

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

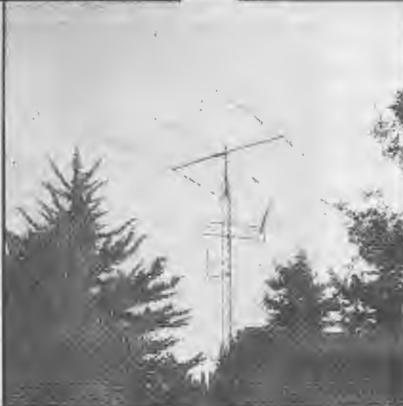
DXer Profile: Mike & Carolyn Gavin W6WZ & WB6ABC



Carolyn, WB6ABC



Mike, W6WZ



*Their Tower
With HF, VHF &
UHF Antennas*



Operating Position at WB6ABC/W6WZ



Their Rotator Control Box

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**General Meeting
February 12, 2004**

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

Program

**How to Setup and Run
PSK 31 by
Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI
of
Ham Stop.com**

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

**DXer Deadline
for the
March 2004 Issue
is
February 25, 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
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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.

We had a Board of Directors meeting on January 24th and the major topics of discussion were how to get better meeting attendance and how we can attract new members. In case you hadn't noticed, the number of SK's far exceeds the number of new members. If this trend continues it is clear that the club will soon become an SK itself.

Several problems were identified, the major one being the lack of publicity about the club and about upcoming meetings. If you belong to another club, PARRA, Stanford, etc. talk up our club and invite their members to attend. They don't have to be hard core DXers, just interested. We can help infect them with the DX bug!

Another problem that has been mentioned before is the unsuitability of Harry's for presenting programs. One thought was that with the savings from not having to produce a printed DXer we could afford to rent a more suitable venue for a speaker who might attract a larger audience. We could even afford to defray a speaker's expenses if that were appropriate.

And by all means, please give me or the Board any suggestions you might have.

CU at the Meeting,

Doug, W6JD



W6KM & 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 rolls. 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 - January 2004

Meeting held at Harry's Hofbrau, Redwood City. It began at 8:00. Present were: Doug, W6JD, president; Chuck, K6RK, vice-president; Dewey, KG6AM, treasurer; Mike, W6WZ, secretary and; Ron, W6VG, director.

Doug asked for a volunteer to be chairman of the DX Convention, 2005. George, W6YD said that he would be glad to assist the chairman. George announced that Mitch, AE6AI will be the prize chairman. Dick, W6KM will again do the registration.

A report by George, W6YD, about the new E-DXer said that club members had very positively accepted it. Doug announced that the "Club Member of the Year" chairman will be Dick, W6KM. Doug, W6JD gave a report of W6TI repeater problems and needed repairs, as related to him per Pete, W6OOL. The report indicated that new batteries were needed and a floor repair must be done. Two volunteers offered to examine the sight and give a report at the next meeting.

Dewey, KG6AM gave the treasurer's report. A debate of the merits of "Charlie" on the 147.36 repeater took place.

Reminiscing about Bud Bane, W6WB took place with many great stories. All agreed that he will be missed.

Respectively submitted by Secretary, Mike Gavin, W6WZ.

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of Board of Directors meeting held Sturday, January 24, 2004 at the home of W6VG, Ron Panton.

Meeting started at 10:08 A.M. Officers present were Doug Westover, W6JD, President; Chuck Patterson, K6RK, Vice-president; Mike Gavin, W6WZ, Secretary; Dewey Churchill, KG6AM, Treasurer; Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI, director; Keith Butts, KN6K, Director; Ron Panton, W6VG, Director; George Allan, W6YD, DXer editor & Ex-officio Director.

W6JD, Doug, will appoint 2 people to the Member of the Year Committee. Note: Dick Letrich, W6KM has volunteered to be the chairman. Keith Butts, KN6K, volunteered to be the treasurer of the 2005 DX convention. Dewey, KG6AM, inquired about the seed money for the convention. George, W6YD, advised that it continues to be \$3500. He also advised that SCDXC has increased the pre-registration fee to \$70.00 for pre-registration and \$75.00 at the door. He also advised that K6LQA needs a hard copy of the DXer.

A discussion of keeping club archives on a zip or CD drive followed. W6JD, Doug, inquired about reducing the dues because of savings on the new email DXer.

It was decided that the surplus funds would be spent on attracting new members rather than lowering the dues.

W6YD, George, volunteered to call Chuck Vaughn, AA6G, the NCDXC webmaster each month to inform him of programs for upcoming meetings. This would allow Chuck to include the info on the NCDXC website.

A discussion about possible future programs ensued. Several possibilities were suggested, including asking Smitty, W6CS to either make or arrange for a presentation about "Doctors Without Borders" at a future club meeting. A suggestion was made to get a major speaker on the subject of BPL — possibly from the ARRL, for our June Meeting.

The Club repeater was discussed. Doug, W6JD mentioned that John, K6YP and Steve, N6SJ had agreed to accompany Pete Grabosky, W6OOL to examine the W6TI repeater site and report on the condition of the batteries and the damaged floor.

George, W6YD suggested we contact Pete, W600L to determine the

Continued on Page 6

Roster Updates

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Marathon Ended

The 2003-2004 Marathon is now history. I hope many of you participated and enjoyed the chase for entities. Please forward your totals in the CW or SSB categories to N7RC (address is in the Roster) at your earliest convenience. I truly hope to see many, many submissions. Thank you."

Dick, AKA, N7RC

Member of the Year

Nominations for the NCDXC Member of the Year are now being accepted. All the guidelines are presented in detail in your copy of the Bylaws and Procedures Manual.

Please give this a lot of thought. All nominations must be in writing. I will accept email if in the subject heading it clearly indicates "NCDXC MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION" They should be sent to me no later than March 1, 2004. Soon thereafter all nominations will be reviewed by the Committee. The award to be presented at the International DX Convention, April 24th at the evening banquet, in Visalia, California. For "Snail Mail", my address is in the club Roster. But, if it isn't handy, send it to:

Dick Letrich, W6KM,
3686 Kirk Road,
San Jose, CA 95124-3816
Email: DLW6KM@AOL.COM

DXCC Rule Changes

The following was sent to us by Bernie McClenny, W3UR Publisher of the Daily DX and Weekly DX.

ARRL NEWS RELEASE
January 20, 2004
For Further Information Contact:
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At its January meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors removed paragraph 1.c) from the criteria for determining a DXCC Entity. This provision, implemented in 1998 as part of the DXCC 2000 Program, had provided that "An Entity will be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it...has a separate IARU Member Society." Since that time, the rule has allowed for the addition of four new DXCC Entities and the retention of one existing Entity.

At the time it was not expected that this would create difficulties with the administration of the IARU. Unfortunately, the provision has had the unintended consequence of stimulating applications for IARU membership that do not further the objectives of the IARU, creating an unfortunate and unnecessary administrative burden.

The rule change will have no effect on those Entities created by or as the result of the rule. According to DXCC Rule II, 5.C), "A change in the DXCC Criteria shall not affect the status of any Entity on the DXCC List at the time of the change."

The other two criteria for the determination of a Political Entity for DXCC continue in effect:

- The entity is a UN Member State.
- The entity (except international organizations) has been assigned a callsign prefix block by the ITU.

The text of the Board resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the DXCC 2000 program adopted by the Board in 1998 included changes to the criteria for a DXCC entity, and

WHEREAS, one of the new criteria makes separate IARU membership the basis for determination of a "political entity," and

WHEREAS, this rule has served a constructive purpose with respect to existing IARU societies, but

WHEREAS, the rule also has had unforeseen consequences in creating an incentive for the creation of proposed IARU societies that do not further the objectives of the IARU, and

RECOGNIZING that elimination of the rule has no effect on the DXCC entities that already have been created as a result of the rule,

RESOLVED, that the DXCC rules are hereby amended by deleting IARU membership as a basis for determination of a "political entity."

Year of the Monkey

The Year of the Monkey jokes keep pouring in. This from Danny, K7SS: "Two antennas met on the roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!"

Commentary from Kevin, K7ZS:

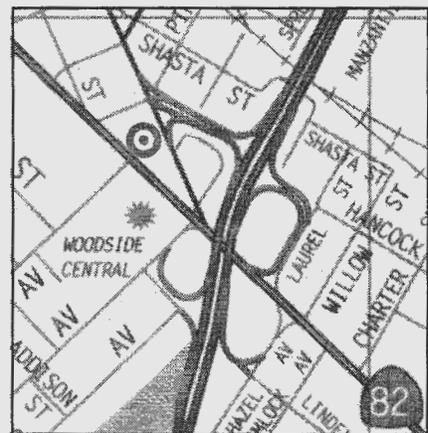
"Did they have a child together and name it Aerial? If so, their marriage must have been well grounded!"

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.



ARRL Proposes New Code-Free License

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 20, 2004
To all radio amateurs

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement—now 5 WPM—only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals—developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July—are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

“Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional,” said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee’s recommendations. “In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio’s ‘religious debate.’”

The entry-level license class—being called “Novice” for now—would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters, as well as, VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 watts on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 watts on 10 meters and up.

“The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees—now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs—would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees—Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General—would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

“This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service,” Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters, as well as, on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. “We’re trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that’s appropriate for the 21st century.”

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the “Novice reformatting” plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF sub-bands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See “ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access” on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, for the specific sub-band allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.



W6KM

Monterey Radiofest By W6KM

I will never understand why this hamfest is so poorly advertised. I'm talking about the RADIOFEST sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club and held at the old Fort Ord, General Stilwell Community Center.

George Allan, W6YD and I have been attending for so many years, I cannot even remember. They do an excellent job of presenting all facets of our Hobby. Exhibits on all aspects of Ham Service to the community, as well as, new and used products. Our own member Ham Stop, Mitch AE6I will be there with his wares, as well as, many others. Depending on WX they even have an outdoor flea market. If not held outside, it will be inside. The Vendors have lots of good items, so you can come home with lots of good stuff. This was where I have found so many treasures over the last several years. Last year I found the bargain of the ages — A GEOCHRON that was repairable and now adorns the center of my shack. It serves to remind me of the fun times we have at this event every year.

To get there, take Highway 101 and watch for the Monterey turn off. Go through Castroville to Highway 1 and when you get to the main gate of the old base, turn off and follow the well marked signs. Talk in **FREQ** is 146.97 PL 94.8. **HUMMM** I wonder what I will find this year? I can hardly wait. OH -- you ask, **when is it?** Plan now, as it is **Saturday, February 28th, 7 AM to 3 PM.** They have snack bars with hot dogs, sodas, etc., so you won't go away hungry or broke. After the hamfest you might even want to drive into Monterey and see the sights.

HP CU there.....73 Dick, W6KM

Meeting Pictures



WB6ABC



W6GEM & W6VG



K6YP



K6WIF, W6WZ, N6IWJ & KG6AM



N6SJ & KG6AM



W6TWO



W6YD & K6YP

BOD Min's (Concluded)

Continued from Page 3

extent of repairs necessary and then coordinate them with him.

Keith, KN6K made a motion to turn off "Charlie" on the repeater for major contests. Doug, W6JD, seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:49 P.M.

Respectively submitted
by Mike Gavin, W6WZ.

Meeting Pictures



W6MKM



K6RK

DXer Profile: Mike & Carolyn Gavin **W6WZ & WB6ABC**

This month's profile is a first because it features a Husband and Wife team — Mike and Carolyn Gavin. Mike Gavin, W6WZ has been a ham since 1958 and his wife Carolyn (now WB6ABC) supported Mike's hobby for 46 years, but didn't care about ham radio until recently. Carolyn became determined to get her ticket after hearing the extent to which hams were able to assist in providing emergency communications in the aftermath of 9/11. That was when New York Police, Fire Departments and Rescue Services were compromised by the loss of almost all commercial communications. Carolyn's first call was KG6LAZ and she is now a General Class Operator. She joined the Club in July 2003 as an Associate Member. She now has confirmed over 50 countries and the list is growing. She is also studying for her Extra Class license. Carolyn is a retired schoolteacher and one of her other lifelong hobbies is Electric Trains. She and Mike have an outdoor track that runs around part of their back yard and patio. In nice weather they like to sit out and relax as one of her many trains travels around the yard.

Mike has been a Ham since 1958 and a club member since April 1981. As a novice in Illinois, his first call was KN9TPQ; later K9TPQ and; when they moved to California, WB6KJE. Today, Mike's call is W6WZ. Mike has 315 countries confirmed and is currently serving as club secretary. In the past, he also served as prize chairman for the 1995 International DX Convention. Both he and Carolyn are quick to help when our club sponsors the Convention. Their main rig is not yet in the shack as they just acquired it — a new IC-756 Pro II! In the interim, they are operating a KENWOOD TS-180 with a SB-220 linear. This runs up to a Hy Gain TH3 MARK 3 at 40 feet. They also have a wire dipole for 40 and 80, along with VHF & UHF antennas. The shack is located in a small room that once served as the front porch of the house. Closed in now, it is a nice small area and everyone who visits, immediately knows they are in a Ham's house!

Thanks for the nice visit, Mike and Carolyn. And, Carolyn, we know you will get both your DXCC and your Extra Class license very soon.

73.....Dick, W6KM

BOD Meeting Pix



W6VG



W6JD



W6WZ



KG6AM



AE6AI



KN6K Presented a \$3300 Check to KG6AM Representing Profit from the 2003 Convention



KN6K & K6RK

Editor's Choice

I spent a lot of early mornings in early January trying to work 1A0KM, TO4E and A52CQ, but to no avail. Best signals I heard from 1A0KM and TO4E were only slightly above "ESP" and I couldn't even hear a peep from Bhutan. It's even more frustrating to hear the East Coast and Midwest working the DX and hear nobody on the West Coast, except W6BH and the like, working it.

Hope springs eternal, though. Another operation from Bhutan by Jim, W4PRO is scheduled to take place from March 22nd to April 4th. He plans to use the callsign A51PRO. He also hopes to operate from Nepal around April 10th to 14th. This information is according to the Weekly DX.

For those of you who haven't seen it, I consider this to be a very valuable tool. It's packed with up to date information and is supplemented by news bulletins when important events are scheduled to occur and when they happen. For more information visit W3UR's web site: www.dailydx.com.

Gud DX,
George, W6YD



Kudos 'n Kredits

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

W6CU, Ed Hardin
W6JD, Doug Westover
W6KM, Dick Letrich
K7RC, Dick Courtway
W9UOM, Ernie ZumBrunnen
W3UR, Bernie McClenny
W6WZ, Mike Gavin

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

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Low Intro Price!



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- APRS Compatible
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- 200 Memory, CTCSS
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- 50W VHF 25W UHF • 10W 70cm Supplement
- Features 118-1300 MHz Dual Band
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- Advanced APRS Features
- DX Packet Cluster
- 2M & 440 • CTCSS/DCS/DTMF

The Ultimate Radio!



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ICOM



IC-706MKII HF/VHF Transceiver

- All modes HF/VHF/V21M
- 100W HF/100W V21M, 20W-50W VHF
- All DSP • Plug and Play Filter • No Galvanic
- Enhanced Receiver Features

Low Pricing!



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- 100W VHF 100W • 100W HF/100W V21M
- 32.5K BPF • 4500/9000/12000/15000
- Enhanced 5-LINE COLOR LCD • 100 Memory
- Selectable HF VHF duplex for 2M & 5W
- 100W V21M • 100W V21M • 100W V21M
- Advanced DSP • 100W V21M
- DX Packet Cluster
- 100 Memory

The Ultimate Radio!

ALINCO



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 30 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS • DCS built in
- 7" meter
- Auto DTMF

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 memory • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Band
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DTMF out
- CTCSS/DCS Encoder/Decoder built in

Low Pricing!

YAESU



VX-7R

- 50W VHF 25W UHF
- 10W 70cm Supplement
- Features 118-1300 MHz Dual Band
- Hi-Power 100W, 100W Dual Band
- 200 Memory • Built-in 1200/9600 Band TNC
- Advanced APRS Features
- DX Packet Cluster
- 2M & 440 • CTCSS/DCS/DTMF

Great Price!



FT-100D HF/6M/2M/70CM Trans.

- Computer Transceiver with detachable front panel
- Rx 160kHz to 570kHz (with blackbox)
- Tx 100W 160-284, 50W 2M, 20W 70CM
- Built-in DSP, Vox, CW Keyer
- 860 Memories

Low Pricing!



FT-1000MP MKV HF Trans.

- Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
- Dual Rx
- Colored SSB filter built-in
- 200W External power supply

Low Pricing!

FIRST CLASS

DIXIE

Happy



Valentine's Day