



The DXer

March 2010

The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club



YI9PSE DXpedition
- The Packing -
Article on page 4

MARCH MEETING
"Buddies in the Caribbean"

Buddipoles on St. Lucia by
Budd and Chris Drummond,
W3FF. Operations, outfitting,
trip logistics and stories from
the islands.

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

President's Message

By Craig Bradley, AE6RR

Hello Everyone,

The February meeting Show and Tell was a lot of fun and we had some great presentations. Thanks to Reg, K6SSJ for bringing his very nicely built "go box"; Bob, W6OPO for his presentation on the microKEYERII with WinKey and Paul, N6PSE for his presentation on the planning and preparations for his upcoming DXpedition to Kurdistan – YI9PSE.

The sunspots have come back and bands have been improving, especially the upper bands. 15 meters has returned to life and there is even DX to work on 12m! On February 26, I worked ST2AR in the Sudan on 15m with my stealth antenna, he had a very good signal and I worked him after just a few calls. This was a new DXCC entity and a new CQ zone for me. My WAZ list is now down to zones 22 (India) and 37 (East coast of Africa), the toughest ones to work, especially without aluminum in the air!

I did a little listening in the DX contest over the weekend in between "honey do's". On Saturday morning, there was a station on from Montenegro with a good signal but he couldn't hear me, he even CQ'd in my face. I need Montenegro but it wasn't to be this time. I heard several other EU stations with good signals but I didn't need any of them. Sunday didn't seem as good from looking at the DX cluster spots but I didn't have much time to listen. It should be interesting to compare notes on the weekend's conditions and the DX worked by everyone at the next meeting.

The March meeting will again be at Holder's

(continues)

MARCH IS ICOM MONTH AT HRO



HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Refreshments and ICOM Give-a-ways at all 12 stores

Live In-Store demos!

Watch for schedule at www.hamradio.com

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 Bl., 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
Jose, XE2JB, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
delaware@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 W0IG, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
Corner of 43rd Ave. & Peoria
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

WOODBRIIDGE, 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
virginia@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Peter, K11M, Mgr.
Exit 1, I-93;
28 mi. No. of Boston
salem@hamradio.com

D-STAR EXPERTS!

HRO SPECIALS ALL MONTH LONG!



\$25 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!
SEPARATION KIT RMK-706
Included with your purchase

IC-706MKIIG All Mode Transceiver

- Proven performance • 160-10M*/6M/2M/70CM
- All mode w/DSP • HF/6M @ 100W, 2M @ 50W, 440 MHz @ 20W • CTCSS encode/decode w/tone scan
- Auto repeater • 107 alphanumeric memories



\$500 GIFT CERTIFICATE
\$500 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!

IC-7800 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 200W • Four 32 bit IF-DSPs+ 24 bit AD/DA converters • Two completely independent receivers
- +40dBm 3rd order intercept point



\$400 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!

IC-PW1 HF + 6M Amplifier

- 1.8-24MHz + 6M Amp • 1KW amplifier • 100% duty cycle • Compact body • Detachable controller
- Automatic antenna tuner



\$25 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!
SEPARATION KIT RMK-7000
Included with your purchase

IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM
- 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display



\$200 GIFT CERTIFICATE

IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15khz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



\$50 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!

IC-7200 HF Transceiver

- 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP
- AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control



DSP INSTALLED
Included with your purchase

\$50 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!

IC-718 HF Transceiver

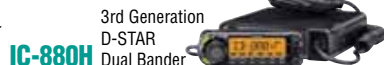
- 160-10M* @ 100W • 12V operation • Simple to use • CW Keyer Built-in • One touch band switching
- Direct frequency input • VOX Built-in • Band stacking register • IF shift • 101 memories



\$300 GIFT CERTIFICATE
\$500 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!

IC-7700 Transceiver. The Contesters Rig

- HF + 6m operation • +40dBm ultra high intercept point • IF DSP, user defined filters • 200W output power full duty cycle • Digital voice recorder



IC-880H Dual Bander

- 3rd Generation D-STAR
- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver



\$20 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!
\$10 ICOM MAIL-IN REBATE

IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

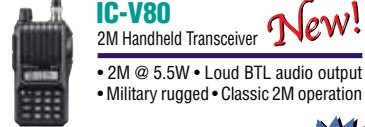
- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS)
- CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories



\$10 ICOM MAIL-IN REBATE
D-STAR UPGRADEABLE

IC-2200H 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 65W Output • Optional D-STAR format digital operation & NEMA compatible GPS interface
- CTCSS/DTCS encode/decode w/tone scan • 207 alphanumeric memories • Weather alert



IC-V80 2M Handheld Transceiver **New!**

- 2M @ 5.5W • Loud BTL audio output
- Military rugged • Classic 2M operation



D-STAR READY
\$50 INSTANT WINTER SAVINGS!

IC-2820H Dual Band FM Transceiver

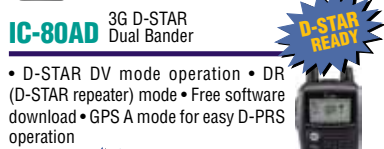
- D-STAR & GPS upgradeable 2M/70CM • 50/15/5W RF output levels • RX: 118-173.995, 375-549.995, 810-999.99 MHz** • Analog/digital voice with GPS (optional UT-123) • 500 alphanumeric memories



D-STAR READY

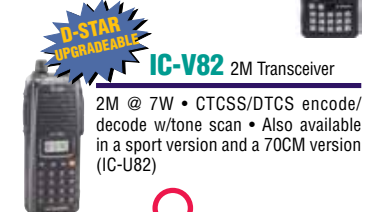
IC-92AD Analog + Digital Dual Bander

- 2M/70CM @ 5W • Wide-band RX 495 kHz - 999.9 MHz** • 1304 alphanumeric memories • Dualwatch capability • IPX7 Submersible*** • Optional GPS speaker Mic HM-175GSP



IC-80AD 3G D-STAR Dual Bander

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation



D-STAR UPGRADEABLE
IC-V82 2M Transceiver

- 2M @ 7W • CTCSS/DTCS encode/decode w/tone scan • Also available in a sport version and a 70CM version (IC-U82)

*Except 60M Band. **Frequency coverage may vary. Refer to owner's manual for exact specs. ***Tested to survive after being under 1m of water for 30 minutes. **AA Alkaline batteries not included, radio comes with a AA alkaline battery tray. **For shock and vibration. †Instant winter savings, gift certificates and Icom mail-in rebates expires 3/31/10. Contact HRO for details. DST MARCH 2010. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc. 50196



CALL TOLL FREE

Phone Hours: 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Store Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Closed Sun.

Toll free, incl. Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, call routed to nearest store; all HRO 800-lines can assist you, if the first line you call is busy, you may call another.

West.....800-854-6046
Mountain.....800-444-9476
Southeast.....800-444-7927
Mid-Atlantic...800-444-4799
Northeast.....800-644-4476
New England..800-444-0047

Look for the HRO Home Page on the World Wide Web
<http://www.hamradio.com>

#1 in Customer Service

AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA residents add sales tax. Prices, specifications, descriptions, subject to change without notice.

Raffle Prizes for March Meeting:

MAIN RAFFLE PRIZE:

YAESU VX3 HT

Plus 4 more prizes!



President's Message, continued:

Country Inn on DeAnza Blvd in San Jose on March 18th. The main event will be "Buddies in the Caribbean", Buddipoles on St. Lucia by Budd and Chris Drummond, W3FF.

See you at the meeting!

For now, 73, and good DX!

- Craig, AE6RR
ae6rr (at arrl.net)



Photos from February meeting, courtesy of Phil, K6TT

Attention

**There is no meeting in April
due to the 2010 International
DX Convention in Visalia,
April 16 - 18!**

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

**Amateur Radio Technology Day
Saturday, March 20 - 8am to 9pm
At the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday>**

New Column - DXCC Awards

Please notify the editor, dxer (at ncdxc.org) if you received DXCC awards or endorsements during 2009 or 2010.

RadioFest 2010

Saturday & Sunday, March 20 & 21

**General Stillwell Community Center
Ord Military Community (old Fort Ord)
4260 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955**

For more information visit:
<http://www.n6spd.com/radiofest/2010/rf2010.htm>

YI9PSE DXpedition The Packing

By N6PSE, Paul Ewing

Here we are, February 28, just thirty days away from being on the air, as YI9PSE. The team and I are so excited. The majority of hard work and planning is completed. We have assembled all of our gear at our west coast and East Coast staging points. The gear is about to be crated and shipped via Air Cargo to Kurdistan. The logistics of this Dxpediton tend to grow and evolve as we near our departure date.

We have expanded our plans from four complete stations to five. Icom has stepped in and provided us with five IC-7600 rigs and power supplies. SteppIR is an incredible sponsor, providing us with a complete assortment of Yagi and vertical antennas. Acom Amp dealer, Krassy K1LZ, an avid DXpeditioner himself is sponsoring our Acom 1000/1010 amplifiers. These are a real workhorse amplifier and will really help us in our effort to get our signal to the West Coast and beyond. We've obtained 5000' of high grade coax. We are using a combination of Comscope 3227 (LMR400 equivalent) and RG8X. Weight and the cost of shipping is a significant factor for us.

As with any Dxpediton, there are a series of challenges, some large and some small. Here are just a few of the challenges that we have faced:

The wife factor: We all know that DXers need a very patient and understanding spouse. How many of us dodged our parental/spousal obligations to duck into the shack to listen for that exotic Dxpediton. I can tell you that trying to get FT5GA was a test of my wife's patience. I have probably talked to several hundred potential team members that wanted to join us in Kurdistan but could not because of the fear and anxiety that would be awaiting them at home.

The Cost: Flying to Northern Iraq is expensive. Flights from the west coast are just about \$3000 a piece. Shipping our gear will be our largest single cost. Thankfully, the Northern California DX Club and others have stepped in and have



significantly helped us.

Government, Political and Cultural challenges: As I wrote in my first article, Kurdistan is a Country within a Country. In essence we are gaining permission/approval from two different countries and their governments. They also speak different languages! Fortunately, we were able to work with an Egyptian-American travel agent who speaks perfect Arabic and can communicate with the Kurds. Another significant plus is that one of the members of our team, Heathem Sabah-YI1UNH lives and works in Baghdad and knows the political scene very well. Having him involved in my negotiations has been a significant asset. We are very excited at the level of interest and cooperation shown by the Kurdistan Regional Government. They are solidly behind our plans to become the first Dxpediton from Kurdistan.

Technical challenges: In an effort to keep our costs down, we opted to find a hotel that had its own diesel backup generators. The first hotel that we contacted appeared ideal in many ways, but they refused to allow us to place our antennas on their roof. That forced us to dig deeper and we were able to find a better hotel well outside the city. This hotel sits high up on a knoll with significant terraced grounds outside surrounding the hotel. This hotel is relatively new, has multiple diesel backup generators and wel-

comed our plans to place our antennas on top of and outside and adjacent to the hotel.

Our last remaining challenge is to pack up our equipment into its shipping crates and get it on the aircraft to Dubai where it will be loaded into smaller aircraft for Kurdistan. We are bracing ourselves for what the final shipping tally may be.

So here we are, it is "crunch week" for us. It is our last week to gather, assemble or test any items that are being shipped to Kurdistan. Today we did the final antenna testing and tested the Write Log setups on our six Dell laptops.

Our website: <http://www.yi9pse.com> has really been an asset in helping us get our message out to the world. Just in a short amount of time we have had over 3000 survey respondents and over 25,000 hits on our website. The level of excitement and enthusiasm for our plans is very rewarding for us.

So, with some good luck and good will, we will be live on the air three weeks from the time you are reading this. This is YI9PSE, listening up five to ten-QRZ?

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, March 4, 2010:

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. John, G3LZQ is QRV as 3B9WR from Cotton Bay, IOTA AF-017, until April 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mainly CW. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB Commonwealth Contest. QSL direct to home call.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Chad, WE9V is QRV as 6Y9V until March 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL via WD9DZV.

LESOTHO, 7P. Pista, HA5AO will be QRV as
(continues)

NCDXC Club Store:

Have you seen our club store yet? Shop there and help support the club! Click the link on our web site, or visit: www.zazzle.com/ncdxc_store.

2009-2010 Northern California DX Club Officers:

President: Craig Bradley, AE6RR
Vice President: Phil Steffora, K6TT
Secretary: Russ Bentson, K6KLY
Treasurer: Jose Picazo, WT6X
Ex Officio: Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
Directors:
Jim Abraham, W6EB
Steve Jones, N6SJ
John Eisenberg, K6YP
DXer Editor Phil Verinsky, W6TQG, dxer (at ncdxc.org)
Webmaster Phil Steffora, K6TT
Web Hosting &
Database Admin Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
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

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

The DXer is published monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

7P8AO from March 8 to 22. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be QRV as 8P5A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL direct to NN1N.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Niels, OZ8KR is QRV as C56KR from Bakuto. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

ESTONIA, ES. Special event station ES75ERAU is QRV until March 7 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Estonian Amateur Radio Union. QSL via ES1QD.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Philippe, will be QRV as LX7I in the ARRL SSB DX contest as a Single Op entry. QSL via LX2A.

LEBANON, OD. Fred, DL6SN is QRV as OD5/DL6SN until the end of 2010. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW. QSL via DO8LA.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1FJ. Victor is QRV as R1FJM and has been active on 15 meters using CW around 0630z. QSL via RX3MM.

ICELAND, TF. Operator TF3CW will be QRV as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 20 meters in the ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL via LX1NO.

ANTIGUA, V2. Alan, N3AD is QRV as V26M until March 7. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. This includes an entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL to home call.

COCOS KEELING ISLAND, VK9C. Tim, NL8F is currently QRV as VK9CF until March 10. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters. This includes an entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL via K8NA.

NICARAGUA, YN. Operators WF5W, K5UO, NM5G and WB5TKI are QRV as YN2EA, Y2UO, YN2MG and YN2TKI, respectively, until March 9. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will be active as YN2EA in the

ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL all calls via W5PF.

PARAGUAY, ZP. Tom, ZP5AZL will be QRV as ZP0R as a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL SSB DX contest. QSL to home call.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC Credit: Tunisia, 3V3S, 2009 operation; Angola, D2CQ, current operation.

Free Antenna and Tower:

Dick, W6KM reports that the antenna and tower in the following photos, located in Menlo Park, are free for the taking. They are from the Estate of Ron Panton, W6VG, SK. The antenna make is unknown but all was functional when Ron passed away. If you are interested please contact Dick, W6KM at 408/267-2624. They are offered to anyone, either an NCDXC member or non-member.

