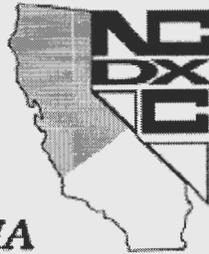


DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX To Speak on Software Defined Radio at October Meeting

Kristen's talk will explore the emerging field of Software Defined Radio (SDR). She will describe how the ever increasing speed and capability of digital signal processors are rapidly moving radio systems from all analog, to DSP based IF processing found in many current ham transceivers, to the nearly all digital radio architectures of tomorrow. The day when a transceiver will consist of a low noise, wide dynamic range receive preselector-amplifier and a wide band power amplifier both interfaced to a fast and powerful DSP based computer system is not many years away. This technology will bring many new and previously unexpected or impossible to achieve capabilities to ham equipment at affordable prices. It will also make available new digital modes robust in the presence of high levels of QRM, QRN and QSB. The talk will explore how compact, extremely efficient and flexible radio systems can be built using SDR technology. It will address what SDR is, how it is done, aspects of modulation/demodulation, filtering for adjacent signal rejection, and other topics. Come and hear about the future of Ham Radio!



Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, has been an active ham since 1979. She enjoys chasing HF DX with her home built Elecraft K2. She serves as ARRL Technical Specialist in the East Bay Section and is extremely active in many local radio clubs. Professionally, Kristen is a Principal Investigator at Sun Microsystems Laboratories researching robustness of large distributed computers systems. She has a diverse technical background including stints as an analog circuit designer and developer of digital image processing systems. She has also founded and operated an Internet Service Provider. She holds a BSEE in Electrical Engineering from MIT.

Please mark October 14th on your calendar and plan to attend.

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General Meeting
October 14, 2004

Harry's Hof Brau
1909 El Camino Real,
Redwood City
(Driving Directions Page 4)

Program

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX
Speaking on
Software Defined Radio
(See Info on This Page)

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

DXer Deadline
for
November 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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Printing, Mailing: Dick Letrich, W6KM

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<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:

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

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President's Comments



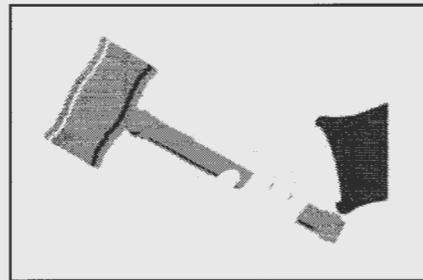
Last month's meeting was a success, as anyone who attended can verify. There were about 30 attendees. Thanks to John, K6YP and Steve, N6SJ for putting the program together.

As you know, George, W6YD will be our Convention Chairman once again and is already at work with Convention committee members organizing this event. George cannot to do this job and continue as DXer editor, so this is the last issue which he will edit, at least for the foreseeable future. No one has contributed more of himself to our club than George, and I know everyone joins me in giving him our heartfelt thanks.

In the temporary absence of an editor of a regular DXer issue, Carolyn, WB6ABC has agreed to edit a shortened Version. Contributions to the DXer can be sent via the club website which is managed by Chuck, AA6G.

See you all at the next meeting on October 14th.

73, Dewey, KG6AM



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

General Meeting Minutes-September 9, 2004

Meeting held at Harry's Hofbrau, Redwood City began at 7:35.

Officers present were Dewey Churchill, KG6AM, president; John Eisenberg, K6YP, vice-president; Stephen Jones, N6SJ, treasurer; Mike Gavin, W6WZ, secretary; Chuck Patterson, K6RK, director and; George Allan, W6YD, Ex Officio Director, DXer Editor.

A fine presentation was given by Dean Straw, N6BV, a renowned DXer, antenna expert, and propagation guru, on "Strategies Using Propagation Predictions". He is the editor of the ARRL Antenna Book and DVD.

Dewey, KG6AM reminded us that a new DXer editor is needed as George, W6YD is concentrating on the upcoming Visalia convention and will no longer be publishing the monthly DXer. We had an excellent turnout at the meeting which included many visitors. Steve, N6SJ gave an inspiring talk about the joy of DXing. The newcomers present were duly impressed. It was enjoyed by regular members as well.

John, K6YP, announced that the October 14th presenter will be, Kristen McIntyre, W6WX, who will present a talk on Software Defined Radio.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted
By Mike Gavin, W6WZ, Secretary.



Kay Em's Gems

Not many people or DXers are as lucky as I am. I have a friend who is always there when needed. That friend is George Allan, W6YD.

As you should know by now, this is George's last DXer issue as Editor.

In August of 1998 I became Club President. We had no Convention Chairman. Things looked pretty bleak for the club. I shared my concerns for the club's future with George and with only a little prompting (begging might be a better way to describe it) he agreed to Chair the 1999 International DX Convention. There was lots of drama behind the scenes, but that is another story. I can't begin to tell you what a relief it was to have had that responsibility lifted off my presidency.

Shortly after that, our DXer Editor had to make a job change and relocate out of the Bay Area. Again, I was at my wit's end (not that I have many wits to begin with). I stumbled through several DXer issues and did such a poor job, but again George, W6YD jumped in and took over that task — just in time to keep the club from lynching me!

George has always allowed me to write small columns. He has corrected my spelling, most of my poor grammar, but never changed my comments, even when he didn't always agree with me.

George, I know I speak for hundreds of DXers and Club members when I say THANKS FOR ALL YOU DID & DO FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB.

73 Dick, W6KM,
Grateful ex-Club President.

LOTW Renewals

The following comes to us from Wayne Mills, W7NG Via the Weekly DX.

Many Logbook users are creating difficulty for themselves by not carefully reading the instructions on how to renew their certificates. It's really a simple process, but many folks are creating requests for NEW certificates instead of RENEWALS. This causes loss of the original certificate, and then requires the use of the postcard password because the old certificate is no longer available to sign the renewal request. "It's really pretty simple. Just right-click on the certificate line in TQSLCert and select RENEW CERTIFICATE from the box. Create the renewal request and send the resulting <callsign>.tq5 file to lotw-logs@arrl.org. That's it! Yes, you will need to remember your private-key password; it's the same password that you need to submit logs!"

73,

Wayne Mills, N7NG/1, Manager
Membership Services Department

Future Programs

John Eisenberg, K6YP reminds us that the raffle has been restored as an integral part of future meetings. He plans to have a DXpedition tape for the November Meeting -- hopefully on Peter I, since the DXpedition to that island is coming up in January 2005.

Also, you won't want to miss the Christmas party on Saturday, December 11th at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose.

John is laying the groundwork for more interesting programs, but doesn't want to announce them until he has firm commitments.

If things continue to go the way they are going now, we're gonna outgrow our current meeting place real soon!

Nice work, John!

W6BSY Survives Frances & Jeanne

Mac, W6BSY moved to Florida just in time to be met by the hurricane season. Here is his account of the experience.

9/29/04

Hi everybody....

I apologize for having to write this sort of "catch all" message but there were more than 50 messages waiting when power came back on here....too many for us to answer individually!

Anyhow we made it through once again in much better shape than many, many folks in the area did. The wind this time was somewhat stronger than with hurricane Frances. It started blowing hard Saturday afternoon and got stronger toward midnight...from the north at, they say, about 120 miles an hour. About 12:30 Sunday morning the "eye" came ashore a couple of miles from here and, again, total calm, not even a breeze, for an hour or so. Then the wind came back, just as strong but now from the south for another six hours or so.

Power went off early Saturday evening and, for us, was back on Monday afternoon. Power is still out for several thousand people in this county and it may take a couple of weeks for everyone to be back on line.

The morning news said there are something like 938 homes in the county "condemned" as no longer safe to live in. We went out this morning and saw homes with huge piles of furniture, carpets, insulation, dry wall, shingles, etc. out in front of the houses waiting for pickup to go to the dumps. A big problem was that Frances did some big damage to a lot of roofs. Some were covered with temporary tarps...of course these were blown away quickly by Jeanne and the homes ceilings, walls, floors were totally saturated with water. Not only the mobile home parks this time but hundreds and hundreds of others suffered major damage. Lots of very big, old, trees down all over the place.

We can see the back yard areas of five neighbor houses and their screened-in pool areas. Ours was the only screened area, of the five, that survived intact. One neighbor said replacement cost of these rooms runs around \$12,000. As I say, we were very lucky to have so little damage.

This has gotten much longer than I had planned...will enclose some pix.

Thanks to all of you for your thoughts and prayers....we think they must have helped

Mac and Jackie...

None of these are of Mac's Home!



...Especially, This One!

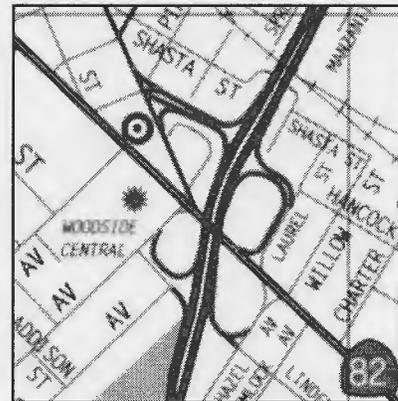


Directions to the Meeting

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.



NCDXF Announces Grants for FT/X & 3Y0X

Foundation Announces Major Sponsorship Grants for 2005 DXpeditions to Kerguelen Islands (FT/X) and Peter I Island (3Y0X)

Chicago, 18 September, 2004 - The Northern California DX Foundation, Inc., (NCDXF) announced at today's W9DXCC DX Convention that it has awarded major sponsorship grants, for the 2005 Kerguelen Islands (FT/X) and Peter I (3Y0X) DXpeditions. Together, these grants exceed \$100,000, and represent the largest grants made in the history of the NCDXF.

Len Gerald, K6ANP, NCDXF's President, noted that these awards are substantially larger than normal amounts provided by NCDXF in aid of major DXpeditions. "These exceptional grants were awarded in light of the rarity of operations from these locations, the significant individual contributions being made by the participants themselves, as

well as the very high cost of mounting DXpeditions to such remote locations," said Gerald. He called on the worldwide DX community to continue their support of NCDXF, thereby enabling such rare and challenging locations to be activated for the "Deserving".

The Northern California DX Foundation was founded in 1972 to assist worthwhile amateur radio and scientific projects with funding and equipment. Although the words "Northern California" still appear in its title, the activities of the Foundation are international in scope, rather than regional. In addition to providing financial aid to significant DXpeditions, the Foundation, in cooperation with the IARU, maintains a worldwide network of high-frequency radio beacons that help amateurs assess the current

condition of the ionosphere. The entire system is designed, built and maintained by volunteers at no charge except for the actual cost of the hardware and related components.

The Foundation is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the United

States Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. The Foundation does not have a paid staff, and no Foundation officer, director or advisor receives a salary or compensation in any form from the Foundation. More information about the NCDXF can be found on its web site: www.ncdxf.org.

Foundation Re-Elects Officers

NCDXF PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

NCDXF ELECTION

At its Board of Directors meeting on September 11, 2004 in Corte Madera, CA, the Northern California DX Foundation re-elected the following officers and directors:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------|
| President | Len Gerald | K6ANP |
| Vice President | Al Burnham | K6RIM |
| Secretary | Tom McShane | NW6P |
| Treasurer | Bruce Butler | W6OSP |
| Director | Rusty Epps | W6OAT |
| Director | Dave Pugatch | K16WF |
| Director | Chuck Ternes | N6OJ |
| Director | Glenn Vinson | W6OTC |
| Director | Steve Merchant | K6AW |
| Director | Ken Anderson | K6TA |
| Director | Tim Totten | N4GN |

Northern California DX Foundation
by: Al Burnham, K6RIM, VP



News of K6MD

Hi, George. Here's a note I got this morning from Jerry, K6MD/Y19MD. Thought his NCDXC friends would be interested in keeping up with him.

73 de Rusty, W6OAT

Hi Rusty — sorry so slow in answering — have been in Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center for my shoulder, which was fractured as I fell out of a truck.....back in Balad, ought to be (back) in Mosul in a couple of weeks to my vertical antenna....will need surgery when we get back to Germany in January.

Meeting Pictures



Martin, KD6WJW; Mark, KR1PTO & Risto, W6RK



Peter, K6WEB; Curt, W6RQ & Mike, KD6OCS



Bob, KE6HKI



Steve, KV6O (?) & Bill, WB6JJJ



Chuck, K6RK



Betty, XYL/K6JPX; Del, K6JPX & Carolyn, WB6ABC



Art, K6WIF



Hillar, N6HR



Steve, N6SJ & John, K6YP



Dewey, KG6AM & Dean Straw, N6BV



Bob, W6RGG; Mike, W6WZ & Martin, KD6WJW



Rick, N6DQ; Dean, N6BV; Martin, KD6WJW; Mark, KR1PTO & Mike, KD6OCS



George, AB8PQ



Hiro, AH6CY



Dewey, KG6AM



Steve, N6SJ

Department of Useless (Contest) Information...

Well, maybe you sampled the last IARU Contest? So what? A bunch of funny hams on both sideband and cw cluttering up the frequencies. Incessant "CQ contest!" ... The F1 button on CW. Monotonous and repetitive "59 Zone 6" Exchange ... Doesn't take a moron to do that... What for?

Well, one mans idiosyncrasies may be another mans meat. One mans QRM is another mans opportunity! It depends on the man. Lets face it - some of us enjoy being on the periphery of activities — like 'support' of communications, being available for activities, participating in nets, etc, etc — and then, there are some of us who want to get 'in there'. DO THE THING. Do the DXing, DO the contesting, DO the Field Day, i.e. - be in the 'SOUP'. So maybe you are one of them?

So, why a contest? Have you ever done a competitive thing? Played baseball on a team? Done a real one-to-one

competition like playing chess? Or tennis? Participated in track? Maybe 100 meter hurdles? Slalom? Skeet shooting? Bowling? (Hey - no golf!) OK, so what was your "batting average"?

Well, ham radio offers the same kind of opportunities. To see how good you are and how good you can be. In Europe, it is called "Radiosport Competition" — foxhunts, club competitions (in Europe mostly VHF/UHF). The ultimate in the last decade or so has been the World Radiosport Team Competition (WRTC) which was started right here in Seattle for the 1990 Goodwill Games. Fifty pairs of the best ham radio competitors vied for the "gold". Since the Seattle WRTC, Competitions have been held in Slovenia, Finland, USA (San Francisco) and the next one will be in Brazil.

But, why this madness? Does it make a ham a better operator? The answer is YES!" In spades! Marginal communi-

cations can be read as "clear" — copying through "QRM" or auroral echo or back-scatter or QRN is the final outcome and clear copy. Why? You develop an "inner ear" filter, which does not depend on how much interference is cluttering up the essential information. Partial copy becomes "solid" copy — one's brain becomes a PSK31 filter!

Yes! It takes training! Endless hours of practice. Being "in" there. Shouting away. Copying thru the noise. Missing the information and trying again. "Pse agn!" And then, logging the information! Whew!

So — are you still sitting on the periphery? The water too cold? Put your toes in - heck - put your foot in! You might like the feel of the current!

73, Hillar, N6HR

RE: USFWL NWR Denials To Amateur Radio

There has been an alarming number of "denials" by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWL A.K.A.: FWS) Agency via their National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Managers for access permission requests from Amateur Radio operators for CONTEST-Peditions, DX-Peditions and IOTA-Xpeditions. One generic reason stated appears to be for alleged "incompatible use", but without factual substantiating evidence by the NWR Managers.

NWR areas include not only Navassa & Desecho Islands, but Islands in the Pacific desirable for similar Amateur Radio CONTEST-Pedition, DX-Pedition & IOTA-Xpedition purposes. My specific battle-in-process involves access permission for The Farallon Islands (IOTA NA-178) which is less than 2 hours from where I live.

I've had numerous discussions with the Staff Director of the Sub-Committee within the U.S. House of Representatives' "Committee On Resources" regarding this general problem, and believe an opportunity exists to help see some desperately needed

changes result to the benefit of the Amateur Radio Community. The Committee on Resources oversees activities of the Department of Interior (DOI) and the USFWL, and they are aware of the unacceptable "problem" with USFWL denials for access in various NWRs.

A major meeting took place in Washington, D.C. on 9/14/04 between bi-partisan sub-committee personnel and high ranking officials from the USFWL. The USFWL has clearly been making decisions out-of-harmony with the intent of both the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 and the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. IMHO, the USFWL is finally going to (deservingly) get "hammered". But more factual documentation from the Amateur Radio community will be of critical importance as the plot thickens. A second follow-up meeting will take place in a week or two.

Further, I just filed "Comments" in a USFWL matter involving "Special Use Permit Applications for Wildlife Areas Outside

Alaska". This information will also go to the OMB, and both the House and Senate Sub-Committees have received copies, additionally highlighting the problem.

PLEASE...if you have ever been denied access permission for a CONTEST-Pedition (or any other Ham Radio purposes) by ANY Manager of an NWR, I need this info ASAP to include as supplementary facts for the sub-committee. Hopefully, our efforts will inure to the benefit of the Amateur Radio community as a whole.

"Time is of the Essence" in gathering and consolidating these additional facts prior to the next high-level meeting, as well as for additional comments to the USFWL Division of Policy and Directives Management and any other venue which may help effectuate a resolution of the access blockage to Amateur Radio.

For specific information on what is needed and were to send it, please see:

<http://www.k6vva.com/usfwl>

73 & "Good luck in the contest, OM!"
Rick ("Locust") Hilding, K6VVA

**NCDXC
GALA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

12:30 - 3:30 PM
Main Floor

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11th
SAN JOSE WYNDHAM (old LeBaron) HOTEL
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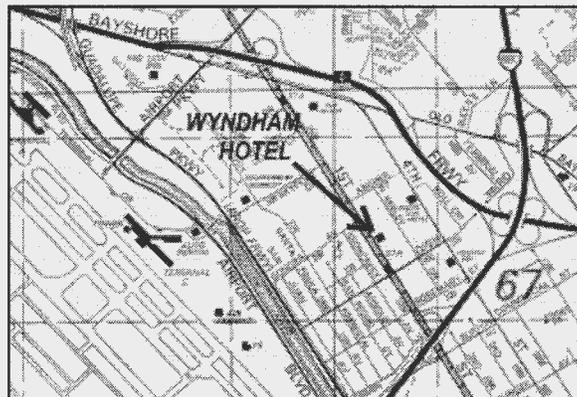
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Editor's Choice

It has been a good run! And I've also learned a LOT!! These are my thoughts as I prepare my final issue of the DXer. All told, the run lasted five years and five months. In that time, we put out sixty four issues and migrated the publication from a printed paper format, which was delivered by mail, to a digital, electronic format. That change allowed us to now deliver the DXer via the internet and permits it to be viewed in living color on the Club's web site. It also, saves the Club about \$2,200 per year in printing and mailing costs!

Our first issue was prepared using Microsoft Word 97 and I have to admit, I was a bit hurried, as we were still winding down from IDXC 1999. From there, we moved to Adobe PageMaker 6.5, which is the software we are still using today. Over the years we learned to use it more effectively. We learned to manipulate images in both Paint Shop Pro and PhotoShop and how to use Adobe Acrobat Distiller software to prepare PDF files for viewing on Acrobat Reader. We even learned to use Acrobat Distiller better over the years. For example, we learned how to increase the resolution of images contained in the PDF document, which improved the quality of pictures included in the printed document. This also allowed them to be viewed with more clarity on the internet. But, these accomplishments were all technical in nature.

If there has been any success at all to my tenure as your DXer Editor, it has been because of the input from you, our Club members. There are certain contributors, however, who really stand out in my mind. First and foremost among them is my good friend, Dick Letrich, W6KM, who for the majority of my tenure, was our "official photographer" and supplied us with pictures of meetings and major events. He also contributed articles about Ham Radio Events and important issues. And, until this year, was our "mailman" who labeled and posted the paper copies, then mailed

them. But, his biggest contribution was the DXer Profiles he contributed nearly every month. Dick's contributions in this area involved a significant amount of time and effort each month, driving to the subjects' homes, then photographing and interviewing them. He was a terrific reporter, without whose input, the DXer could not have been successful at all! Therefore, Dick, please accept the thanks of this grateful, about to be "ex-editor", for your many contributions during the past five years.

In January 2000, we introduced a new masthead and logo. The artwork and graphics for that change were the work of Bud Bane, W6WB (SK). So, although Bud's key is now silent, his work lives on to be viewed each month on the front page of the DXer. We also received contributed articles from such notables as: Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD; Jack Troster, W6ISQ; Hiller Raamat, N6HR; Gary Cervo, K6DXX and; everyone who served as either President, Vice President or Secretary during this run. There are others who I have probably overlooked or failed to mention, but these people stand out in my mind. To all of you, please accept my heartfelt thanks. And please continue to support my successor in the same manner that you have supported me over the past five years.

As you probably already know, Carolyn Gavin, WA6ABC has volunteered to take on the task of being your next DXer editor. I feel good about that, because she sets high standards and adheres to them. I'm confident that she will do a GREAT job as your DXer Editor.

Carolyn and I will meet on October 14th and I will pass the archives, software, tools and knowledge on to her. Then I will walk away from the job.

As we end our run, I can't help but feel good about our performance and what we accomplished. And, as strongly as I feel about that, I feel just as strongly that we are leaving the DXer in good hands.

To you, the members of the Northern California DX Club, thank you for your support and encouragement and for allowing me to serve.

Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge the support given to me during this entire run by my best friend, my wife and partner in life, Sylvia. Thank you, for lightening my load and making my life easier.

Sincerely,

George Allan, 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
W6BSY, Mac McHenry
N6HR, Hillar Raamat
W6KM, Dick Letrich
K6MD, Jerry Griffin
W7NG, Wayne Mills
W6OAT, Rusty Epps
K6RIM, Al Burnham
W3UR, Bernie McCleney
K6VVA, Rick Hilding
W6WZ, Mike Gavin
K6YP, John Eisenberg
W6ZX, Alex Meyer

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD



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- 20W VHF
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