

# DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DX CLUB**

## Annual NCDXC Holiday Party



Ron Borelli, Our Musician



Helga Panton & Pat Letrich



KC6KQF



W6KM



Adrian & W6WB (Now, SK), rt



K6MA



W6TWO, W6WZ & K6WIF



W6FDU & W6UDS (W6MZQ Bkgd)

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**General Meeting  
January 8, 2004**

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

#### Program

**Round Table Discussion**

**Topics:**

- Bud Bane, W6WB (SK)
- Digital DXer
- DX & DXing

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

**DXer Deadline  
for  
February 2004 Issue  
is  
January 28, 2004**

## 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:**

Editor: George Allan, W6YD  
 719 Ruddy Court  
 Los Banos, CA 93635  
 w6yd@aol.com

Printing, Mailing: Dick Letrich, W6KM

Web Page: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G  
<http://www.ncdxc.org>

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.

Welcome to the all new *e-DXer*! I'm convinced that this is THE WAY to do it. If there is anyone who ABSOLUTELY MUST get a hard copy, please contact me (W6JD) and I'll try, somehow, to accommodate you. But, this offer won't last forever!

The Christmas Party was Great! Thanks again, Rolph. It was another well done event. The food was terrific and Buck Butane was most amusing.

I Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and hope that Santa dropped your favorite radio under the tree.

Doug, W6JD



*Myrna & Doug Westover, 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.**

## E-Mail Distribution of the *DXer*

If everything works as planned, this will be your final hard copy of the *DXer*. Beginning next month, the *DXer* will only be published and distributed in digital (PDF) format. Here's the way we plan to do it.

Beginning this month and each month, thereafter, I will send you an e-mail advising you that the *DXer* is ready to be downloaded. The e-mail will contain a link to the file which, depending on your browser, you can either click on or cut and paste into your browser's address window to access the file. When you access the file, it will automatically boot up Adobe Acrobat and display the *DXer*. When the file is displayed, you can click on the save icon (the floppy disk symbol) in the top line of Acrobat to save it on your PC. When you do that, be sure to note where you put the file, so you can access it later. Go ahead and try it this month to see how you like it. I would also be interested in hearing about any glitches you encounter. If encountered, we NEED to resolve them in a timely manner.

If you don't have the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, the file will not be displayed. The good news is, it's available for downloading, [free](#) from Adobe. You can get it from the link on the *DXer* page on the Club's website. Just go to the Club website and click on the *DXer* link. Then look for the "[Acrobat Reader](#)" link at the top of the page. There is also a LOT of configuration help available on this same page.

For those of you who have been accessing the *DXer* online, this will be a bit of a departure from your previous procedure and should save you a bit of time, since you will not need to access the website to get your copy. Fact is, you won't be able to access the file from the website for a month, which gives you exclusive access to the *DXer* during that time.

Finally, this procedure was designed to minimize e-mail downloading time for those with slow internet access. This is a low resolution publication which keeps the file size low and permits faster download time. For those of you who have hi-speed access (DSL, cable,....etc.), I have agreed to prepare a hi-resolution file that can be sent to you, *attached* to the e-mail, rather than *imbedded* in it. If you would like to receive your *DXer* in the hi-res format, please let me know by sending an e-mail to [w6yd@aol.com](mailto:w6yd@aol.com). Upon receipt, and thereafter, I will send your copy in this manner. I think you will like the hi-res copy, since it will allow you magnify the pictures without losing the detail that would be experienced with the low-res copy.

For those of you who haven't seen the *DXer* in "living color", this will be a new experience for you -- one I think you will enjoy. I look forward to your comments on the *DXer* and on this new distribution process.

73, George, W6YD



## Time To Get It On!

If all goes according to plan, this will be your last HARD COPY of the *DXer*. So if you want your copy in the future, it will be necessary for you to be sure your email address current. To do so, you will need to notify either George, W6YD at [W6YD@AOL.COM](mailto:W6YD@AOL.COM) and/or Ron, W6VG at [W6VG@AOL.COM](mailto:W6VG@AOL.COM). Failing to do so means you will be left out of the loop. And, if you're one of those who changes email addresses as often as you change your socks, it will be up to you and only you to keep your email address current in the roster. I know there are a few of you who aren't pleased by this move to the future. But, let's face it. It's time to move ahead. We now have the means to distribute the *DXer* in a fast, efficient and inexpensive way. It will save the club a considerable amount of money each year.

At the Christmas Party — the last time I had the pleasure of talking with Bud Bane, W6WB (SK), he said he had it figured out and was looking forward to getting the *DXer* on the computer. Bud nearly made it to 97 years of age, but he was (as he had been for all of his life) on the cutting edge of technology in Ham Radio. He was not afraid to keep up with the times and advances. So if you feel this is going to be a problem for you, may I suggest you talk to a friend who has a computer and ask him or her to help you get started.

Don't wait. Get started right away. And remember — you don't have to print it out if you choose not to. You can always save it on your computer and go back to read it as often as you want. No more misplacing your *DXer* or having someone use it to line the birdcage. Isn't progress great?

73, Dick, W6KM

## Vasona Copytech

I think it is only fair that the club recognize and take the time to record a special word of THANKS to our printer and their employees.

The club has been going to them for 10 years that I know of. Many things have changed in that time. They relocated their shop and there has been a change of ownership. But one thing that remained constant is their excellent customer service. It has always been friendly and fast. I cannot even begin to relate the many times we missed or almost missed deadlines and asked them to perform miracles for us. And they have always come through.

So, as we move ever further into the modern age of electronics, moving from printed pages to the magic of the Internet, we want to again be sure we show our appreciation to the owners and employees of the Vasona Copytech Center. I feel quite sure that we will still rely on them for our special printing needs at Convention time. Meanwhile, please make note of their address and phone number. Should you or anyone you know need their services, you can always rely on them to give the same outstanding service to all of their customers as they gave us. It's the way they do business!

Here is their contact information:

Contact: Nancy Landers  
 VASONA COPYTECH CENTER  
 809 UNIVERSITY AVE., AREA C  
 LOS GATOS, CA 95032.  
 408-354-8884

73, Dick, W6KM



## Club QSL Cards

The club has a dwindling supply of our special QSL cards. These are very, very high quality and compare to those now selling elsewhere for over 10 cents each, plus the cost of imprinting your name, call and address.

It is doubtful that the club will ever be able to provide QSL cards of this quality, again. Your cost is \$65 per thousand, plus \$25 for imprinting. Yes, we will sell a batch of 500, but the cost of imprinting remains the same. Actually, the club does not break even at these excellent prices. So now, while you can, take advantage of these prices that are reflective of the prices charges for cards sold in the 1950's. Check out the details on the club's internet site or Email Dick, W6KM at DLW6KM@AOL.COM.

73, Dick, W6KM

## 3B9 - Rodriguez Is.

*The following information was taken from an article in the Weekly DX. For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, this is an excellent publication and source of DXing data. -Ed.*

The 3B9C "Project Star Reach", a project with a major DX-pedition to Rodriguez Island has put out its second bulletin. More team members have been added and there are some new sponsors. The shipping container has been packed with more gear than they took to their highly successful D68C, Comoros Island DX-pedition. You remember that one. It was the subject of the breakfast presentation given at the 2001 Visalia DX Convention.

Shipping costs are estimated to be \$20,000 for this one. They plan to cover as many bands and modes as possible. They're even taking along 70 cm satellite and moonbounce gear. They hope to encourage folks to try something new.

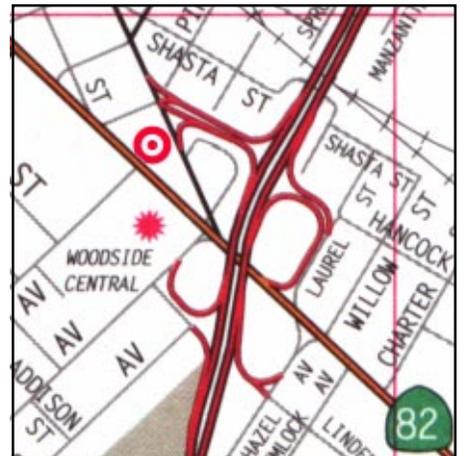
The DX-pedition is scheduled for March, 2004. More info is available on their web site, [www.fsdxa.com/3b9c](http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c).

## 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.



## Silent Keys

*It is with deep regret that we note the passing of the following members. Although their keys are now silent, we will always remember them.*

### Jack Forbes, WB6QDC

Jack Forbes, WB6QDC passed away quietly in his sleep early in the morning of December 2<sup>nd</sup>. He had been a NCDXC member for 34 years, having joined the Club in December of 1969. Jack was 88 years of age. He was preceded by his wife, Esther, who passed away on October 24, 2003.



*Esther & Jack Forbes, WB6QDC*

### Don Eberlein, W6YHM

Don Eberlein, W6YHM passed away early last month. He joined NCDXC in March of 1987. He was 83. Don was well known for his service to the Amateur Radio Community as a Volunteer Examiner for the ARRL VEC. He could also be heard regularly hosting the Thursday night net for NCDXC. He was laid to rest after a small service on December 10<sup>th</sup>.



*Don Eberlein,  
W6YHM*

### Bud Bane, W6WB

Bud Bane, W6WB passed away peacefully on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Bud was first licensed in 1920 and was among the first hams to work all continents during 1928 using simple vacuum tube equipment. He had been a feature writer for amateur radio magazines and a collaborator for several radio handbooks. He was formerly editor of the amateur radio magazine "Radio", past president and founder of Technical Radio Corporation, as well as president of the San Francisco Radio Club, the Associated Radio Amateurs and West Coast Electronic Association. He first joined NCDXC in September 1947 and was a member for over forty years. In the fifties he opened Bane Advertising Agency, which was in business for over 30 years during which he was president of the Northern California Advertising Club. He attended the SF Art Institute and was a graduate of the Commercial Art School. Bud was an artist (he designed the "masthead" that is currently being used on the *DXer*), a musician with numerous bands during the Depression and an avid golfer. He was a native of San Francisco, born in the City on January 24, 1907. Services were held December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in San Francisco.



*Bud Bane, W6WB*

## DX to Watch for...

### 1A0KM January 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>

The Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of Malta, 1A0KM is the lone station that counts for DXCC. Per their press release, a team led by Francesco, IK0FVC will activate 1A0KM during the weekend of January 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Other team members will be IOJBL, IK0FTA and IK0PRG.

Beginning with this operation the QSL manager for 1A0KM's activities will be Sergio IK0FTA.

This is a rare opportunity to work 1A0KM.

### EP - Iran

OK1LO, Lada operated in mid December from Iran's Ministry of Telecommunications with the club callsign, EP3PTT. He has been at home in the Czech Republic for the Holidays and plans to return around January 10<sup>th</sup>. He hopes to get his own callsign upon his return, assuming the Ministry of Telecommunications is still there.

### A5 - Bhutan

Dane, S57CQ/A52CQ has been in Bhutan since December 25<sup>th</sup> and will remain through January 14<sup>th</sup>. He plans to be active as much as he can on all bands; there is not any antenna for 160 meters, but he will try to use some wires. QSL via S57DX.

### DX IS



## Holiday Party December 13th

The NCDXC Annual Christmas Party turned out to be another roaring success. The camaraderie, entertainment, food and prizes could not have been better. This year, unlike last year, the lights stayed on for the duration of this gala event. Our hats are off to Rolph, W6TWO, who again organized and coordinated this fun time for us.

The music of Ron Borelli on the accordion created a festive atmosphere to the gathering while we waited for the Ballroom to open. It continued inside the ballroom as we socialized, swapped stories and gave us a chance to see old friends again. The food and the service were excellent. Anyone who went away hungry can only blame themselves. Seconds were the order of the day.

After an excellent lunch, we were all treated to the outstanding comedy of "Buck Butane", whose impressions and stories brought down the house. To conclude the festivities, Bob Vallio, W6RGG and Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI conducted door prize drawings. Nearly everyone one a prize and we all departed with our full tummies, happy for the time we had spent together.

The pictures in this issue are a fair accounting of who all was there and are a graphic testament to the fun time had by everyone. These photographs may also be the very last ones taken of Bud Bane, W6WB, who passed away two days later. Bud loved the hobby and we are grateful that he was able to spend some of his final few hours with us.



*Mr & Mrs Dewey Churchill, KG6AM*



*W6UDS & W6VG*



*W6DYL & W6KM*



*NQ6X, KE6HKI, W6DYL, W7SW*



*W6ISQ & KG6AM*



*KE6HKI, W6LUX & Jane Johnson*



*Gerry & Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ*



*W6MZQ, NQ6X, KE6HKI, W6DYL*



*W6JD, KB6IBX, W6RGG*



*Mr & Mrs Jim Golden, K6LM*



*W6PHF*



*Myrna & Doug Westover, W6JD*



*KN6K*



*Hazel & Stan Kuhl, K6MA & KE6HKI*

## More Party Pictures



*WB6ABC, W6WZ, WA6MME,  
Mrs Werth & W6CS*



*NQ6X & W6MZQ*



*WB6ABC, W6CS, K6YP  
& N6SJ*



*It Was Great Food!*



*W6RGG*



*End of the (Chow) Line*



*K6WIF, Bonnie Thal  
& Elka Talaich (?)*



*W6VG*



*AE6AI Conducting  
the Raffle*



*The Multitudes...*



*The Deserving...*



*The Masses*



*Buc Butane  
being "Columbo"*



*Buck Butane  
being "Buc Butane"*



*W6YD  
being a Clown*

## DX Ladder Updated

John Kelly, KG6XF advises that the DX Ladders have been updated and are available for viewing on the Club web site. Check 'em out at [www.ncdxc.org](http://www.ncdxc.org).

## Club Marathon

The Club Marathon continues in full swing and ends at the end of this month. Send your final scores to Dick Courtway, K7RC at his roster address.

As a reminder, all entries should be compiled and submitted on NCDXC form 8-105C before April 1st, 2004.

Final scores will be published in the *DXer*.

## Roommate Needed

Hi George,

I have a room at the Holiday Inn for the next convention. I'm looking for a roommate to help cut my cost. Could you put this in the *DXer* for me?

Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

73 es DX...Alex, W6ZX.

## Kudos 'n Kredits

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

**K6GFJ, Ross Forbes**  
**W6JD, Doug Westover**  
**W6KM, Dick Letrich**  
**K6LRN, Dick Wilson**  
**K6RQ, Frank Glass**  
**W3UR, Bernie McClenny**  
**W6ZX, Alex Meyer**

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

