



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

The November meeting was a good one with a great talk by Alan Maenchen, AD6E on his expedition to P29. He had a great set of slides and provided insight into the local culture that the casual tourist would not see. He also had some interesting observations on antennas. It was great to see the good turnout for the meeting!

Not much has changed on the sunspot front. There have been a few small weak sunspots that manage to poke up for a few days and then disappear. The good news is the majority of them belong to the new sunspot cycle 24. A consensus is forming that we may be past the minimum and in fact that it might be considered a double minimum. Let's all hope that we rise out of the minimum on a fast slope as has happened in past cycles that had a long bottom. I would like to start working (again) on completing DXCC for 10 and 15 meters!

I listened in the top band contest last night (Friday, Dec 5) and didn't hear much. I didn't expect much on a G5RV Jr. though. I did manage a couple of Qs with W7s by disconnecting the shield of the coax and loading the feed line with a tuner. I kept the power down to 100W and didn't let the smoke out of anything.

I have been looking for T31DX with no luck so far. Their operating schedule seems to be out of sync with mine. As I write this on Saturday morning, the band seems to be dead, at least for my antenna. Oops! I forgot to reconnect the shield of the coax! Well, that didn't help much for receive.

My best DX news concerns my application for an endorsement (150 on Phone) to

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 11am

Join us for our annual Northern California DX Club Holiday Luncheon at Michael's at Shoreline Restaurant. This year our theme is "Most Treasured Moments of My Ham Radio Journey" which will be presented by a number of our notable club members.

If you have never attended one of the club holiday luncheons, you are in for a real treat. The food is outstanding and the company is even better. In addition, we have an incredible prize raffle with some huge prizes.

Be sure to check out page 5 for all of the details.

In This Issue:

- President's Message
- QSL Card Service
- Holiday Luncheon Details
- Luncheon Prizes
- November Meeting Photos
- "CW and Text Messaging" Article
- Upcoming DX

HF In the Field

NEW IC-7200 HF for the Adventurer



- 100 Watt Output (40 Watt AM), Full Duty Cycle
- USB, LSB, CW, RTTY (FSK), AM
- RX: 0.03 - 60MHz*
- 201 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- Digital Twin Passband Tuning
- 32 Bit IF-DSP + 24 Bit AD/DA Converter



IC-7000

COMPACT MULTI-BAND RIG

- 100 Watt HF + 6M, 50 Watt 2M, 35 Watt 70CM (AM = 40/20/14)
- Two Point Manual Notch Filter
- All-mode
- RX: 0.03-199, 400-470MHz*
- 503 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- Digital IF Filters



IC-706MKIIG

COMPACT MULTI-BAND RIG

- 100 Watt HF* + 6M, 50 Watt 2M; 20 Watt 70CM (AM = 40/20/8)
- Two Point Manual Notch Filter
- All-mode, Full Duty Cycle
- RX: 0.03-199, 400-470MHz*
- 107 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- CTCSS and DTCSS Encode/Decode with Tone Scan

New to HF? Then Icom's '718 is the rig for you! Straight forward operation, user friendly features, and low, low price make this one rig you can grow with. Slip into your authorized Icom dealer today.



IC-718

THE "GET INTO HF" RIG

- 100 Watt HF* (40 Watt AM), Full Duty Cycle
- USB, LSB, CW, RTTY (FSK), AM
- RX: 0.03-30MHz*
- 101 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- Built-in VOX/CW Keyer
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP)

2008-2009 Northern California DX Club Officers:

President: Craig Bradley, AE6RR
Vice President: Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
Secretary: Russ Bentson, K6KLY
Treasurer: Jose Picazo, WT6X



Directors:
Jim Abraham, W6EB
Steve Jones, N6SJ
John Eisenberg, K6YP

DXer Editor: Phil Steffora, K6TT
phil@k6tt.com

Web Hosting Webmaster: Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
Phil Steffora, K6TT
<http://www.ncdxc.org>

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: Don Anastasia, AA6W

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

The DXer is published monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members via the web. Unless other wise noted, NCDXC permits re-use of any article in this publication provided the DXer, article's author and editor are credited.

© 2008 NCDXC All Rights Reserved

OUTGOING QSL CARD SERVICE

Be sure to drop off your bureau cards to Doug, W6JD at our next meeting. The club will then send them all to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau for free.

Be sure to take advantage of this excellent FREE service to club members. (Must also be ARRL member. Bring membership information).

President's Message (continued)

DXCC. I did an online application using Log-book of The World (LoTW) QSLs only, on Tuesday, Dec 2. The application was processed the same day and my totals were updated in the posted standings on the web site the next day. Yesterday (Friday, Dec 5), I received the endorsement sticker in the mail! That is really quick action and instant gratification!

If you have new QSLs for Honor Roll, be sure to get them in by the end of the year, if you want your standings to be in the annual DXCC Yearbook. Also, to receive a free copy of the DXCC Yearbook, you must be an ARRL member and has submitted an application during the prior year (Jan-Dec 08) or be current on the DXCC Honor Roll. See the ARRL web site for more information at http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/#_Toc94949265.

The KP5 – Desecho Island expedition has their dates assigned. It will be February 12-26. They have established a web site at www.kp5.us and are taking donations. If you need KP5, please consider making a donation, even a small one. Every dollar counts. Also, if you do make a donation, please indicate that you are a member of the NCDXC who is a major contributor to the NCDXF. Hopefully, this expedition will open the door for another one to KP1!

The members' database has been updated and corrected with all of the information received. The annual NCDXC Roster will be going to the printer soon. If you are a current member, you will receive a copy in the mail. Thanks to our secretary Russ, K6KLY for getting the database updated and to our treasurer Jose, WT6X for updating the paid members status.

In closing, I hope to see many of you at the annual Holiday Luncheon at Michael's on Saturday, December 13. It promises to be a great event, thanks to Carolyn, WB6ABC and Mike, W6WZ. Additional details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

For now, 73 and good DX!

- Craig, AE6RR

ZEROFIVE ANTENNAS

**SUPER HEAVY DUTY
MONOBAND & MULTIBAND
VERTICAL ANTENNAS**

**VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ZEROFIVE-ANTENNAS.COM**

773-704-9006

BE SURE TO MENTION 'NCDXC' FOR CLUB DISCOUNT



HOLIDAY PARTY INFORMATION

The NCDXC Holiday Luncheon will take place on December 13th between 11am and 3pm at:

Michael's at Shoreline
2960 N Shoreline Blvd,
Mountain View, CA
(650) 962-1014
<http://www.michaelsatshoreline.com>



Our Theme This Year Is "Most Treasured Moments of My Ham Radio Journey"

To Save Your Seat! Send in your check now!

The menu choices are as follows:

1. New York Steak.....\$26.00
2. Broiled Halibut.....26.00
3. Chicken Marsala.....20.00
4. Grilled Vegetable Brochette...17.00

All meals include salad, entree, french rolls, dessert, tax and tip.

Please send checks WITH MEAL CHOICE on the check memo line to:

Michael Gavin
132 Alta Vista Rd.
Woodside, Ca 94062



**DON'T MISS OUR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
GET YOUR CHECK IN TODAY!!!**

Holiday Luncheon Prize List

GRAND PRIZE



1st Prize: Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF 100 Watt Multi-Mode Transceiver with Built-In DSP. Also includes YSK-857 Separation Kit



2nd Prize: Elecraft W1 Power meter-HF with DataPort



3rd Prize: Elecraft XG2 Receiver Test Oscillator Frequency 3579.5, 7040, and 14060.0 KHZ



4th Prize: 40 Meter Ham Stick



5th Prize: 2M/70CM Dual Band High Gain Antenna for your HT

6th Prize: Pocket Multi-Tool

7th Prize: Rescue Tape

8th Prize: Bag of Two Fair-rite Beads

9th Prize: Bag of Two Fair-rite Beads

10th Prize: Bag of Two Fair-rite Beads





**Your source for the famous “TIPPER”
portable antenna base system & the
“CLAMP-IT” series of mast clamps**



Top quality products professionally designed and built

Visit us on the web

<http://www.penningerradio.com>

WHEN ORDERING BE SURE TO MENTION THE 'NCDXC' FOR CLUB DISCOUNT

**Penninger Radio
911 Atlantic Drive
West Chicago, Illinois, 60185
630-336-7641 • 630-231-3545 fax
Sales@PenningerRadio.com**



Photos From November Meeting



Club President, Craig Bradley, AE6RR (Left) and our guest speaker Alan Maenchen, AD6E (Right).

CW and Text Messaging

I'm listening right now to a program on NPR that's discussing the use of text messaging. Being a big computer user, as well as a CW operator, I'm surprised that so few text messaging abbreviations haven't worked their way into radiotelegraphy. I'm guessing it's because most of us still working CW are OFs (old farts).

We already have Q signals and our own abbreviations that mean the same thing as some of the text messaging abbreviations, and I'm not advocating that we replace those with text messaging abbreviations. For example, instead of sending BRB (be right back), we send "QRX 1." Instead of LOL (laughing out loud), we send "HI HI." But, we don't have equivalents for many of the text messaging abbreviations.

Several that come to mind are F2F (face to face), IMHO (in my humble opinion), and JK (just kidding). Maybe if we used these on 40m CW, our conversations would be a little "richer," and it would make Morse Code a little more appealing to a younger crowd.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU - www.kb6nu.com

Sun., Dec. 21, 2008, 7:04 AM EST (12:04 AM UT), marks the solstice—the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Also the shortest day of the year.

DX Information

GEORGIA, 4L. Andy, UU4JMG is QRV as 4L/homecall and is usually active on 160 meters around 2200 to 0300z, as well as 40 and 20 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

CHINA, BY. Operators BD3BXH/2, BG3DCI/2 and BG3DDB/2 will be QRV from Juhua Island, IOTA AS-151, from December 10 to 13. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via BD3BXH.

IRAN, EP. Moshen, EP3SMH is generally active using RTTY on 20 meters around 1400z.

CROZET ISLAND, FT/W. Florentin, F4DYW will be QRV as FT5WO from the French Alfred Faure Base, IOTA AF-008, from December 8 to November 30, 2009. Activity will be mostly on 40, 20 and 15 meters and possibly 80 meters. QSL direct.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Peter, HA3AUI is QRV as J5UAP and has been active on 20 meters around 0830z and 17 meters around 1010z. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Helmuth, W6KDX is staying on Amundsen-Scott South Pole station until Jan 5, 2009 and if time permits may be active as KC4AAA. Activity will mainly be on 20 meters SSB. QSL via K1IED.

FINLAND, OH. Special even station OH9SCL is active from Santa Claus Land at the Arctic Circle. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via OH9UV.

TURKEY, TA. Urcun, TA0U and others are QRV as TC12AKUT until December 12 from skiing area Kartepe in celebration of the 12th anniversary of the Turkish Search and Rescue Association. QSL via TA0U.

CANADA, VE. Art, N3DXX is QRV as VY2/homecall from Prince Edward Island during the ARRL 160 Meter contest. QSL to home call.

CAMBODIA, XU. John, 9M6XRO will be QRV as XU7XRO from Kompong Som from December 10 to 18. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0URX.

VENEZUELA, YV. Members of the 4M5DX group will be QRV as YW1TI from Toas Island, IOTA SA-066, from December 9 to 12. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and possibly RTTY. QSL via IT9DAA.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Wake Island, WA2YUN/KH9, operations commencing 2007; Willis Island, VK9DWX, 2008 operation, and Andaman and Nicobar Island, VU4RG, 2008 operation.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Meter Contest, NCCC Sprint, TARA RTTY Melee, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint and TOPS Activity CW Contest are all scheduled for this weekend. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug CW Sprint is scheduled for December 10. Please see December QST, page 68, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

From the ARRL Dec. 4th DX News.

12 STORE BUYING POWER



HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Dan, K6DN, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Rick, K3TL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBIDGE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr. 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95. So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
Exit 1, I-93;
28 mi. No. of Boston
saalem@hamradio.com

KENWOOD



TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF TCVR

- 100W HF, 6M, 2M • 50W 70CM
- 10W 1.2 GHz w/opt UT-20 module
- Built-in TNC, DX packet cluster
- IF Stage DSP • Backlit Front Key Panel

Call Now For Special Price!

TH-F6A

2M/220/440

- Dual Chanel Receive
- 1 - 1300 mHz (cell blocked) Rx
- FM, AM, SSB
- 5w 2M/220/440 TX, FM
- 435 Memories
- Li-Ion Battery

Call For Low Price!



TM-D710A 2M/440 Dualband

- 50w 2M & UHF
- Optional Voice synthesizer
- 1000 memories • Dual receive
- Advanced APRS Features
- Echolink © Ready w/ 10 memories
- Built-in TNC • Sky Command II+
- GPS I/O Port
- Choice of Green/Amber LCD backlight

Call Now For Special Introductory Price!

COAST TO COAST FREE SHIPPING

UPS - Most Items Over \$100



Rapid Deliveries From
The Store Nearest To You!

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Dan, K6DN, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

ICOM



IC-706MkII HF/VHF Transceiver

- All mode HF/6M/2M/70CM
- 100W HF/6M, 50W/2M, 20W/440 MHz
- AF-DSP • Plug and Play Filters - No Soldering
- Easy-to-Navigate menus

Low Pricing!



IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W • Enhanced Rx performance
- 32 bit IF DSP • SSB/CW Synchronous tuning
- Enhanced 5 inch color TFT w/spectrum scope
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

The Ultimate Radio!

ALINCO



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS + DCS built in
- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

YAESU

VX-7R

50/2M/220/440 HT

- Wideband RX
- 900 Memories
- 5W TX (300mw 220MHz)
- Li-Ion Battery
- Fully Submersible to 3 ft.
- Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Internet WIRES compatible

Great Price!



FT-857D

- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel
(YSK-857 required)

Call for Low Price!



FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner
- built-in Power supply
- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ
- 3 IF roofing filters

Call Now For Low Pricing!