.M.

A motion was submitted by W6JD to make a donation of \$1,000 to ARRL Broadband over Power Line Defense Fund. Motion was passed with 4, in favor, and 1 abstention.

W6JD brought up a motion to donate not more than \$150 to QTH.net (the ISP for the NCDXC web site). This motion passed unanimously.

W6WZ suggested listing NCDXC meetings in QST.

W6JD suggested we call about obtaining a booth at Pacificon for NCDXC.

A possible field day/potluck event was discussed.

Meeting places for future club meetings were discussed and Harry's Hofbrau, Redwood City, was favored.

A free introductory associate membership for 1 year was discussed.

Meeting adjourned: 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Gavin, W6WZ,
Secretary.

W6CSI, Norm Smaha - SK

I regret to report that former NCDXC member, Norm Smaha, W6CSI, passed away sometime last week. As some of you may have known, Norm was ill for quite some time. I became acquainted with him because he lived very close by to my home QTH. He was a very nice man and apparently was quite an accomplished DXer. He had a very impressive yagi on the roof of his house, which led me to want to find out who lived there. When I finally went over to his house to say hello several months ago, he and his wife were very kind and we had a very pleasant conversation. I'm sure he will be missed by all of his friends.

Curt, W6RQ

Rohn Industries Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection

PEORIA, IL, September 16, 2003

ROHN Industries, Inc., (OTCBB: ROHN), (the "Company") a provider of infrastructure equipment to the telecom industry, announced today that the Company and five of its direct and indirect subsidiaries have filed voluntary petitions for Chapter 11 relief in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

The Company also announced that, concurrent with the Chapter 11 filing, it has entered into a \$9.5 million debtor-in-possession ("DIP") line of credit with the lenders that are party to the Company's Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. It will include funds that will be rolled forward from the Company's current credit facility, subject to the approval of the Bankruptcy Court. Subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Company remains in possession of its assets and properties, and continues to operate its business. The Company said that the

objective of the Chapter 11 proceeding is to maximize recovery to creditors by facilitating an orderly sale of assets. The Company is currently in discussions with an unrelated third party regarding a proposed sale of the assets of the Company.

Upon the filing of the bankruptcy petition of the Company, but following the approval by the Board of Directors of the Chapter 11 filing, Stephen Gorman and Jordan Roderick each have resigned from the Board of Directors of the Company. Currently, Horace Ward, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, is the only remaining director of the Company.

Commenting on today's announcement, Mr. Ward said, "Our immediate goal is to stabilize the Company's financial situation and utilize the Chapter 11 process to enable the Company to conduct normal business operations

as the Company works to complete a sale transaction."

About the Company

The Company (Rohn) is a manufacturer and installer of telecommunications infrastructure equipment for the wireless industry. Its products are used in cellular, PCS, radio and television broadcast markets. The Company's products include towers, poles, related accessories and antennae mounts. The Company also provides design and construction services. The Company has a manufacturing location in Frankfort, IN along with offices in Peoria, IL and Mexico City, Mexico.

(From the Internet via W6YOO)

ARRL “Logbook of the World” Goes Live!

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 15, 2003—“Logbook of the World” (LoTW)—the long-awaited QSL-cardless ARRL awards and contact credit system—has officially opened for business. Under development for more than two years, LoTW underwent a successful period of beta testing earlier this year. The system is open to all.

“Although Logbook of the World is a tremendous resource for hams chasing DXCC, VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC), Worked All States (WAS) and other awards, we hope it will appeal to hams who are not currently active in these awards programs,” said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO. “The proliferation of logging software has stimulated activity and interest in contesting, and submitting log data and verifying award credits online is a logical next step.”

Wilson commended ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, and the other contributors to the project “for their dedication and hard work that made Logbook a reality.”

First Things First:

Before submitting log data and putting LoTW to use to confirm contact credits, users must download the LoTW software and request a digital certificate that ties the participant’s identity to a digital key. This means a stop at the ARRL Logbook of the World Web page. Data integrity has been a watchword of the LoTW since the project’s conception, and that starts with a digital certificate, something all LoTW users must have. For a digital signature or certificate to be trustworthy, ARRL must first ensure the identity of the person to whom it’s issued, and that will involve a combination of on-line filing and good old-fashioned snail mail.

“We will need to verify you are who you say you are,” ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, explains. “The security of the entire system depends heavily on the method used for verifying the user’s identity.” This first step is called authentication.

For US amateurs, this process will rely on your mailing address in the FCC database. Users should make sure the FCC has their current mailing address. Amateurs can modify their address online or via US mail by using instructions available on the FCC Web site. ARRL members may submit license modifications through the ARRL VEC.

For non-US amateurs, authentication will rely on other documentation, primarily a copy of the participant’s Amateur Radio license and another official identifying document. Mail these copies to ARRL, Logbook of the World Administrator, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

Assuming everything goes smoothly, US licensees requesting a digital certificate soon will receive a postcard in the mail that contains a password. They then should go to the LoTW Web site and enter the password to complete the processing of their certificate request. Instructions for locating the password are on the back of the postcard. The call sign you submit when entering your password must be the same as the one used to request your digital certificate. Once the password has been entered, the digital certificate will be e-mailed within a working day or two.

Non-US stations will receive their digital certificate via e-mail once their documentation has been received at ARRL HQ and authenticated.

Participants will be able to use their primary digital certificates to obtain additional certificates necessary to submit log data and obtain award credit for contacts made under formerly held call signs.

Everyone who plans to use LoTW first must obtain a digital certificate. There are no exceptions. Any certificates issued during beta testing no longer are valid, and any log data submitted during LoTW testing has been deleted from the system along with those certificates.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept will be a huge repository of log data provided by operators—from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions—and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for ARRL-sponsored awards—in particular DXCC. It’s hoped LoTW eventually will be able to confirm contacts for awards offered by other organizations.

The Quick Start Guide to LoTW

In a nutshell, to use LoTW, participants must:

- a. Download the LoTW software.
- b. Submit a request for a digital certificate from ARRL.
- c. After receiving a password, upload your password and associated call sign on the LoTW Web site to receive your digital certificate.
- d.. Use that digital certificate to “sign” either Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) or Cabrillo-formatted files.
- e.. Submit those digitally signed files to LoTW via e-mail or upload them to the Web site.
- f.. Receive a confirmation from LoTW acknowledging receipt of the log data.

It’s That Easy!

Those who have submitted contest logs via e-mail will find this process to be nearly the same except for the added requirement to sign the log. Once your data have been accepted into LoTW you will be able to visit the LoTW Web site to see your data and any QSOs that have been confirmed via matching data from other stations’ log submissions.

Obtaining a digital certificate and uploading log data are free of charge. There will be a per-QSO charge for each contact credit

Continued - Next Page

LoTW Continued

From Previous Page

used, but Mills expects it will be much less than the typical costs involved with exchanging paper QSL cards.

When you use an LoTW confirmation for an award credit, the fee will be added to your account and shown in the user's record. The user will be able to pay for these charges on-line using a credit card.

Some Important Points

ARRL will not serve as the QSL manager for any station submitting logs to Logbook of the World. "If a contact is not in the log, you will need to work that out with the station involved," Mills said.

An article, "Introducing Logbook of the World," by Wayne Mills, N7NG, appears in the October issue of QST.

LoTW eventually will be able to search users' DXCC records and find new credits automatically. The program also will provide full viewing of users' DXCC records, automatically alert users to new awards achieved and offer comprehensive support for many other awards.

Logging software developers can obtain documentation and a Windows DLL library—as well as complete source code for the TQSL software — at the Source Forge Web site (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/trustedqsl/>).

News and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>.

The above information came from the ARRL Web site via Bernie McClenny, W3UR, Editor of *The Daily DX*, *The Weekly DX* and *How's DX*.



More Picnic Pictures



Helga & Ron Pantan, W6VG



W6MIH & WA6ABC



K6DXX & K6LM



Art Thrall, K6WIF & Wife, Bonnie



W6WZ, Pat Letrich & Sylvia Allan



W6KM & W6YHM



W6TWO & W6YD



K6DXX & W6KM



W6WX



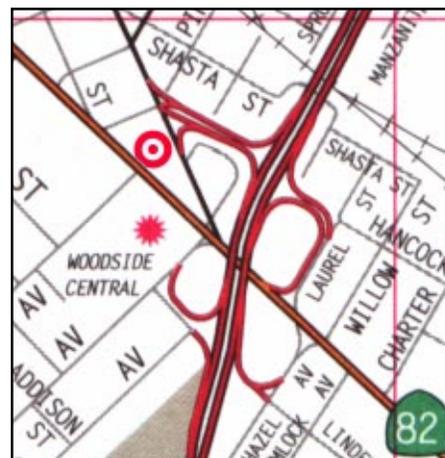
NQ6X

Directions to the 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 13th
SAN JOSE WYNDHAM (old LeBaron) HOTEL
1350 North 1st Street (at I-880)

Ballroom
Next to the Bar

MUSIC!

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(From Last Year)

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2 Salads
Sliced Turkey & Ham
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HARMONICS!

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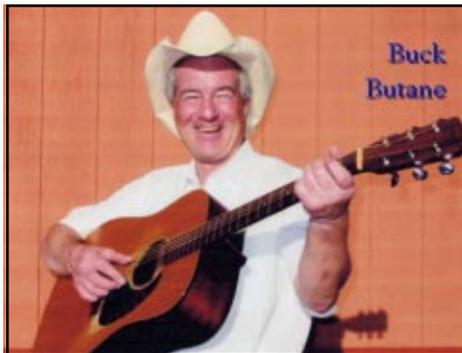


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AT THE WYNDHAM!
(LET US KNOW IF YOU
NEED A RESERVATION)



Bio of Jim (“Buc Butane”) Giovanni

Actor-Comedian-Impressionist-Singer-Songwriter: A veteran entertainer, Jim has performed with major stars such as Frank Sinatra, Robin Williams, Ray Charles, James Brown, Merle Haggard, Reba McEntire, Kris Kristoffersen, Conway Twitty, Wayne Newton, Loretta Lynn, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, Crystal Gayle, Neil Sedaka, Buddy Rich, Earl Scruggs, Whoopi Goldberg, Eddie Arnold, Harry James, and Jeff Bridges. In his many years in the business, Jim has appeared on “Laugh In”, in movies such as “Tucker: A Man and His Dream,” and performed in the main room at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas. This versatile comedian with an ever-changing show is now taking the accordion world by storm. Guaranteed to warm the heart, bring down the house, and plaster a smile on your face!



Still More Picnic Pictures



N6UK



The Deserving



W6RGG

The Topic of the Discussion was “BPL”



Lt to Rt. AE6AI, N6SJ, W6RGG, N6UK, WR6M & W6JD



Lt to Rt. N6SJ, N6UK, AE6AI, WR6M, W6RGG & W6JD

Editor’s Choice

I have to tell ya, the NCDXC Picnic was great! We had a nice turnout and the weather couldn’t have been better. It was nice to see some new faces in the crowd. It was also, nice to see our ARRL Pacific Division Director there and to learn that the NCDXC had generously donated \$1,000 to the BPL Defense Fund. Now if we can get fifty five more clubs to do the same, the ARRL will be able to adequately fund work necessary to defeat the BPL initiative.

The contest season is upon us beginning with the California QSO Party (see below) and then moving on to CQWW - SSB on the weekend of October 25 & 26. Be sure to jump in and make some contacts. It’s a good way to boost your counts.

73, George, W6YD

CQP Oct. 4th & 5th

The 2003 running of the California QSO Party is October 4th & 5th. See the complete rules at cq.org. Even if you are unable to put much time into the CQP, please visit the bands and give as many contacts as possible. Although your QSO probably won’t count as a multiplier, the QSO points all add up.

See you in the pileups.

Dick, N7RC

Kudos ‘n Kredits

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

**W6JD, Doug Westover
W6KM, Dick Letrich
N7RC, Dick Courtway
W6RQ, Kurt Kolovson
W6TWO, Rolph Stoddard
W6YOO, Harry Hodges
SDDXC Reflector**

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

