



Field Day Report! Pg.6



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

July 2007

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The NCDXC Annual July Picnic-July 29th at Mitchell Park 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
See page 5 for Details!! Save the Date!!

- 2007 Dues Reminder -

If you haven't already sent in your dues, time is running out. Please send them in as soon as possible! The cost for an individual is \$24.00 per year due on July 1st. Each additional family member is 15.00 per year. Rate for absent/distant members is \$12.00 per year. You may send dues to: NCDXC Box 608, Menlo Park, CA, 94026-0608.
Send in promptly to be in this year's roster.

Reminder - There is no regular meeting for July
Instead you **MUST** ☺
Attend the 2007 NCDXC

Picnic July 29th



Great food!!!
Amazing Prizes!!!

You do not want to miss this huge party for you!

New Equipment! Pg. 8



There is still time to get the word out to new **DXers**. Let them know that our exclusive **Elmering** program begins soon and we want as many new participants as possible! Interested? Join us on the **NCDXC Thursday night net** at **147.360** at **8:00 P.M.** Also visit the NCDXC website for more info.
<http://www.ncdxc.org>

Northern California DX Club

Club Officers:

President: John Eisenberg, K6YP
Vice Pres: Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
Secretary: Craig Bradley, AE6RR*
Treasurer: Steve Jones, N6SJ
Director: Curt Kolovson, W6RQ
Director: Jim Abraham, W6EB
Director: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM

DXer Editor: Phil Steffora, K6PTS
phil@k6pts.com

Web Page: Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
<http://www.ncdxc.org>

DX Ladder: John Kelly, KG6XF
9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC
Contests: Dick Courtway, N7RC
California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX
Records Manager: Ron Panton, W6VG
Publications Mgr: Ron Panton, W6VG

Club Repeater W6TI/R
Frequency/offset: 147.360 Mhz +, pl 110.9
Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Control Operator: Robert Smithwick, W6CS
Maintenance: Peter Grabosky, W6OOL
Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)
Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.
Net Manager: Kristen McIntyre, K6WX
DX News: Net Control Operator
Swap Shop: Jim Abraham, W6EB

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: NCDXC
Box 608
Menlo Park, CA
94026-0608

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President's Message

Hi All,

What an amazing June 21, NCDXC meeting! It was a long meeting with a lot of business items to cover, elections, and an excellent presentation aimed at new DXers by Craig AE6RR. During the business part of the meeting I gave my usual quarterly pitch on stepping up to the plate and supporting the club. Then it happened, lightning struck!

Risto W6RK was describing his idea to set up an outgoing QSL service by which members would bring their cards to club meetings where they would be gathered, accumulated, and sent for free to the ARRL outgoing BURO. Dave Gomberg, NE5EE, stood up and volunteered to be outgoing QSL manager for NCDXC. Thank you Dave!

Later in the meeting I explained that Carolyn, WB6ABC needed to step down as Editor of the DXer after several years of service. The DXer is something everyone in the club enjoys, and it brings club news to members unable to make regular club meetings. After thanking Carolyn for the great job she has done, I asked if anyone would like to take over the reins as DXer Editor. Phil Steffora, K6PTS, stood up and volunteered. Thank you Phil!

Several other changes have created vacancies. For many years, Randy W6CUA has done a wonderful job of organizing our Thursday evening Net. Kristen K6WX has agreed to take over for Randy. Thank you Kristen!

Also for many years Chuck AA6G has done a terrific job as webmaster of the NCDXC web site. A change in ISPs made it difficult for Chuck to continue as webmaster. Risto W6RK volunteered to put our web site on his server. Risto has also introduced the popular NCDXC 'chat' that many people are enjoying. Thanks Risto!

Finally Jim Abraham W6EB agreed to chair our new venue search committee, assisted by Risto W6RK and John K6YP.

(President's message continues on page 3)

Vice President's Report

For me the DX club is all about motivating, helping and encouraging its members in the journey of DXing. When talking about activities the club should do, I'm always asking a question, "how does that help our members in DXing?".

For the past few months we have been looking for such activities to add to the club programs -- and also remove some inactive programs. Couple of the new programs that are coming up:

QSL CHECKING

We come to club meetings to have a dinner, enjoy DX fellowship and see an interesting program. We also need to do DXCC QSL Checking every now and then. So, why not do checking in club meetings, too?

When we floated this idea in May meeting, it didn't take too long until I got an email from Andreas N6NU. I was planning to ask him anyway but he was quicker. We are going to start checking QSLs in club meetings. The first time will be our picnic and then in September meeting.

This is still a regular DXCC (or WAS) checking and you need to do the paperwork, pay, sort the cards, etc. You also need to let Andreas know (see his contact details in the roster) how many cards you're planning to bring so he can prepare. Please see details elsewhere in the DXer.

OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Another new service we're adding is outgoing QSL buro service. Dave NE5EE (did I say it right, November Echooo Fiiive Echoo Echoo?) has

President's Message (continues from page 2)

The results of the 2007/2008 election were:

President	John Eisenberg	K6YP
Vice President	Risto Kotalampi	W6RK
Treasurer	Steve Jones	N6SJ
Secretary	Craig Bradley	AE6RR
Director	Dewey Churchill	KG6AM
Director	Jim Abraham	W6EB
Director	Curt Kolovson	W6RQ

We welcome Craig to his new post as secretary. Please get in touch with any club officer or director to share your ideas on how to improve our club, make our monthly meetings better or to volunteer to present on a topic which interests you.

Please remember that the Picnic will be July 29, at 11am in Mitchell Park at the corner of Middlefield and East Meadow in Palo Alto. Y'all come! As usual, there will be no club meeting in August. See you in September, hopefully at our new venue.

Best 73,

John K6YP

kindly volunteered to take care of this.

The idea is that we all send QSLs to buro, go through tedious sorting, packaging and mailing. Why not do it all as a club service? Starting in the September meeting, please bring your outgoing QSL buro cards with you to the meeting. We'll take them and send them to the ARRL outgoing buro, free of charge, as a part of benefit of being a club member. Also, please bring proof of your ARRL membership because it is still required. We will also need you to be current NCDXC member in good standing (so, don't forget your dues!). More details about this in upcoming DXer.

Best 73s!

Risto, W6RK

Treasurer Report

The club completed its fiscal year 2006-2007 in good financial health. We had a very successful convention and as a result we can make a larger than usual contribution to the NCDXF thereby helping to support exciting DXpeditions like the recent BS7H op to Scarborough Reef. Stay tuned for upcoming DXers issues as I will periodically be publishing updates on our 2007-2008 fiscal status. Get your dues in and have a great summer.

73,
Steve N6SJ

A Big NXDXC Welcome to our newest member!!!

Gerry Horn, K6TXD from Sunnyvale, Ca.

Cycle 23 Over Yet?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Space Environment Center (SEC) forecasts again we reached our lowest sunspot value in March 2007, and predicts that the solar flux will reach its lowest number in July. This is the fourth month in a row that the SEC predicts the solar flux will bottom out in July.

Editor's Corner



Parting note from Carolyn

"I have enjoyed editing the NCDXC newsletter for the last 31 months. I hope that it provided some fun, news, and information for any members who have read it. It has been passed on to Phil Steffora, K6PTS, who is very enthusiastic about the job. So, 73 and 88s to all NCDXC members as well as anyone else who read it." - Carolyn, WB6ABC

Editor note – Please be sure to send Carolyn email and thank her for her years of service, she can be reached at cegavin@sbcglobal.net.

QSL Card Checking

As a benefit for members NCDXC will be offering QSL card checking at our picnic and some general meetings. In order to make the process smooth for everyone please review the complete set of rules at the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.html#siv>. Please print and have completed all necessary forms, and have proper payment and materials before approaching the card checker. All forms are available at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>.

Abbreviated Rules

Only eligible cards can be checked by DXCC Card Checkers. An application for a new award shall contain a minimum of 100 QSL confirmations from the list and shall not contain any QSLs that are not eligible for this program. (Additional cards may not be sent to HQ with field checked applications). The application may contain any number of cards, subject to eligibility requirements and fees as determined by Section I, Basic, 15.

The applicant shall provide a stamped no. 10 envelope (business size) addressed to ARRL HQ to the DXCC Card Checker. The applicant shall also provide the applicable fees (check or money order payable to ARRL-no cash, but credit card number with expiration date is also acceptable). The DXCC Card Checker will forward complete applications and appropriate fee(s) to ARRL HQ.

ARRL HQ staff will receive field-checked applications, enter application data into DXCC records and issue DXCC credits and awards as appropriate.

NCDXC 2007 Annual



Our annual club picnic is on Sunday, July 29 at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto at the Pine Grove Group Picnic Area, same location as the last 3 years!

It is at Middlefield Road and East Meadow Drive. Enter the park either off Middlefield or Meadow and drive to the parking area closest to the tennis courts. The Pine Grove Area is adjacent to the tennis courts and the parking lot.

Date: July 29
Time: 11:00-15:00 (or later)
Food: Burgers, hot dogs, soft drinks supplied by the club
Bring a salad or dessert if you wish to be generous
Location: Mitchell Park, Palo Alto, Pine Grove Picnic Area

 **NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED**

Come join us! Bring the kids and grandkids. There is a great play area within full view. Everyone has a great time! The site is in the shade so even on a hot day you will be comfortable!!!

Great News!!!

Andreas Junge, K6NU will join us and will be doing our QSL checking for the first time at this July meeting/Picnic. See you on the 29th of July!!!

(All attendees will receive a special gift!)

July Calendar

July 14-15 IARU HF World Chmp.
July 19 **No Meeting**
July 21-22 N.A. QSO Party (RTTY)
July 29 **Club Picnic**
July 30 DXer Submission Deadline

Swap Shop

Want to list your radio items in the Dxers?
Email me!
phil@k6pts.com

General Announcements

Do you have a suggestion for a new venue? Please send it to our venue coordinator Jim W6EB
w6eb@pacbell.net



A Field Day Report

By Kristen A. McIntyre, K6WX

ARRL Field Day offers us a chance to get out all of our portable gear and set up a station, putting up antennas ranging from some wire in a tree to full sized towers and beams. It is many things to many people: an HF operating event, an outreach effort to show people what Amateur Radio is all about, a camping trip, a contest, a picnic, and a chance to be with all of your friends, among others. This year I was able to sample two very different aspects of this annual event.

As far as DXing goes, Field Day doesn't have too much to offer. Occasionally I have worked an OH or a DL, and I think last year I worked S59A, but with solar minimum conditions and the fact that FD is a North American contest it doesn't seem worth it to me to think of this as a DX event. There are, however, many other benefits and other ways to have fun.

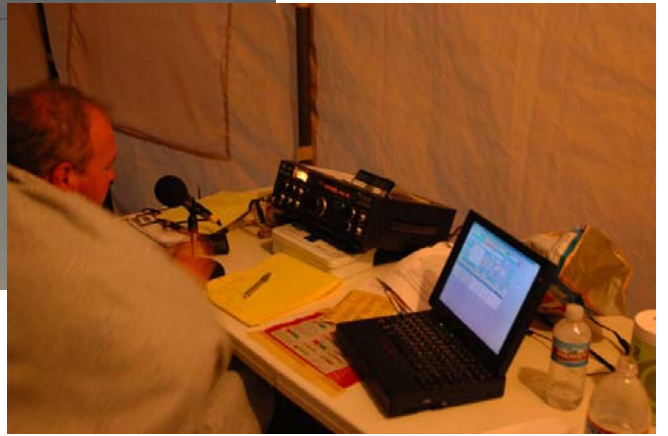
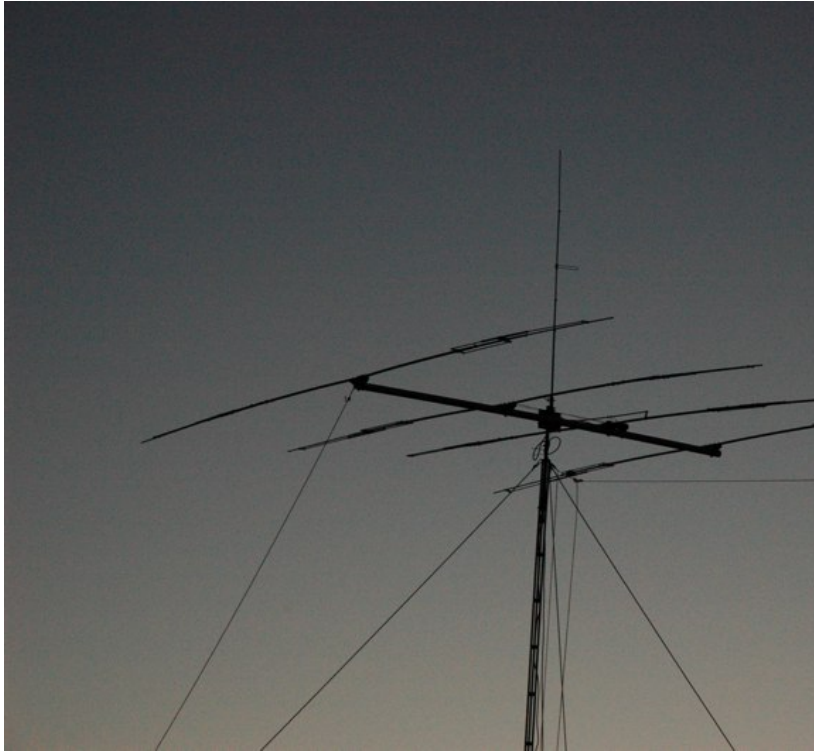
One of my two experiences this year was with the Foothills Amateur Radio Society which holds their Field Day exercise at the Maryknoll Seminary in Los Altos. I had never been there before and arrived at about 1AM on Sunday morning. It is a beautiful location with a view of the city below that is breathtaking. I had a desire to operate CW and was able to settle myself in front of a radio with a woolen blanket provided by Dave, KE6PFF, draped around my shoulders and a hurricane lantern provided by Pink, KG6ILA, both of which kept me warm.

Most people headed to sleep and I think I was one of the only ones awake through the night. I pulled up the key, put on the headphones, and settled in to search and pounce, first on 40m and then on 80m. It was a very relaxing time. I scanned the 80m band over and over, noting those stations I had worked before and those I hadn't. Each time I thought I'd only find dupes, I was surprised to find a new shift of operators coming on, so I really didn't have to wait very long to find someone to work. Before I knew it, dawn had arrived and the sky grew pale blue.

At 5:30 another operator named Susan (sorry I forgot her call) arrived and relieved me. We had a nice chat about CW operating. I really enjoyed the experience.

(Continues on page 8)

FARS FIELD DAY 2007



PAARA FIELD DAY 2007



Photos by Kristen A. McIntyre, K6WX

Used with permission

A Field Day Report

(Continued from page 6)

I went from there to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association site at Menlo Park's Baylands Park. It is a spectacular location for antennas with a sharp drop off facing roughly East into the San Francisco Bay salt flats.

At about 8AM one of the CW stations was switched to phone and I began to operate on both 15m and 10m. We were looking for stations that we did not already have on that band-mode. This was an attempt to maximize points for the operation and the atmosphere was that of serious contesting. I spoke into the microphone quickly and efficiently. I was being coached by Rusty, W6OAT, and Ira, K2RD, both of whom were logging for me. It was intense and a real adrenaline rush, fueled by no sleep, caffeine, and sugar. I was charging hard, calling CQ and then switching to search and pounce. I have no idea how many stations we worked, but I know that there was never a second to spare. We worked like this until the end of the contest at 11. I was really worn out after that!

These two experiences were dramatically different and each was fun in its own way. I couldn't say which was the best. I did realize, though, that each operation has a different facet of the event on display. I am fortunate to have been able to sample two such fun parts of Field Day.

Editor Note – Besides being our very own net control operator for our Thursday night NCDXC net, Kristen is also one of the net control Operators of the 9am Talk net heard on the N6NFI repeater weekdays and is currently serving as President of PAARA. She can be reached at kristen@alum.mit.edu.

New Equipment

The latest buzz around the Dayton Hamfest this year was the announcement and unveiling of the Icom IC-7700. Icom says the radio was designed for contestors and operators who are looking for the features of IC-7800 but don't require the second receiver. It features 200W on HF/6 Mts, 2 Independent DSP Units (same as in the 7800) and is expected in stores for Christmas. Estimated pricing is expected in the \$7,000 range.



Nano-Dxpedition

By Phil Steffora, K6PTS

It's been said that one of the most rewarding aspects of amateur radio and communications in general is the ability to "take it on the road". Certainly nothing could be more fitting for a DX club than a trip into the great outdoors to work DX. While I would love to tell you that I organized and executed an expedition to Swains Island (KH8/S), Lakshadweep Islands (VU7), Scarborough Reef (BS7), or even North Korea (P5), my adventure was a little less ambitious and perhaps a bit more practical.

My hat is off to our very own club members who have braved the elements and the travel to make some of these amazing ops hugely successful. With a lot of hard work I too hope to someday participate in one of these famous DXpeditions.

Some of you know that my QTH is Fresno and while I spend a large part of my time in the Bay Area for work, home is about 200 miles to the Southeast. If you are familiar with this area at all, you will also probably know that next to Death Valley we tend to have some of the warmest weather of any California metro area. Sunday afternoon I found myself pondering how to beat this 100 degree heat and also have some fun at the same time.

I called up a couple of radio buddies (W6DIA & N6OOB) and we hatched a plan to make the 75 mile drive up to Yosemite to try our hand at some high altitude DX and at the same time beat the heat.

Not being deterred that it was already 4pm as we loaded the cars, we started up Hwy 41 North for Yosemite National Park. As we climbed through the thousands of feet in elevation the temperature started to fall. By the time we reached Glacier Point, the thermometer was sitting on 71 degrees. It felt wonderful.

The next hour was spent, unloading antennas and miscellaneous gear from the trunks until we had three fully operational HF stations. The site we choose was right at the edge of the canyon which overlooked the expansive Yosemite Valley and Half Dome rock. As I powered up the 756 PRO III I couldn't help looking out over the Ansel Adams portrait in front of me. It was truly amazing.



Nano-Dxpedition (continued)

But now there was work to be done. I tuned up and started calling CQ DX. It wasn't long before I had a pileup of stations all calling back to my K6PTS portable Yosemite National Park. This was the first time in my relatively short HF career that I've ever had stations calling me. Now I can see a bit of the excitement that must be experienced in a real DXpedition to a top DXCC.



I worked every station I could get over the next couple of hours before the temperature fell more than 15 degrees. It was time to pack it up. Perhaps we should have planned ahead and brought along a pair of jeans and a heavier jacket. The three of us were wearing shorts and only had light windbreakers over our t-shirts. Live and learn.



As we packed in the dark, the last station that we heard was New Zealand and we knew our next trip would need to be much much longer.

Now more than twenty-four hours later, I wish I had another hour up on the hill. How many more stations could I have worked? What new lessons would I have learned from my first "Nano-Dxpedition"? Only future trips will tell.

Photos by K6PTS, N6OOB & W6DIA - Used with permission

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- "S" meter
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Low Pricing!



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- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

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