



The DXer

February 2011

The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club



FEBRUARY MEETING

“PJ7E DXpedition

Sint Maarten 10-10-10”

by John Miller, K6MM

Thursday February 17

6pm - 7:30pm Dinner/Social

7:30pm Club Meeting

at Holder’s Country Inn

998 S. De Anza Boulevard

San Jose, CA

RAFFLE PRIZES

- Yaesu VX-3R 2m/70cm Dual-Bander
- Alpha Delta 4B 4 Position Switch
- Four Additional Prizes

W6TI DX Bulletins

ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

President’s Letter

February 2011

By Richard Crouch, N6RC

Greetings, DXers!

The January Meeting

Wow, another DX month has passed – it seems like just yesterday when we had such a fantastic evening talking about DX and especially the art of CW DXing at our January meeting! I received a lot of compliments about the meeting, but the compliments really belong to all of you who attended! With a fill-in program, I didn’t know what to expect, but low and behold we had a full house! Everyone in the room added something fun to the mix!

Now, don’t you wish you had been there? We’ve come a long way since the bottom of the club’s infamous death spiral. We’ve got a dynamic club, and if you don’t come to the meetings, you’ll never know how much you are missing. Of course, if we get too many more attendees, we may have to find a bigger place for the meetings. I’d like to have THAT problem!

February’s Program – PJ7E

February’s program will be lots of fun – how lucky we are to have John, K6MM, presenting PJ7E, the very first DXpedition from a new country, which is also adjacent to several

(continues on page 3)

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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



IC-7200 HF Transceiver

- 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP
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IC-7700 Transceiver. The Contester's Rig

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Analog + Digital
Dual Bander
D-STAR



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IC-880H 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

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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

\$20 INSTANT SAVINGS!



D-STAR UPGRADABLE

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

Analog + Digital
Dual Bander
D-STAR



IC-V80 2M Handheld Transceiver

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

IC-80AD D-STAR

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

Analog + Digital
Dual Bander
D-STAR

D-STAR READY

\$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE

Analog + Digital
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IC-T70A Dual Band FM Transceiver

- 2M + 70CM • 5/2.5/0.5 Watts Output Power • RX: 136-174, 400-479 MHz** • 302 Alphanumeric Memory Channels • 700mW Loud Audio • Ni-MH 7.2V/1400mAh Battery

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

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\$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE

D-STAR READY

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

¹This device has not been approved by the Federal Communications Commission. This device may not be sold or leased, or be offered for sale or lease, until approval of the FCC has been obtained.
*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 2 AA alkaline battery tray. **Optional UK-9100 required. *Instant savings, gift certificates and Icom mail-in rebates expire 3/31/11. Contact HRO for promotion details. QST FEB 2011. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc. 52553

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(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(877) 892-1748
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(877) 892-1745
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(877) 520-9623
Jose, XE2SJB, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
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(408) 736-9496
(877) 892-1749
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
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(800) 644-4476
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
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Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
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(800) 444-9476
John WØIG, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029
(602) 242-3515
(800) 559-7388
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

WOODBRIE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr.
22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
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SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
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Peter, K1IM, Mgr.
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more new countries. John will also give us another Visalia update. Hopefully by now many of you have already used the online registration. Kevin Rowett has worked very hard on this and it definitely raises the bar to new heights. Add to that John's exhibitor web pages. Each exhibitor and/or donating company will have a web page on the iDXC site which will allow them to tell the world about their products. They will be able to use this medium to create some excitement building up to the convention a la Steve Jobs!

First Rig Contest – deadline March 1st – grand prize – The Daily DX!

I'd like to remind everyone of the First Rig Contest. Submit your article by March 1st, up to 3 paragraphs and 1-2 photos for publishing in the DXer. The winning entry will receive a subscription to the Daily DX.

Best Article Contest

An award will also be given at the end of the year for the best 'DXer Article of the Year.' The prize has not yet been announced, so stay tuned.

N6RC Antenna/Station Problems?

Well, now we're 90% sure that the SteppIR is NOT broken – looks like a bad RG-8 cable from HRO. Replacement will be in place for this coming weekend.

Can you imagine an IC-756Pro II that runs fine when turned on for about five minutes, then the green receive light flickers and shortly thereafter the transmitter turns on seemingly by itself and you can't turn it off. The buttons on either side of the display won't work either. Yikes, what's going on here?

Wait for next month's DXer to hear the final story!

Happy Valentine's Day to all and we'll see you on the 17th!

73's,
Dick
N6RC

62nd International DX Convention
April 15 - 17, 2011
Visalia, California

Amateur Radio Technology Day
Saturday, Feb 19
8am to 6pm

Registration For IDXC 2011 Is Now Open!

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Via PayPal or Credit Card

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

At SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

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IMPORTANT UPDATE ON CLUB ARRL OUTGOING QSL BURO

If you missed the announcement from the ARRL, as of Jan. 1, 2011 the cost for submitting QSL cards to the outgoing DX Buro has risen to 75¢ an ounce! What a blow to the average active DXer!

That would mean sending 10 or fewer cards would cost a fee of \$2 plus the 44¢ postage. But don't forget that NCDXC members can send them to the ARRL for \$00. For members that can't make the monthly club meetings to pass them on to me or pass them on to a member that will attend, you can send them straight to me. The club will pick up the tab from there.

Since the current USPO rate for sending 1oz is 44¢ that works out that you can send to me 8 heavy stock QSL cards and not have to pay the ARRL handling fee of \$2. Put 16 cards in an envelope for the postage rate of 61¢ and save the \$3 ARRL fee. You get the point.

Don't forget to send along a copy of ARRL membership (copy or a label off your QST mag will do the job just fine) and I will make a copy of it for future use and file it, so even that helps.

The best time to forward cards to me is at the meeting or before the 3rd Thursday of the month. I then batch them and send them within a few days after the meetings.

Have any questions contact me via the club Roster info.

73 es GUD DX Dick, W6KM

Photos From January Meeting - CW DXing Forum Panel



Craig, AE6RR Moderates Panel



Panelists Steve, N6SJ, Dick, N6RC, Dave, AA6XV

This and That

By Jim Muiter, N6TP

(Originally Published in George S Ladd Pioneer Radio Club Newsletter, 11/2010)

You may remember that a couple of months ago, Frank N6YP gave me a QST from September 1939 and a CQ magazine from March 1947. The rear cover of the September 1939 QST featured an advertisement for an 807 from RCA Tubes. The ad called it the “Little Magician” of transmitting tubes. The 807 was rated at a DC plate voltage of 600 volts with a plate current of 100 milliamperes for class C Telegraphy. The amateur net cost was \$3.50.

Certainly in 1939, \$3.50 was quite a bit of money at the end of the depression and probably could buy you a nice dinner somewhere. The 807 went on to serve our country in all sorts of service, in everything from transmitters to sonar in World War 2. A variation of the 807 was the 1625. The 1625 was the 12.6 volt filament version of the 6.3 volt filament 807. The 1625 made its contribution to World War 2 by being used as the final tubes in the ARC-5 command sets. The ARC-5, a high frequency transmitter was widely used in the B17 and B-24 bombers among others. The command set provided aircraft to aircraft communications from the flight deck.

The March 1947 CQ featured many war surplus advertisements, with the ARC-5 or its equivalent SCR-274-N. You could buy the whole SCR-274-N command set series for \$39.00 from “The Radio Shack.” in March 1947. What is interesting about the good old ARC-5, is that with a little bit of tweaking you could use the transmitters to run a 100 watts input on the 40 and 80-meter bands. Many a beginning amateur radio operator with limited funds first got on the air with a modified ARC-5. In doing so you learned about taming the “key clicks, chirp and back-wave” from these two tube master oscillator power amplifier (MOPA) transmitters. By the way back-wave is the term for hearing a signal from a CW transmitter during key up.

Of course the surplus 1625s or 807s vacuum tubes were not always new. The March 1947 CQ listed a surplus 807 for \$1.00, still a significant sum for young amateur radio operators. If you had a slightly gassy 1625 or 807, you would get a blue glow around the inside of the glass envelope. That was not bad a deal as you might think as you could adjust the final amplifier by tuning to resonance or minimum plate current and looking for minimum glow.

As a comparison today, RF Parts has 807s for sale for \$18.95. A bit of research in the Consumer Price Index would probably indicate that the price of an 807 has matched inflation at least from 1947.

The 807/1625 tubes are part of a long series of “Beam Power Tetrodes.” Their descendants include the 6L6, 2E26 and the various beam power tetrodes, that now power the very high end of modern audiophile audio amplifiers.

That speaks well for an electronic device that first made its appearance on the market in 1935. Coincidentally 1935 marked the advent of the Douglas DC-3. The Douglas DC-3 made commercial air travel easy to use, safe and profitable. The beam power tetrode made moderate RF and audio power available for the same reasons. Both the beam power tetrode and the old “Gooney Bird” have continued their long lives for the last 75 years.

From LOTW Logbook Users Home Page

Dec 14, 2010: New PJ Entities and LoTW -- We have received some questions about when the new PJ entities will appear in LoTW and the associated DXCC lists.

Before we can change any of the DXCC records in the electronic systems, we have to finish processing all the DXCC applications from 2010. We need to do this to produce data for the Annual Lists that appear in the DXCC Yearbook, and for the Honor Roll listing in QST.

The DXpeditioners have asked about when they can obtain certificates for the new entities. Most of the PJ operators have wanted to place their logs into LoTW, but we are waiting until we can manage the process from the DXCC side. It won't be much longer though -- likely some-time in January.

When we make the deletions and add the new entities, most DXers will "lose" up to 20 entities from their totals in the DXCC Challenge. Those band entities will be shown in the "total" DXCC number (which includes deleted entities) on the Awards chart. Obviously, as DXers apply their new entities to DXCC those numbers will return.

Thanks for the patience.

2010-2011 Northern California DX Club Officers:

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(dxer at ncdxc.org)

Webmaster Phil Verinsky, W6TQG
Web Hosting &

Database Admin Risto Kotalampi, W6RK

Club address:

NCDXC
Box 608
Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608

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

Club Repeater: W6TI/R

Frequency/offset: 147.360 Mhz +, pl 110.9

Trustee: Richard Crouch, N6RC

Control Operator: Richard Crouch, N6RC

Maintenance: Peter Grabosky, W6OOL

Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)

Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.

Net Manager: Russ Bentson, K6KLY

W6TI DX Bulletins:

ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

About the DXer:

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.

See you at the meeting - happy DXing!