



# THE DXER

• NCDXC EST. MCMXLVI •

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

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<http://www.ncdxc.org>

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## Don't miss the March 20th meeting featuring a presentation by Rusty Epps, W6OAT on the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF)



**The Northern California DX Foundation was founded in 1972 to assist worthwhile amateur radio and scientific projects with funding and equipment. Rusty Epps, W6OAT will be sharing how the Northern California DX Foundation supports major dxpeditions and manages the business of the foundation. Don't miss this program!**

**For more information on the NCDXF and joining the organization visit <http://www.ncdxf.org>.**

Open Contributions to the DXer are due by the first Saturday of every month. Have an idea or something to share? Just send it to Phil, K6PTS [phil@k6pts.com](mailto:phil@k6pts.com) Thanks!



## Northern California DX Club Officers:

President: John Eisenberg, K6YP  
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9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC  
Contests: Dick Courtway, N7RC  
California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX  
Records Manager: Open  
Publications Mgr: Open

Club Repeater: W6TI/R  
Frequency/offset: 147.360 Mhz +, pl 110.9  
Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
Control Operator: Jim Abraham, W6EB  
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

Hello Everyone,

As I write this on the evening of March 8, TX5C on Clipperton Island has just come on the air and is booming in on many bands. Right now he is listening for Europe on 3786 so it is an excellent time to put together my little piece of the DXer.

Here are a couple of interesting recent news items from the ARRL in case you missed them.

First, Tad Cook K7RA, ARRL's propagation guru, has done a rolling average of recent sunspot activity over a 3 month period rather than the customary 1 year time frame. The result of Tad's analysis is that Cycle 23 bottomed with a smoothed SSN of 3 in October, increasing to 6.9, 8.1 and 8.4 in November, December, and January respectively. If this trend holds it is truly excellent news. I have my fingers crossed!

The second bit of news from ARRL is that Dean Straw N6BV announced his retirement from ARRL effective March 31, 2008. Dean is the editor of the excellent ARRL Antenna Book which should grace every serious DXer's book shelf. Dean has been a technical mainstay at ARRL for many years and has spoken several times at NCDXC meetings and Visalia. Dean, we wish you a wonderful retirement full of victorious contesting and exciting new antenna designs. KB!

Whoops, TX5C is now listening for everyone 5 to 10 up. QRX.....Great nailed him on 3802.33. OK that band mode is in the log. TX5C is not far away, just south of the tip of Mexico off the coast of Costa Rica. It maybe relatively easy for us in six land to work, but it is darn tough to get to. The island is a French nature preserve and lengthy negotiations including a willingness to bring along a couple of naturalists was required to get permission to land. Landing at Clipperton is no easy task either. Dangerous surf breaking on the reefs off the island and lack of sheltered landing spots make getting to Clipperton very difficult. Once there, the temperatures on the uninhabited island can regularly reach 100+ degrees with 95% humidity. No wonder this one is rare particularly in Europe. See [www.clipperton2008.org](http://www.clipperton2008.org) for details.

Another DX operation to watch for in mid-March is 9X0R operating from Rwanda. This DXpedition will be led by a group of Spanish hams with added ops from Italy, France and Ukraine.

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This is the first full blown DXpedition from 9X since 1997. True international traveler Vlad UA4WHX was there in June 07 and handed out many Q's to the deserving on 20 meter SSB. However Vlad's operation was a one man show with simple antennas and a 100 watt transceiver. The 9X0R operation will give all of us a real shot at Rwanda on several bands. See [www.9x0r.com](http://www.9x0r.com) for details.

Both of these full scale operations are sponsored by several DX clubs and foundations. However, a major supporter of both DXpeditions is the Northern California DX Foundation. NCDXF has funded a very significant fraction of all major DX operations since its founding in 1972.

Many NCDXC members have been on the NCDXF board. Rusty Epps W6OAT and several current NCDXF directors will present details on how NCDXF funds the DX operations that provide us with the new ones. I am sure that Rusty's presentation will be one that you do not want miss. Following the NCDXF talk, NCDXC will present its annual contribution to NCDXF. This year our Visalia earning made a larger than usual contribution feasible. I don't think there is a much better use of our club's money than providing support for upcoming DXpeditions.

Finally, don't forget that the DX Convention in Visalia is fast approaching. There are still hotel rooms available although the rooms in the Holiday Inn and motels immediately adjacent to the Convention have long since sold out. Ticket prices will increase after March 23 so if you want to go to Visalia, visit [www.dxconvention.org](http://www.dxconvention.org) and make your plans soon! Because of the convention, there will be NO APRIL NCDXC meeting.

Well TX5C is now up on 75 cw. I need that band mode. I think I'll give it a shot.

Best 73 and DX, John k6yp

## CLUB CALENDAR

March 20th	Regular Club Meeting
April 17th	No Club Meeting
April 25-27th	Visalia DX Convention
May 15th	Regular Club Meeting

Also be sure to check out the new calendar on the club website <http://www.ncdxc.org>

## DX ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call	Entity	Start	End	Comments
J8	St Vincent	3/3	3/20	QSL DL7AFS
H44MS	Solomon Isl	3/5	4/27	QSL DL2GAC
C6AWS	Bahamas	3/6	3/12	QSL W6SJ
CT3	Madeira	3/6	3/20	QSL Home Call
TX5C	Clipperton	3/7	3/17	QSL N7CQQ
FJ	St. Barthelemy	3/13	3/22	QSL F6CMH
9XOR	Rwanda	3/16	3/27	QSL EA5RM
3W3M	Vietnam	3/20	4/02	QSL F6BUM
JX9JKA	Jan Mayen	3/27	10/08	QSL LA9JKA
5R8HT	Madagascar	3/30	4/17	QSL n/a
TL8DV	Cen African Rep	4/01	5/30	QSL n/a

Check your favorite "DX Tout Sheet" for details.

## ONE OF OUR OWN

Dennis "Red" Vernier, W6ALC, will be traveling to China on March 17th for three weeks to work at contest station B7P for the WW CQ SSB contest. Red will also be working a few days at their new contest station BY7OK. After China he will be heading to Hawaii where on April 7th he will operate on the USS Missouri - KH6BB - on/or near 14.263 Mhz.

Be sure to give a listen and a call to Red while he is on his travels. Good Luck!

Reminder - 2008 Visalia Convention Tickets Are Available  
For details see <http://www.dxconvention.org>



# NCDXC March Meeting



Thursday, March 20th



6pm – 7:30pm Dinner/Social  
7:30pm Club Meeting

Featured Presentation

**Rusty Epps, W6OAT on the  
Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF)**



Location:

Holder's Country Inn  
998 South De Anza Blvd.,  
San Jose, CA 95129 - (408) 244-2798

**CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES!!!**



- 1st Prize: LOGIKEY-K5 Iambic Memory Keyer
- 2nd Prize: Presidian Noise Canceling Headphones
- 3rd Prize: GALAXY 2M/70CM Dual Band High Gain Antenna
- 4th Prize: Pit Bull 9" PRO Crimping and Stripping Tool
- 5th Prize: Super Bright 3 LED Crank Flash Light

Door Prizes:

- 1. DX Engineering Cap
- 2. Silicone Rescue Tape
- 3. LED Keychain Light



Last Month's Winner K6YP



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## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

It was good to see those of you that attended the February meeting. The presentation on Coax Baluns and ferrites by Jim Brown, K9YC was very educational. It really got me thinking about my antenna system.

We had three new members voted in at the February meeting:

- Jim Brown, K9YC (our speaker)
- Jerry Volpe, KG6TT
- Jose Picazo, WT6X

Please welcome them to the club.

Steve, N6SJ picked up the order for the new badges before the meeting and handed them out to those that were at the meeting.

VP6DX is now history. What a great operation! I would encourage those that can afford to make a contribution to do so.

By the time you read this, the Clipperton operation should be well underway. I have high hopes that this will be as good or better for those of us on the West Coast. As I write this, the Sun Spot number has moved off of zero to 12 and the Ap is 1. My propagation program says that we should have propagation on at least one band 24 hours every day!

See you in the pileups!

73,  
Craig, AE6RR

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

It's hard to believe that March is already here. We have the big 59th Annual DX Convention next month in Visalia and even Dayton is only 8 weeks away. I too have been busy on the bands. The ARRL International DX Contest was last week and I took advantage to pick and choose countries I still needed. I worked 15 new ones and was very pleased with the results of just a few hours. I was surprised to see that 10 meters was open on both Saturday and Sunday. I also worked a number of stations on 15. It was lots of fun.

After my success a few weeks ago working VP6DX - Ducie Island on 7 Bands, I thought Clipperton would be easy. So far I'm finding this to be a wrong assumption. It's still early and the big guns are still holding down the frequencies. I have been able work him on 15m & 17m only so far. It's my strategy now to wait until things die down a bit and see if I have more luck later. One of these days I need to get an antenna out of the trees and onto the roof at least.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

73, Phil, K6PTS



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- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

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