



The DXer

February 2010

The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club



**YI9PSE DXpedition
- The Planning -
Article on page 4**

**FEBRUARY MEETING
Show and Tell**

**Thursday February 18
6pm – 7:30pm Dinner/Social
7:30pm Club Meeting
at Holder's Country Inn
998 S. De Anza Boulevard
San Jose, CA**

**We are back at Holder's Country
Inn for the rest of our meetings
this year.**

Raffle Prizes on page 3!

President's Message

By Craig Bradley, AE6RR

Hello Everyone,

We got the New Year off to a good start with Dr. Cliff Stoll's (K7TA) great physics display and talk. The demonstrations were excellent and enjoyed by all. Cliff has a great way of explaining physics in terms that all can understand. We had a capacity crowd and many stayed after the meeting to hear Cliff go on with additional subjects. Thanks also to our Vice President Phil Steffora, K6TT for organizing this and arriving early to help Cliff setup his many experiments and demonstrations. I think that I might get one of those radar gun kits to experiment with...

We also had a very special presentation of the NCDXC's contribution of \$2500 to the YI9PSE expedition to Kurdistan organized by one of our members, Paul Ewing, N6PSE. There will be 4 NCDXC members on this expedition in early April. We can rest assured that this DXpedition will be listening for the West Coast! Please see Paul's great article on the planning of this expedition elsewhere in this issue of the DXer.

The February meeting will be back at Holder's Country Inn on De Anza Blvd in San Jose on February 18th. The main event will be Show and Tell. Anything that you would like to share that is Ham Radio related it appropriate. This could consist of awards received, projects, new gear or even a special story. Last year this event was very successful with many excellent presentations, in fact we had so many that we had to cut it short and not everyone was able to present their project.

This time, I am taking reservations, if you would
(continues)

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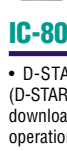


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Raffle Prizes for February Meeting:

MAIN RAFFLE PRIZE:
Icom IC-V80 HT

2nd Prize: MAHA MH-C800S 8 cell
Smart Charger with 8 PowerX Bat-
teries

3rd Prize: Set of 2 Home Emergen-
cy Rechargeable Lights

4th Prize: Pack of 3 High quality
Fair-Rite Beads

Door Prize: NCDXC Cup and Pen Set



President's Message, continued:

like to show something, please send me an email with your topic and the approximate amount of time that you will need. If you have Power Point slides or pictures, bring them on a thumb drive or disk. I will compile a list of the presentations scheduled in the order that I receive them. Please make your reservation soon so that you get on the list! I am sure that this will be as much fun as last year.

See you at the meeting!

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



W6OZO, center, winner of ICOM 718 at the
Holiday Luncheon, with W6WZ and K6WX



Presentation of NCDXC donation to YI9PSE
DXpedition in January meeting.

Attention

**Registration is now open for the 2010
International DX Convention in Visalia!**

Visit <http://www.dxconvention.org>

**Amateur Radio Technology Day
Saturday, Feb 20 - 8am to 9pm**

**At the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday>**

RadioFest 2010

Saturday & Sunday, March 20 & 21

**General Stillwell Community Center
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For more information visit:
<http://www.n6spd.com/radiofest/2010/rf2010.htm>

YI9PSE DXpedition The Planning By N6PSE, Paul Ewing

The seed for this DXpedition was planted at Visalia in 2008. I enjoyed the talk given by Jerry Griffin-K6MD as he had operated as YI9MD during his tour of duty in Mosul.

I've always had a fascination with the Middle East. Iraq was once again issuing Amateur Radio licenses after halting them for some period of time. I had already operated from Turkey and Egypt and had tried for two years to get a license from the Palestinian Authority. Alas, I would come to realize that the Palestinian Authority would rather not give a license to an American. I then started to focus on Iraq.

I soon learned that the license process was straightforward, but required a visit to Baghdad. I must admit, I was not anxious to go to Baghdad. The "Green Zone" was getting regular rocket attacks and the route Irish highway between Baghdad and the airport was a literal "mine field". My research was showing me that Kurdistan in Northern Iraq was relatively safe, secure and Pro-American.

The next step was to contact Jerry K6MD and get his take on my plans. My friends Andreas-N6NU, George-N6NKT and I went down to Pacific Grove to have lunch with Jerry. I remember feeling so excited when I posed the question to him "can a small group of civilians go to Kurdistan and operate safely?" I'll never forget Jerry's response which was essentially "they sure can-when do we go?".

That started the ball rolling and we are well on our way. I contacted the Iraqi Amateur Radio Society which is the first step in the process. I was able to download and complete the license and email it back to them. The IARS reviewed the license and gave their blessing. The license is then sent to the Iraqi Ministry of Communications.

As with any DXpedition, you have to expect a series of obstacles both large and small. Our



first obstacle came when the Ministry of Telecom informed me that they would approve of my license and I could come to Baghdad to pick it up. Just one problem- I did not plan to come to Baghdad.

To make a long story short, I believe that I am the first Iraqi Amateur License holder that was able to obtain a license without the customary visit to Baghdad. I informed the Ministry of Communications that I would be operating from Erbil in Kurdistan. Their reaction was much like if I had told them I would be operating from Mars. "Why would you want to do that" they asked.

Fortunately, after much discussion (thank you Google translator) I was able to persuade them to email my license to me. This is the first of what would be many "firsts" during this DXpedition.

The next steps involved forming a team. As you can imagine, more obstacle would be presented. Imagine telling your wife that you want to go to Iraq for "fun". After a few false starts, we figured out that it was better to tell our wives that we wanted to go to Kurdistan. It was a lot better to hear "Where is Kurdistan" rather than "Oh hell no!". I am often asked, why we chose Iraq for a DXpedition. It's not particularly rare. EU has it on most bands with the exception of 80/160 meters. It is much less common in the West Coast, KH6,

ZL and VK. Many experts have told me that Iraq is in for dramatic changes once the coalition forces pull out. A DXpedition such as this is much less likely to take place, in fact YI could become very quiet for some time as internal struggles and possibly civil war overtake the country. In addition, Kurdistan has long desired to seek independence. We will be meeting with KRG officials and hope to lay the ground work for a return visit when and if Kurdistan attains independence from Iraq and becomes a "new one". There is no better time than now.

So here we are, sixty days until our departure to Kurdistan. The team is formed, we are testing our antennas and equipment. Our travel is booked and we are getting ready to go!

More to follow ...

Editor's Note: The YI9PSE DXpedition plans to operate from April 2 at approximately 1100 PST until very late in the evening on April 11 using CW, SSB and digital modes. For the latest plans see <http://www.yi9pse.com/plans.html>.

Excerpts from ARRL DX News, Feb 4, 2010:

UGANDA, 5X. Jack, NP2OR is QRV as 5X7JD from Masaka until May 25. He is active on 40 and 20 meters using SSB every day from 0500 to 1550z. QSL to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Special event station A60ISG is QRV until February 13 to commemorate the 4th International Scouting Gathering in Sharjah. QSL via IZ8CLM.

NAURU, C2. Dieter, DJ2EH and Anneli, DL8NBH are QRV as C21DL and C21YL, respectively, until February 14. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. They will also operate using RTTY with callsign C21YL. QSL to home calls.

BAHAMAS, C6. Randy, W6SJ is QRV as C6AWS from Grand Bahama Island until February 10. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW. QSL to home call.

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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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Club URL: <http://www.ncdxc.org>

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TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Siegfried, DK9FN, Hans, DG1FK and Bernhard, DL2GAC will be QRV as H40FN, H40FK and H40MS, respectively, from Ngarando Reef, Swallow Island, IOTA OC-065, from February 6 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, digital modes and SSB, respectively. QSL H40MS and H40FK to home calls and H40FN via HA8FW.

ECUADOR, HC. Rick, NE8Z will be QRV as HC1MD from Tumbaco, Pichincha Province, HC1MD/HC1 from Mt. Pichincha and HC1MD/HC4 from Punta Blanca, Manabi Province from February 8 to 24. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via K8LJG.

OGASAWARA ISLAND, JD1. Operators JM1YGG/JD1, JA2ZL/JD1, JD1BMV and JD1BNB will be QRV as Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from February 6 to 14. Activity will be on 80 to 12 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL JM1YGG/JD1 and JA2ZL/JD1 to home calls, JD1BMV via JK1EBA and JD1BNB via JA3MCA.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. Goose, W8AV will be QRV as PJ2/home call from Curacao, IOTA SA-006, from February 9 to 22. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW and RTTY. This includes a possible entry in the upcoming CQ WPX RTTY contest. QSL via operator's instructions.

PALAU, T8. Mike, JA6EGL and Hiro, JA6KYU will be QRV as T88SM and T88HS, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, from February 10 to 16. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

BRUNEI, V8. Kanzi, JA4ENL is QRV as V85NL until February 8. Activity is on several HF bands, including 160 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

CAMBODIA, XU. John, 9M6XRO is QRV as XU7XRO from Sihanoukville until February 9. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0URX.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. Mirek, VK6DXI is QRV as Z21DXI from Bulawayo until February 13. Activity is in his spare time. QSL via SP5UAF.

Photos from January Meeting "The Physics of DX" By Cliff Stoll, PhD, K7TA Photos Courtesy of Joe McGuckin

