

THE DXER

APRIL 2009



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB



Photo Credit: (left to right, top to bottom) federaltimes.com, ARRL, radio-sport.net, CBS News



VISALIA 2009

In what may be considered one of the finest annual amateur radio convention events in the United States outside of Dayton, the 60th annual International DX Convention is shaping up to be another incredible experience for all who attend. The event is scheduled to begin this Friday, April 17th.

Even as I write this newsletter, speakers and attendees alike are joining with the NCDXC organization team along with dozens of vendors and many tons of equipment as they all make their way towards the California San Joaquin Valley for the event.

The early birds arriving Thursday will also be enjoying the big Bubba's BBQ dinner event, and for the early risers, a quick game of golf beginning at 8am Friday morning, before the contest academy and exhibition hall opens up.

Remember for this and all of the program details be sure to check out the convention website at <http://dxconvention.org>.

If you haven't pre-registered, it's not a problem, just come and register at the door.

Our Distinguished Speaker

K0DQ - Vice Adm. John Scott Redd (Ret.)

The Northern California DX Club is honored to present a truly amazing DXer as our keynote banquet speaker Saturday night in Visalia, California. Vice Admiral Redd was recently awarded the National Security Medal by President Bush, in recognition of his more than 40 years of exceptional service to the Nation. President Bush called Vice Admiral Redd "an innovator, a strategic thinker, an inspirational leader and a dedicated servant to the Nation, respected for his vision, courage and integrity." We are truly honored to have this American hero and fellow DXer speaking to us for our diamond jubilee convention.

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Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.
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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.

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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.

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

It was good to see everyone that attended the March meeting and thanks to all that brought a "show & tell" item. The number of items was a big surprise and I had not allocated enough time to get everyone in before we ran out of time. If you brought something and didn't get called, please accept my apologies. However, if you can bring your item again to the May meeting, I will try to get you in. Please let me know in advance if you will be doing this so I can schedule the time. For those that did present something, thanks again, there were a lot of great topics. I think that we should do this again.

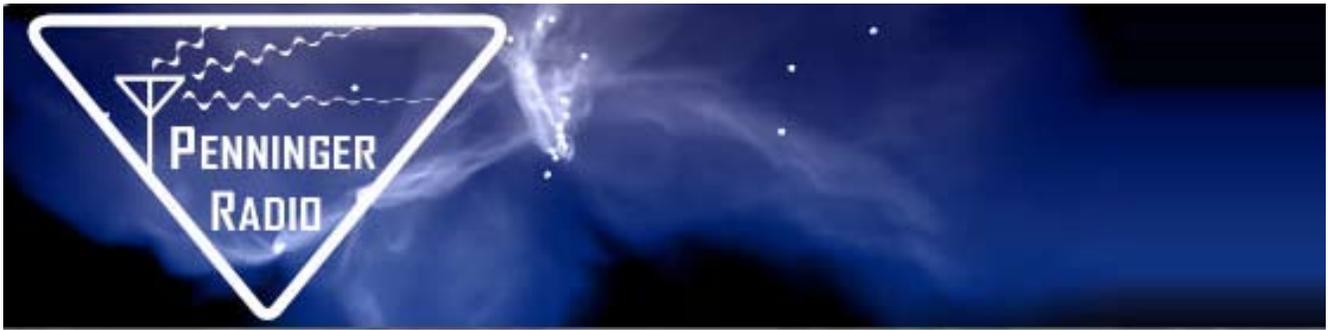
At the May meeting I will try something new when we go around the room and introduce ourselves, if you have a short (2 minutes or less) show and tell, present it then. This could be anything from a recent award that you received to a QSL card, new ham shack toy or a short ham radio story. Let's see how this works and maybe we can make it a regular event.

I am enjoying the VK9GMW expedition, both hunting the DX and reading about the ongoing adventure. This is quite a story. If you haven't checked out their web site at <http://vk9gmw.com>, please do so. It is amazing what these two guys are accomplishing! So far I only have them in the log on 20 CW, but I am still trying for more.

Now that April is here our thoughts turn to Visalia and of course one of my favorite events, the arrival of my April CQ magazine. This one is always full of great new technology and some not so new. The article on page 30, "The Use of Invisibility Shields to Hide Entire Contest Station Antenna Farms", by Professor Emil Heisseluft has finally let the cat out of the bag!

I first ran across this material at a flea market a few years ago. Although I couldn't see it, I took the guy's word for it, paid my money and carried a large heavy invisible roll back to my car. Everyone thought that I had really lost it to see me struggling with nothing. However, it worked great!

[Continues]



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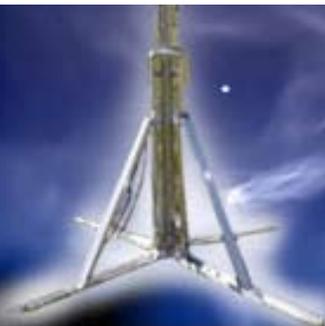
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President's Message (continued)

Just look at the picture of my two 4-element StepIR antennas stacked at 130 ft. below!



Unfortunately, I put the remainder of the roll in my garage and now I can't find it! One other tip, if you do this, do not wrap the coax with the foil. One day I was re-arranging my shack and I disconnected the feed line. To this day, I cannot find it, so I am stuck with my little stealth antenna. I also hope that my HOA doesn't read this article.

The other article that really got my attention is the one in Math's Notes on page 48 by Irwin Math, WA2NDM on Free Power. I did quite a bit of experimenting on this myself when I was in Jr. High. I had built a crystal set (actually a razor blade detector) as a Boy Scout project and I was amazed at the strong signal from the AM radio station KGO running 50 KW just a few miles away. I began stringing wire around the back yard and hanging pieces of tin foil from it to gather more power. I connected it to a flashlight bulb, but it didn't light up so I went back to the yard with more wire and tin foil. Finally, you guessed it, my Mother arced over! So down came all of the wire and foil. Fortunately, she didn't discover the loss of all of the foil until Thanksgiving when it was time to wrap the turkey.

The next year I got my novice license (WV6SVW) and started to put wire back up, but that is another story...

Enjoy the month of April and I hope to see you in Visalia!

For now, 73 and good DX!
- Craig, AE6RR



Visalia 2009 (continued)

Still need a place to stay? Again, not problem as there are still rooms available in many of the area hotels. Trust me you don't want to miss anything this weekend!

In case I forgot to mention it, the raffle is huge! There will be more than \$35,000 in radios, equipment and prizes. ICOM America and Ham Radio Outlet have donated our Grand Prize, an ICOM IC7700 HF/50MHz Dream Transceiver. Additional major prizes include fourteen of your favorite HF, VHF and UHF transceivers, beam antennas, a tower as well as a huge range of ham accessories.



Also, if you are one of the younger folks in attendance, you may win just by showing up since there is a prize for the youngest DXer in attendance. Sounds like really good odds.

Well, time to load up the car and take the short drive out to Visalia. Can't wait to see you there.

- K6TT

DX Information

TUNISIA, 3V. A group of SWL operators will be QRV with special event station TS1LYMC from April 12 to 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK. QSL direct via operators' instructions.

MALTA, 9H. Augusto, I2JJR is QRV as 9H3JR until April 23 while on Easter holiday. Activity is on the HF bands, using mainly SSB on 40 and 17 meters. QSL to home call.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. A group of operators are QRV as C91FC until April 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via ON4CJK.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Uli, DF8KN is QRV as D44TEP from Boa Vista, IOTA AF-086, until April 13 using CW and QRP power. QSL to home call.

[Continues]

March Meeting Photos



(Left) Looking like a “DXer Gold Medalist”, former DXer Editor Garry, NI6T shows off a very interesting award he received during the “Show & Tell”. (Right) March Raffle prize winners Reg, K6SSJ, Darryl, KI6LDM and Phil, K6TT are all smiles.

DX Information (continued)

PHILIPPINES, DU. Max, M0GHQ is QRV as DU9/homecall until the end of April. During his stay, he plans to activate Cebu Island, IOTA OC-129, Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130, Samal Island, IOTA OC-235 and Leyte Island, IOTA OC-129. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including possibly 6 meters, using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

SPAIN, EA. In celebration of the end of the International Polar Year, special event station EG3IPY will be QRV from April 13 to 19. QSL via EA2RC.

THAILAND, HS. E21IZC and others will be QRV as E21IZC/p from Lipe Island, Satul Province, IOTA AS-126, on April 12 and 13. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

PERU, OA. Operators CE6TBN, DL2JRM, HA1AG and OA4BHY are QRV as 4T6I from La Leona Island, IOTA SA-098, until April 13. QSL via DL2JRM.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Anne, OH2TL is QRV as OH0/homecall until April 14. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call. In addition, operators OH3LQK and OH3FM are QRV as OH0LQK and OH0/OH3FM, respectively, until April 15. They are active on 80 to 10 meters using CW and digital modes with two stations. QSL to home calls.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. A large group of operators will be QRV as S04R from April 12 to 17. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via EA5RM.

CORSICA, TK. Joachim, F6BUL is QRV as TK/homecall south of Bastia until April 15. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

KAZAKHSTAN, UN. Operators UN7BS, UN7BJ and UN7BBJ will be QRV on April 11 and 12 using special callsigns UN12B, UP21B and UP18B during a two day mobile operation from landing places of Soyuz space rockets. Activity will be on 80, 40 and 20 meters, including 2 meters, using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via operators' instructions.

CAMBODIA, XU. Retu, OH4MDY is QRV as XU7MDY from Sihanoukville until April 21. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and some digital modes. QSL to home call.

MACEDONIA, Z3. Members of the Macedonia Telegraphic Group are QRV with special event callsign Z30MCWG until December 31. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW. QSL direct via Z35M.

The Early Years of The DXer

(Note: This great article first appeared in the April 1997 DXer, written by NI6T. This article and many other old issues are now available on our club website. <http://ncdxc.org>. Take a few minutes and reflect back on where we have been. It's great fun!)

With NCDXC at the halfway point in its 50th Anniversary Year, your Editor has been leafing through some of the Club's archival material, including the first few years of The DXer. It's quite a kick to look back at the NCDXC of the late 'forties and early 'fifties, to see what was being worked and who was working it, what the burning issues of the day were, and what was the character and composition of the Club.

The first DXer appeared in July, 1948, with the Club not quite two years old. The progenitor issue, edited by Peter Baker, W6PB, sported a cover drawing and three pages of news, scuttlebutt and DX info, and was mimeographed on colored paper. The second issue had five pages and a cover and included a photograph—pasted on the page—and detailed description of a member's station. That feature would continue for many years. Our members—all male, by the way—appeared not to be QRPers.

Almost every station pictured had at least one rack full of large bottles and meters; many had two or three. The issues are sprinkled with offerings of large transformers, “condensers,” and chokes. Hammarlund and Collins receivers were the norm, as well as beams for 10 and 20 meters. We did not yet have 15 meters.

The members referred to each other by their suffices—everyone was a W6! And some of the callsigns are—thankfully—still with us: the August, 1948 issue lists W6WB and W6BUY on the Board of Directors.

The third issue—September, 1948—noted the passing of K.B. Warner, W1EH, in an obituary by Horace Greer, W6TI, and a page of propagation predictions. The October second-anniversary

The Early Years of The DXer (continues)

issue included the Club Roster: 42 members, including the first Associate Member—W6AM! The first Ladder followed not long after.

January, 1949 saw a new President—Bud Bane, W6WB. It is wonderful to note, in light of all the new, young 1x2 callsigns about, that W6WB is not a reissue—Bud has had that callsign since the Ark settled on Mount Ararat, and we hope he has it for many more years.

Early in 1950, The DXer went bimonthly. The fourth anniversary saw a new Editor take the helm of the newsletter—“Chas” Henry, W6EJA. Also in that year, NCDXC and SCDXC put on the first joint bash that would become the International DX Convention, but I find no mention of it in The DXer!

By 1953, that had changed. The “4th Annual DX Conference” was held in Fresno and hosted by NCDXC. The announcement appeared in The DXer for November/December, 1952 and indicates that the Convention already had most of the characteristics we know today. Of course, we also know that our predecessors were a particularly thirsty lot! The banquet speaker was Larry LeKashman, W2IOP/W9IOP. Larry was both a noted DXer and a highly accomplished contester. This issue contains a few snapshots from that era.

Enjoy!

—NI6T

K6MA's Tower Comes Down

On Saturday, March 21st a group of volunteers got together and made quick work of a large project. The following are some photos of that morning work to bring down the antenna and tower which belonged to Stan Kuhl, K6MA (SK).

The young man at the top of the tower is Brian KG6HTT, the son of Russ, K6KLY. Also helping is Reg K6SSJ and Gary K6DXX. Other people shown are Stan's wife, and son Matt.

The hardworking team brought everything down and had tower and antenna mounted on the trailer in about 2 1/2 hours.

Brian and Russ then delivered the tower to Diana, KB6NAN in Pescadero that day in the rain.

Great work guys! Photos were taken by Reg, K6SSJ. Thanks for sharing your project with us.





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