

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

Pre-Convention Special Issue



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**No General Meeting
This Month**

**Instead, there will be a
"Joint Meeting"
of the
Northern & Southern
California DX Clubs
in Visalia, California
(Also known as the
International DX Convention)
April 23 - 25, 2004**

**May Meeting is Planned
to be a
Special Meeting
with a
Special Program
Date & Place
To Be Announced**

**Input Deadline for the
May 2004 DXer
is April 28, 2004**

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 Westoyer, 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.

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President's Comments



Well, lots of excitement on the bands for a change. All 3B9C all the time, TJ3G, a YA and couple of YI's and lots of other stuff. Nice to have something to chase again!

We hope to be able to do something different for the May meeting. The plan is to have W6RGG, our ARRL Pacific Division director, give an audio and video presentation on the Broadband Over Power lines (BPL) situation. Some communities have actually implemented it...it could happen to us. We hope to generate enough publicity / interest in the subject to get a big turn out from other clubs and interested parties. That being the case I am trying to arrange a meeting room at the Palo Alto Lucie Stern Community Center on May 18, rather than the usual meeting date. I will announce details once all firmed up. Please listen to the repeater and watch for the May DXer.

Another subject...June is election time again. PLEASE think of who you would like to have lead the club and by all means be willing to step forward yourself.

Hope to see you all in Visalia!

Doug, W6JD



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 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

The March 11, 2004 Meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City.

Officers present were: Doug, W6JD, president; Chuck, K6RK, vice-president; Dewey, KG6AM, treasurer; Mike, W6WZ, secretary; Keith, KN6K, director; Ron, W6VG, director; George, W6YD, ex-officio director & DXer editor.

Doug, W6JD, is still looking for a convention chairman. He is also looking for a Christmas party chairman. John, K6YP volunteered for the nominating committee. Dick, W6KM advised that we were nearing the March 15th deadline for nominating candidates for the NCDXC Member of the Year award. Mike, W6WZ suggested the club consider dropping the 100 countries requirement for full membership to help attract new members. The Southern CA. DX Club, SCDXC has done so with great success in attracting members. John, K6YP, proposed that NCDXC should have a recruiting table at the Foothill Flea Market (now held at Lockheed Sunnyvale), and also at Pacificon. Rolph, W6TWO, suggested that a roll call be made on the Thursday night 147.360 net. Dewey, KG6AM asked whether we will

have a summer picnic this year. Doug, W6JD said that we will definitely have one.

John, K6YP, suggested that we have a membership recruiting committee. Doug, W6JD, announced there will be no meeting in April because of the Visalia DX Convention. George, W6YD, is looking for a convention vendor coordinator for the 2005 DX convention. A discussion of other clubs' service involvement in the DX Convention ensued.

Chuck, K6RK, gave a fine presentation on 160 meter antenna designs. He provided a great handout to those present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

Respectively submitted by secretary, Mike Gavin, W6WZ.



CW Dilemma

Cont'd from Col.2

tion and below the digital section: maybe 14.045 to 14.060? It's just a thought. But then again, it may not need to be implemented as the World, the FCC and the ARRL appear to be bent on doing away with all CW requirements. And, as much as I, along with many other hams, oppose this move, it seems that our voices don't count. The FCC's dealing with BPL is a good example of that. Aside from that, there may be simple solution to the current dilemma.

For now, the answer may be to occasionally look around the 40 meter Novice band and put out a few CQ's. You just might make a Novice's day.

By the way, I'm bringing this subject up, because I recently found the bands all but dead, while W1AW code practice was on and coming in pretty strong. At one time, I could copy fairly well between 30 and 35 WPM. That night, I started falling way behind at 15 WPM — WHAT A SHOCK! I've got to practice a lot more so they don't take away my ticket. Because, at this rate, in another year or so, I won't even be able to copy 5 WPM!

73.....Dick, W6KM

Novice CW Dilemma by W6KM

IS IT ANY WONDER?

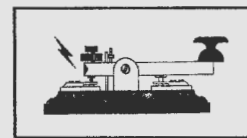
For many years I used to visit 40 Meters to brush up on my CW. I'll be the first to admit that it gets rustier (with a capital "R") every year.

When I was a Novice, I could hear wall to wall signals in every part of the Novice 40 Meter band (7.100- 7,150) every evening. Now, when I turn on the rig and go to the Novice portion of the Band, I can't find any CW at all — only foreign broadcasts.

Where can a Novice go today when he or she gets home from school or work and has their chores and obligations finished for the evening? By that time of the evening, Both 10 and 15 meters are dead. Well, if he or she is lucky, they can find some action on 80 meters — provided they

have enough real estate for an antenna. Is it any wonder that fewer new hams enjoy CW? It's not solely because the 5 WPM requirement makes it easier to advance without the necessity to hone their CW skills. It could also be that not all have the room for a simple 80 meter dipole or an Inverted "V" to actually practice on the air, while almost any small lot can accommodate a 40 Meter dipole or Inverted "V."

There may be an answer to this dilemma. Since the CW activity on 20 Meters has diminished over the last few years, it may be time to allow Novices to operate in this band. It certainly allows for new Hams to erect antennas and is a good 24 hour band. Say, set aside the area above the Extra por-



Marathon by K7RC

It has been two months since the completion of the period allowed for the 2003/2004 Winter DX Marathon. To date, there have been NONE submissions for this year's event. This year, it was very difficult to find many days of even moderate radio conditions — but...

With that, I am hesitant to even suggest that we try to compete in this year's CQP as a club entry.

Thanky, N7RC

Dangerous DXing -- News from K6MD/YI9MD

The following article is a series of communiqués from Jerry Griffin, K6MD who, as many of you know, is serving in the Medical Corps in Iraq. While Jerry is QRV as YI9MD, he is still surrounded by hostilities and is in-harm's way. In the midst of all of this, he manages to find a little time for ham radio and DXing. It is important that we ALL show our support for what he is doing and the sacrifice he is making on our behalf. Please, keep him in your prayers and listen for YI9MD. I, for one, will be both thrilled and very proud to work him. George, W6YD.

This is the text from the first email we received -Ed.

Hi, George. You may put this out in the DX'er... W6OAT is my QSL manager. I have only heard the east coast twice and could not get thru with my 706, long wire and the European pileup... cheers... Jerry, YI9MD... (would love to work the gang — doing primarily CW - probably most need YI on CW...)

This note was apparently sent to Rusty, W6OAT -Ed.

Hi — yeah, sent a note I would be off the air for ~ week or so. My antenna was hit during the rocket attack of 5 days ago — good thing it was only a wire. Trailer also hit by shrapnel — good that I was not in it. We took 4 casualties in our medical staff, besides a bunch of stressed/anxious kids... all ok, but being medevacced to Landstuhl. We are moving the hospital & living area to a safer site that only gets hit by occasional mortar/rocket attacks and also, occasional small arms fire. Here at the old site we get attacked 3 to 4 times daily. Have been lucky so far — no deaths on our staff — just survivable injuries from the attack on the living area. So, we are

busy and consumed with moving. My new location seems better, and quieter from a radio perspective — high tree behind my hooch and NO generators in sight — yay!! Looking fwd to setting up again... Great abt the cards... Would love to see a sample... You can forward this note to the newsletters as well, so they can share some of the flavor of the intensity of surviving on a classic low intensity battle field... and how ham radio/DX helps keep a reality check... cheers...

73/DX... Jerry, YI9MD

of the mortares/rocketers and they have other targets close by... ammo dump, fuel dump, airport terminal about to be given back to the Iraqis (certain dirtbag groups want to stop this because it is too good a victory for the Coalition and too many good things come from this — jobs, more jobs, goods flowing into the region, etc... and the insurgents/terrorists want to prevent this because it hurts their agenda... etc.)... cheers... Jerry



Jerry Griffin, K6MD/YI9MD (on the right) with other Medical Corps Docs

After receiving the above, we sent an e-mail to Jerry advising him of our plans to publish his info in the DXer. The following was his reply -Ed.

Sounds ok... Yeah, get a copy of the QSL from Rusty... that way I can see it too!!... I'll send u a recent pic later... Never thought I would be getting shot at again — and never thought that small arms fire would be preferable to mortars and rockets — ha, ha... Moving the hospital this week to get out of the line of fire... We think we are just in the way

We asked Jerry about the men in the picture with him. This was his reply -Ed.

They are docs from the surrounding units, with the war fighters... great guys... great docs... proud to serve with them...

It should go without saying, that our best wishes for Jerry are also extended to ALL of our troops serving in Iraq. This article gives us a feel for the danger that surrounds them every day and the sacrifices they are making on our behalf -Ed.

March Meeting Pictures by W6KM



KN6K & K6WIF



W6MZQ



W6JD



W6YD, KN6K, K6WIF & K6YP



K6YP, KG6AM, W6JD & K6RK



*Visitor
AE6FC, Harold
of Peasanton*



W6VG & W6YD



N6SJ, W6TWO & K6WIF



K6RK

International DX Convention 2004



The Banquet Theme this Year is: "Hawaii Days" Banquet wear as always is your choosing, but we are encouraging Hawaiian shirts, dresses, skirts, etc. Come join in the fun. You may even get lei'd! Aloha!!!!

the convention.

New look in the convention shirt... Polo shirt good quality, a collar, embroidered logo above the pocket. Color of the shirt will be a tan/beige. This year we will not be putting on call signs or names. If you wish to order one separately with these items on the shirt, we will have order forms available at

Once again, we will be having a **Golf Tournament** on Friday. Questions regarding the tournament should be sent to Don Bostrom, N6IC at n6ic@scdxc.org. There is no fee for the Golf Tournament, please indicate your intention to participate in the tournament on your registration form. There is no registration fee for the Golf Tournament only the greens fees charged by the course.



"The Saturday Tour" Treat yourself to a fun filled day on a comfortable bus making new friends and taking a tour of the Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, lunch in Reedley and of course shopping.

There will be free **RV parking** (dry - no hookups) in the Holiday Inn parking lot.

Your registration fee includes:

- Hosted cocktail party.
- All HF, Low-Band, and DX oriented forums and technical sessions.
- Convention Patch.
- Saturday night Banquet & DX program featuring a well known speaker.
- Sunday morning breakfast buffet with speaker.
- Pre-registration (Postmarked before March 15, 2004) drawing for a super prize.



Under 21:

Hams and students under 21 years of age are admitted with a free registration only ticket upon proof of age. For Saturday banquet and Sunday morning breakfast cost please contact Don Bostrom, N6IC at n6ic@scdxc.org.

*For More Information
See
www.scdxc.org/Visalia*

IDXC 2004 Events Information

The following non-convention events will be taking place during the convention, these events are not organized by the convention staff. Questions and requests for information should be directed as listed below for individual events.

Friday, April 23:

IOTA No-Host Dinner:

The 9th annual IOTA dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn in Visalia on Friday April 23, 2004 starting at 6:00pm. Dinner orders will be on a no host basis with orders taken off the menu. The program will include presentations by Mike, AD5A from the "Island Radio Expedition Foundation" who recently activated NA-013 in Nicaragua, Hector, XE2K who has been very active. Activating several rare islands in Baja California and Sonora.

Walkin's welcome - No reservations necessary. If you plan to attend the dinner please send Fred, N6AWD an e-mail so he can determine about how many will be in attendance. Any questions should also be directed to Fred. His e-mail is n6awd@ncinternet.net.

Annual Golf Tournament:

Once again, we will be having a Golf Tournament on Friday. If you want to sign up for the tournament or have questions regarding the tournament please contact Don Bostrom, N6IC at n6ic@scdxc.org. There is no registration fee for the Golf Tournament only the greens fees charged by the course.

Annual First Class CW Operators Club Dinner:

Annual gathering for FOC members and their guests. 17:00 - 00:00 in the Plaza room (Subject to change). Dinner served at 19:00.

Saturday, April 24:

Saturday Tour

The Saturday tour returns again this year. the cost is \$20.00, to sign up please contact Don Bostrom, N6IC at n6ic@scdxc.org.

US Tower Lunch

Lunch at US Tower state of the art facility. If you have never been to US Tower for lunch this is a must! The best lunch in town and great displays of their products. Lunch is FREE with convention registration or \$10.00 at the door.



Editor's Choice

We **STILL NEED** someone to step forward and be Chairperson for the 2005 Visalia Convention. I will take a major role in the Convention and others have already volunteered to take on major positions. So, the Chairman's main function will be coordinating all of the activities and being the main point of contact. I will be available 24/7 to provide advice & guidance to the person who volunteers to serve the Club in this role. And, if you want to discuss it before deciding, my landline is in the roster.

My apology to N6SJ, Steve Jones, for failing to enter his name & call on his DXer profile last month.

73 & CU in Visalia
George, W6YD

WANTED:

A Dentron MLA-2500 carcass — no tubes, not in any working condition. I need some parts from it. Will pay some long green if no mice or skunks in the innards.

Contact: Hillar, N6HR (360)-678-3408 hraamat@whidbey.net.

I'll come and pick it up end of March or early April. Or bring it to Visalia. I'm sure someone has one in some corner of his garage...

Feng Shui!
73, Hillar N6HR/7

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
K6MD, Jerry Griffin
W6WZ, Mike Gavin

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

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ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
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Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
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atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBRIIDGE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
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(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, N4SR, Mgr.
Ext 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

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(Near Boston)
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(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
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• Dual RX
• Collins SSB filter built-in
• 200W, External power supply

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