

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

Dean Straw, N6BV to Speak at September Meeting

Renowned DXer, antenna expert, propagation guru and ARRL Antenna Book editor to speak at September meeting.



**"Strategies Using Propagation Predictions
for
DXing and Contesting"**

...will be the title of Dean Straw's talk, which will focus on how to use modern computer aided propagation prediction to your advantage.

Dean has reduced the difficulty of applying propagation prediction to the point that it is useful to any amateur radio operator who is active on the HF bands. These techniques will help you snag rare DX contacts and to know when propagation should be at its best from your location to any part of the world. Knowledge of propagation prediction is particularly important as the sunspot cycle continues to decline.

Those who have had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Dean Straw, know that he is an eloquent speaker with a particular gift for making complex topics easy to understand and apply.

This is a "must see" program that you won't want to miss!

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**General Meeting
September 9, 2004**

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

Program

**Dean Straw, N6BV
(See info at left on this page)**

Social Hour ..	6:00 P.M.
Dinner	6:00 P.M.
Meeting.....	7:30 P.M.

**DXer Deadline
for
October 2004 Issue
is
September 29, 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: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Vice Pres: John Eisenberg, K6YP
 Secretary: Mike Gavin, W6WZ
 Treasurer: Steve Jones, N6SJ
 Director: Doug Westover, W6JD
 Director: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 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:

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



Fellow NCDXC Members:

Somehow I find myself trying to fulfill the office of President of our Club, an endeavor for which I am under qualified. I have been an officer of other clubs, but never the President of a registered corporate entity. I am a retired physicist, not an attorney or knowledgeable business man. More questions occur to me than answers.

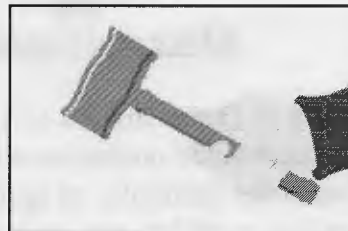
Fortunately, I am part of a team of officers and directors whose experience and talent give me cause for optimism concerning the upcoming year. Some needed youth and energy has been added to the group of workers whose efforts sustain the club.

Two new Board members are John, K6YP and Steve, N6SJ, the new Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. Both have begun to excel in their roles starting from their election. Mike, W6WZ enters his second year as Secretary and has assumed the additional responsibility as organizer of the Christmas Party. Directors include past two-term President Doug, W6JD; Chuck, K6RK past VP plus past President and, Ron, W6VG who maintains the data base and post office box. Who knows how many roles these three have fulfilled to keep NCDXC, a vital organization.

Besides the former Board above there are at least two other members who have continued to carry out important efforts both concerning the Convention and otherwise; George, W6YD and Dick, W6KM. I don't know how to express adequately my appreciation to both of them.

Let me close by stating the obvious: 1) we need more workers, not complainers and 2) we definitely need a new DXer editor to succeed George.

73, Dewey, KG6AM



NCDXC Dues Information

Full and Associate Members;

Date Dues are Paid	Member	Family Rate
1 July thru 31 August	\$24.00	Plus \$15.00
1 September and after	\$24.00	Plus \$15.00

*Members who have not remitted dues by the 31 August 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.

Silent Keys



Claude Lievsay, Jr., N6OO became a silent key on July 6, 2004. He was 81 years of age. Claude joined NCDXC on February 11, 1977 as WB6OZJ.

Claude was a native of Texas, but lived most of his life in California. He retired from Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., in 1982. As a mechanical engineer, he loved all engines and machines. Claude was an avid private pilot, who flew his plane over this entire continent.

He leaves wife Lily of 57 years, daughters Connie Nelson and Kathy Wyse and four grandchildren.

73, Claude. We will miss you.



Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO succumbed to a heart ailment on Friday, July 9th. He was 88 years of age. He was originally licensed in 1932 and became a member of NCDXC on September 11, 1981.

Rolph was born in Santa Barbara and moved to the Bay Area with his family as a child. He graduated from Galileo High School in San Francisco in 1934, and attended Marin Junior College, where he majored in economics and journalism. In his early years he worked for San Francisco radio stations KSFO and KJBS, where his experience as a ham radio operator became useful. He had obtained his ra-

dio license and built his equipment while still in high school.

Rolph learned to fly light planes in 1957 and at one time was president of the Santa Clara County Airmen's Association. It was a combination of flying and insurance that launched him on his second career (insurance) at age 40. Among his clients were pilots whose professions — crop dusters, air show performers and air tanker pilots — might normally make them a bad risk for life insurance. However, Rolph researched the accident statistics and proved to senior executives at Aetna Insurance that these pilots, after gaining a certain level of experience, were some of the most accident-free around.

Although he stopped flying some time ago, Rolph continued working in the insurance business until age 83 because, as his daughter said, he worried about his clients.

We, who were close to him, knew Rolph to be the ultimate optimist, who lived life to its fullest and always did things in a big way. He was one of the kindest men I have ever known and a true gentleman.

73, Good Friend.

IDXC 2005 Patch Design Contest

The IDXC 2005 Committee takes pleasure in announcing a contest to design the patch for the 2005 Convention in Visalia. The contest is open to all NCDXC members and the winner will receive a FREE registration for the 2005 International DX Convention in Visalia.

As basic requirements, your design(s) should include a mention of DX, International DX Convention 2005, Visalia and, if possible, both the SCDXC & NCDXC. Your design can incorporate any theme that would be appropriate to DX and DXing. The patch design can be any shape. But, bear in mind that the patch will

have to be manufactured, so the shape shouldn't be prohibitively intricate.

Contest entries must be postmarked no later than October 17, 2004 and may be sent directly to George Allan, W6YD at his roster address. Judging will be based on originality, eye appeal, theme, ease of manufacture and adherence to the basic requirements mentioned above. All designs submitted will become the property of the Northern California DX Club.

Good Luck.
George, W6YD

Ham Songs

The following info comes to us from Charlie Wirth, WA6MME, who thought we might like to send it along to our members. I found it to be just a little bit hokie, but still entertaining. If you like ham related trivia, this undoubtedly is the web site for you!

The following is the link. It should be typed as one continuous string.

www.hamband.com/html/the_ham_the_ham_band.html

Enjoy!

News from Jerry, K6MD/YI9MD

Our good friend and fellow DXer, Jerry Griffin, K6MD remains in harms way in Iraq and continues to operate as YI9MD. Rusty Epps, W6OAT is his QSL manager and continues to keep us up to date on Jerry's whereabouts. -Ed.

Yo, George ...
I got another e-mail from Jerry, K6MD today. Looks like he's planning to join us at Visalia next year. I'm forwarding his e-mail to you because you might want to pick parts of it out for inclusion in *The DXer* in case you need some filler material.

73 de Rusty, W6OAT

Hi Jerry. Good to hear from you. And yes — when I was at A61AJ a couple of months ago I got an idea of what a temperature of 132 F must be like (although it didn't actually get quite that hot while I was there). Miserable.

Re Visalia — I just called the Holiday Inn today and took the liberty of making a reservation for you. They had one room available for the convention weekend. It is a non-smoking room containing one king size bed. The convention rate they quoted me was \$84 + tax per night. I booked you in there from Thursday, April 14 through Sunday, April

17, 2005. The room is reserved in your name ...

I hope what I did is okay with you? Let me know.

73 de Rusty, W6OAT

Date: Tue, 10 Aug 2004

From: jerry griffin

k6mdw6mc@yahoo.com>

To: "Charles K. Rusty Epps"

<w6oat@sbcglobal.net>

yes — perfect!!! thanx a huge heap!!... actually worked YI9KT the other day — only ~40 miles away, so skip not good....hi hi.....leaving babylon Friday, for prison.. hahaha.... singin' the jail house blues....a detention facility by the Iranian border lost their doc cuz he had an irregular heart beat & went for eval in germany, so I get to play prison doc for a couple 2-3 weeks, then back to Mosul (mortarville.....) ...and to my vertical antenna... still on the wire.... keep looking for some foc'ers on 025 but just haven't heard any... also searching for US & west coast..... sooo tired of working russians....seems an endless number hihihi.... am up to ~ 76 countries....24 to

go.... got the yearly listing of the HR... was surprised to see my 342.. thought it was ~ 331 or so...need just one more for all of them...palestine.... guess that will wait a while... sad.... have enjoyed my stay in babylon... quite a historical place..... when I get back to Mosul, I will copy my logs and fwd....

cheers....73/DX....jerry

George, here's another note from K6MD (YI9MD). de Rusty, W6OAT

Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2004

From: jerry griffin

<k6mdw6mc@yahoo.com>

To: w6oat@sbcglobal.net

Have left Babylon, am now at a camp ~ 30km from the Iranian border... don't ask what I'm doing... hope to be back to Mosul and my vertical soon...., have a wire up, but difficult to get out..... very flat here, daily wind and sand storms... and, of course, hot!! mess hall feeds mostly T-rations daily, sleeping in tent & on cots, porta-potties only, no gym, PX is an 8x10 foot metal box, no post office, no laundry..... this is what the Army calls 'austere'....however, we do have showers, internet, rare TV, a MWR tent, air conditioning, all the sand flea bites one could hope for,.... and GREAT soldiers to work with (the best part..) ...this too shall end... my best to the gang...

Jerry, YI9MD

July Meeting Minutes

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

Doug, W6JD, president offered his final remarks as president and announced that at the close of this meeting the new officers would automatically be installed according to the by-laws of the club.

Dewey made a suggestion that we amend the by-laws to allow new

member applicants to submit their logs for the 100 countries requirement instead of QSL cards. It will be considered by the board in further discussion.

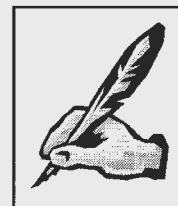
News of Gerry, K6MD, from Iraq is that they moved his medical unit to a safer location. It was also mentioned that we can send him an e-mail at the following address, k6mdw6mc@yahoo.com.

A discussion followed as to how to improve membership and a suggestion was made to include informational handouts about the NCDXC at ham meetings and VE test sights. It was recommended that the flyer be included on the NCDXC

website as well for downloading purposes.

Doug announced that there will be no general meeting in August because of the club picnic on July 31. The program for the evening was to share your most memorable DX experiences and many good stories followed. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Gavin, secretary, W6WZ.



DXer Editor Needed

One of the most important non-elected positions in the Club is DXer Editor. It's a job I've been doing for the past five years now and one that I will relinquish after publishing the October issue. By then, if nobody has come forward, I will surrender the software and the archived resources (such as saved issues, templates, clipart, pictures and graphics) to the Board of Directors to pass on to my successor.

This is a job that I have really enjoyed. It has also taught me a LOT about desktop publishing. More importantly, it gave me the opportunity to sound off occasionally, about where the Club was/is headed and the necessity for spreading out the workload. Having a vehicle to readily state your views is one of the benefits of being the DXer Editor.

Another is learning to manipulate software and edit text and graphics. These are things I had to learn on my own when I took on the job, but which I will be willing to help the new editor learn – provided that person steps up soon. Otherwise, I could be mired in the work of the Convention and have difficulty finding the spare time to spend. No matter what, I will always be available for advice and counsel.

If you have ever had a desire to do this, but were unsure of your abilities, please give it a try. I guarantee you, it's NOT as difficult as it appears.

George, W6YD



Picnic Pictures

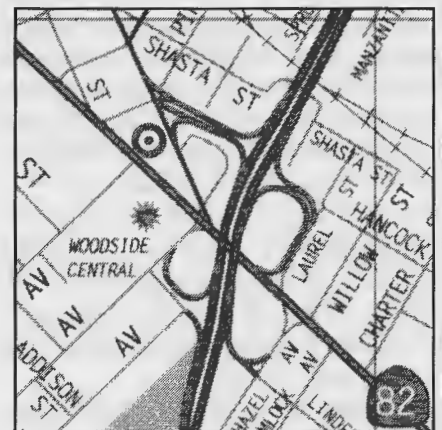


Directions to the Meeting

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.



More Picnic Pictures



NEC Develops Fastest Rechargeable Battery

The following came to us from W6KH, via the SDDXC Reflector Page. I found it interesting -- I hope you do, too -Ed.

April 2, 2004 (TOKYO) — NEC Corp has developed a battery that can be recharged only in 30 seconds, company sources said. Called an organic radical battery, it can be recharged to the same level of power as that stored in nickel-hydrogen cells, which are widely used in digital cameras, portable MD players and other electronic devices.

It takes only about 30 seconds to recharge the battery enough to allow 80 hours of continuous operation of an MD player, compared with around an hour needed by conventional rechargeables, the company claims.

Because of its ability to recharge faster, the new battery, which stores power in a special resin, is expected to make radio-controlled toy cars, shavers and other products much more convenient to use.

The battery can also discharge power in a short time, making it useful in applications requiring a large amount of power.

NEC believes the battery can be used as an emergency power source for computers in case of blackouts as well as in hybrid cars driven by a gasoline engine and electric motor.

The company plans to convert existing production facilities into ones able to manufacture the new product. The company expects the price of the new battery to be about the same as nickel-hydrogen cells when mass production starts, since it does not contain any expensive materials.

NEC is also developing a recharger for the battery that can be used at home as well as working on a way to prevent excessive discharge of power from the cell.

The company will initially try to commercialize the technology for using the

battery as an emergency power source for computers, according to sources at NEC.

(The Nihon Keizai Shimbun)

.....
 ...If the price becomes right, this could herald a giant step in energy storage for us 'consumers'. There is, however, an element of danger if the battery terminals are accidentally shorted!!!

Consumer versions may include internal discharge-current limiting (ie: a resistor in parallel with a diode, in series with the cells) to prevent overheating and/or explosion. Of course, gutsy folks like hams who build homebrew QRO, will want the "full strength" high PEP versions (ie: fast-batteries to replace caps in PS).

I'll be looking forward to more technology updates...

W6KH

Still More Picnic Pictures



DXCC Annual List Deadline Change

Beginning in September 2004, there will be no deadline for the DXCC Annual List. We have been working toward this end for several years.

In previous years, September 30 was the cutoff point for compiling the entity totals for the DXCC Annual List, published in the DXCC Yearbook. Over the years, DXCC participants tended to collect cards and submit them once a year, in September, to ensure the highest possible total for the listing. A major downside of the deadline is that we receive over 25% of our annual credit submissions during the month of the deadline. This in turn creates a huge increase in workload and a lengthy processing time.

Going forward, the lists of DXCC standings previously published in the DXCC Yearbook will be replaced by complete lists on the ARRL Web site.

The new Web-based lists should be ready and on-line early in the first quarter of 2005, when the listings in the DXCC Yearbook would normally have been published. After initial publication, the new lists published on the Web will be updated regularly, perhaps weekly or even daily. They will also include the standings of all DXCC members, not just those who made a submission in the previous year (as has been the practice with the printed Yearbook due to space limitations).

A smaller version of the Yearbook will be published, containing highlights of the standings, along with other features, as in the past.

73 es DX!

Bill Moore NC1L
DXCC Manager

*Tnx: Bernie McCleney, W3UR
The Daily DX, The Weekly DX*

Editor's Choice

I don't know about you, but I've been following the upcoming DX-Peditions to places I need for "new ones". It's not bad enough that propagation has been marginal, but it's a real "gotcha" when the operation doesn't happen at all.

Such was the case with the Malyj Vysotskij Island operation that was supposed to happen the last weekend of August. I scoured the bands all weekend long listening for them, only to find out later, that the operation was postponed!

I'm not certain if the operation to HB0 took place either. They were also supposed to be on the air that same weekend, but I couldn't hear 'em!

I suppose that's why I'm anticipating the contest season again. It seems like there's always a big operation with big antennas and high power running from some God forsaken place that I need. And I can usually snag a "new one" from one or another of them.

You, too, may want to fish the contest waters for a "new one". It doesn't take a serious effort to snag a one or two. But, if you do, please, be careful -- you just might get hooked.

73, George, W6YD

Kudos 'n Kredits

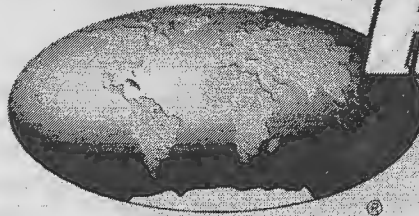
This month's issue of *The DXer* was made possible by articles and input from the following sources:

KG6AM, Dewey Churchill
W6KH, Dick LeMassena
W6KM, Dick Letrich
K6MD, Jerry Griffin
WA6MME, Charlie Wirth
W6OAT, Rusty Epps
W3UR, Bernie McCleney
W6WZ, Mike Gavin

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

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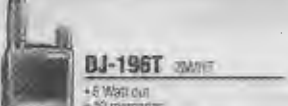


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