



# The DXer

April 2011

**The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club**

## **NO APRIL MEETING DUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION**

Next Meeting:  
Thursday **May 19**  
at Holder's Country Inn  
998 S. De Anza Boulevard  
San Jose, CA  
Details will be in May DXer



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

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

## **President's Letter**

**April 2011**

**By Richard Crouch, N6RC**

### **Visalia IDXC – the Best Show on Earth?**

At least for DXers the show that begins on Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, is truly the Best Show on Earth! This year it is being produced by your own Northern California DX Club (NCDXC)!

### **So why go to Visalia?**

- Celebrate having filed your 2010 tax return one day early!
- Enjoy what the San Joaquin Valley has to offer – small, all American towns showing off the best that middle America has to offer
- Attend the BBQ on Thursday evening
- Play a round of golf on Friday morning
- Get some great exercise in the Holiday Inn pool or fitness center
- Go for a jog in the adjacent city park
- Learn about contesting at the Friday afternoon contesting forum
- Enjoy NCCC and Top Band banquets on Friday night
- Purchase tickets to win raffle prizes totaling \$50,000+
- See all the latest vendor exhibits - the best

*(continues on page 3)*

# April is Yaesu Month at HRO



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- wide band Rx

Competitive pricing!

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**Call Now For Your Low Price!**



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**Call For Low Pricing!**



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the ham industry has to offer

- Look for ham radio goodies in all shapes and sizes
- Meet and greet all your DX friends from here in California as well as around the world
- Make new DX friends
- Meet DXpedition leaders as they tell their stories
- Enjoy sharing DX experiences especially those experienced recently due to the strong ramp up in Cycle 24 conditions over the past 90 days
- Attend timely technical sessions – pushing the envelope of ham radio experiences
- Check out all the RV's, van's, and auto's with numerous creative installations for fixed and mobile operations while on the road
- Check out the N6V monster station this year with SteppIR's biggest antenna to date on top of the latest tower trailer from US Tower
- Get your cards checked for DXCC
- Enjoy the Saturday lunchtime BBQ
- Enjoy the Saturday evening cocktail party
- Enjoy the Saturday night banquet and keynote address
- Enjoy the Sunday morning breakfast and feature presentation

I can tell you that I have been attending this event for longer than I can remember, and I'm never disappointed. I've been to Dayton, which I think every ham should do at least once, but it doesn't compare to the IDXC in terms of the warm feeling you get from being an identifiable part of this intimate event.

Don't let not having a hotel room at the convention keep you from coming. There are rooms available at other local hotels and even more in nearby cities and towns. Or, if all else fails, just sleep in the back of your SUV or van in the Holiday Inn parking lot!

It's time to tie the knot on this monthly letter as I have one leg already in Visalia. See you there!

Richard (Dick) Crouch  
N6RC  
President  
NCDXC

# IDXC Schedule of Events

Friday, April 15, 2011		
Time	Description	Location
8:00	16th Annual DX Convention Golf Tournament	Valley Oaks Golf Course, Visalia
11:00 - 17:00	Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales	Lobby/Lounge
13:00 - 17:00	Exhibits and Displays Open	Cedar/Pine/Redwood Rooms
13:00 - 17:00	Contest Academy - Hosted by Mark Aaker, K6UFO <i>"Basic Contesting Techniques: Getting In The Game"</i>	Maple/Laurel Rooms
13:00 - 17:00	Contest Academy - Hosted by Mark Aaker, K6UFO <i>"Advanced Contesting Techniques: Strategies For Improving Your Score"</i>	Maple/Laurel Rooms
17:30 - 18:30	Attitude Adjustment Hour Sponsored by CQ Magazine Northern California DX Foundation Board Members Individual Sponsors	Parking Lot
17:30	16th Annual IOTA Dinner	Plaza Room
18:30	Annual Top Band Dinner	Birch Room
18:30	Annual Contest Dinner	Oak Room
Saturday, April 16, 2011		
Time	Description	Location
06:30 - 08:30	"No-Host" Coffee & Rolls	Terrace
07:30 - 17:00	Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales	Lobby/Lounge
08:00 - 17:00	Exhibits and Displays Open	Cedar/Pine/Redwood Rooms
08:00 - 08:10	Welcome by John Miller, K6MM & Kevin Rowett, K6TD	Valley Oaks Center
08:10 - 08:20	1st Timer, Old Timer, ARRL, and DX Visitor Introductions	Valley Oaks Center
08:20 - 08:30	Overview of Convention Schedule	Valley Oaks Center
08:30 - 09:30	Vendor Showcase	Valley Oaks Center
09:00 - 16:00	Saturday Tour of Local Area	Hotel Main Entrance
10:00	Prize Drawing	Ticket Drum -- Terrace Area
10:00 - 11:00	DX Forum, Chaired by Ken Anderson, K6TA	Valley Oaks Center
11:00 - 12:00	Contest Forum, Chaired by Sean Kutzko, KX9X	Valley Oaks Center
11:30 - 13:30	Lunch Available	
12:00	Hourly Prize Drawing	Ticket Drum -- Terrace Area
13:00 - 16:00	DXCC & WAZ QSL Card Checking (including 160M, 10 year plus, deleted, WAS, VUCC, and WAZ)	Plaza Room
13:00 - 13:45	John Miller, K6MM: <i>"The PJ7E DXpedition: Chaos In The Caribbean"</i>	Maple Room
13:00 - 13:45	Bob Heil, K9EID: <i>"What Are All Those Knobs?"</i>	Oak Room
13:45 - 14:30	Randy Rowe, N0TG: <i>"Sable Island Or Bust: The CY0 DXpedition"</i>	Maple Room
13:45 - 14:30	Tom Taormina, K5RC: <i>"Building Your Dream Station Without A Divorce"</i>	Oak Room
14:00	Hourly Prize Drawing	Ticket Drum -- Terrace Area
14:30 - 15:15	Paul Ewing, N6PSE: <i>"Intrepid DX: YI9PSE &amp; T6PSE"</i>	Oak Room
14:30 - 15:15	Michael Wells, G7VJR: <i>"Club Log"</i>	Maple Room
15:15 - 16:00	Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ: <i>"ZK2A - Niue: The Rock Of Polynesia"</i>	Maple Room
15:15 - 16:00	Mike Staal, K6MYC: <i>"6M EME With JT65"</i>	Oak Room
16:00	Hourly Prize Drawing	Ticket Drum -- Terrace Area
16:00 - 16:45	Mark Campos, XE1B: <i>"4A4A: DXpedition To Revillagigedo"</i>	Oak Room
16:00 - 16:45	Dean Straw, N6BV: <i>"Seeing The HF Big Picture With VOAAEA"</i>	Maple Room



17:30 - 18:30	Attitude Adjustment Hour Sponsored by Central Arizona DX Association Ham Radio Outlet Individual Sponsors	Parking Lot
19:00 - 21:00	DX Convention Banquet and Awards - Emcee: Chip Margelli, K7JA Co-Chairmen, John Miller, K6MM & Kevin Rowett, K6TD Special Awards: NCDXC President, Dick Crouch, N6RC Featured Speaker: Tom Berson, ND2T: <i>"VP8ORK DXpedition to South Orkney Islands"</i> Major Raffle Prize Drawings	Valley Oaks Center
<b>Sunday April 17, 2011</b>		
Time	Description	Location
07:30 - 10:00	Breakfast Buffet	Served in the Exhibit Hall Dining in the Valley Oaks Center
08:30 - 10:30	DX Convention Breakfast - Emcee: Chip Margelli, K7JA Featuring: Bob Grimmick, N6OX: <i>"TJ9PF DXpedition To Cameroon"</i> IDXN 2012 - SCDXC Final Prize Drawings Closing Comments	Valley Oaks Center
10:30	Departure	Valley Oaks Center

## First Rig Memoirs

### *Jerry, K6MD:*

My very first transmitter was a homebrew job built from an article in Popular Electronics in 1956, using a 6AQ5 as a single tube, putting out ~ 3 watts on 40 meters ... wound my own coils ... cw, natch ... as I was bootlegging a call from a friend of mine who ran the local Army MARS station in Germany ... I got caught, naturally, when the QSLs started to come in to him ... he didn't work cw ... oops ... I used an old Emerson all-band receiver, no bandspread ... got my own first license as a high school senior, in January 1958 in San Francisco, KN6LHN, and used the same receiver, but upgraded to an AT-1, ~ 25 watts, crystal controlled ... a random length wire antenna slung out the second story window of our apartment, and tuned with a 25w light bulb to maximum brightness, then stuck the antenna back in ... no ground ... hihi ... worked!!!

73/DX ... Jerry, K6MD

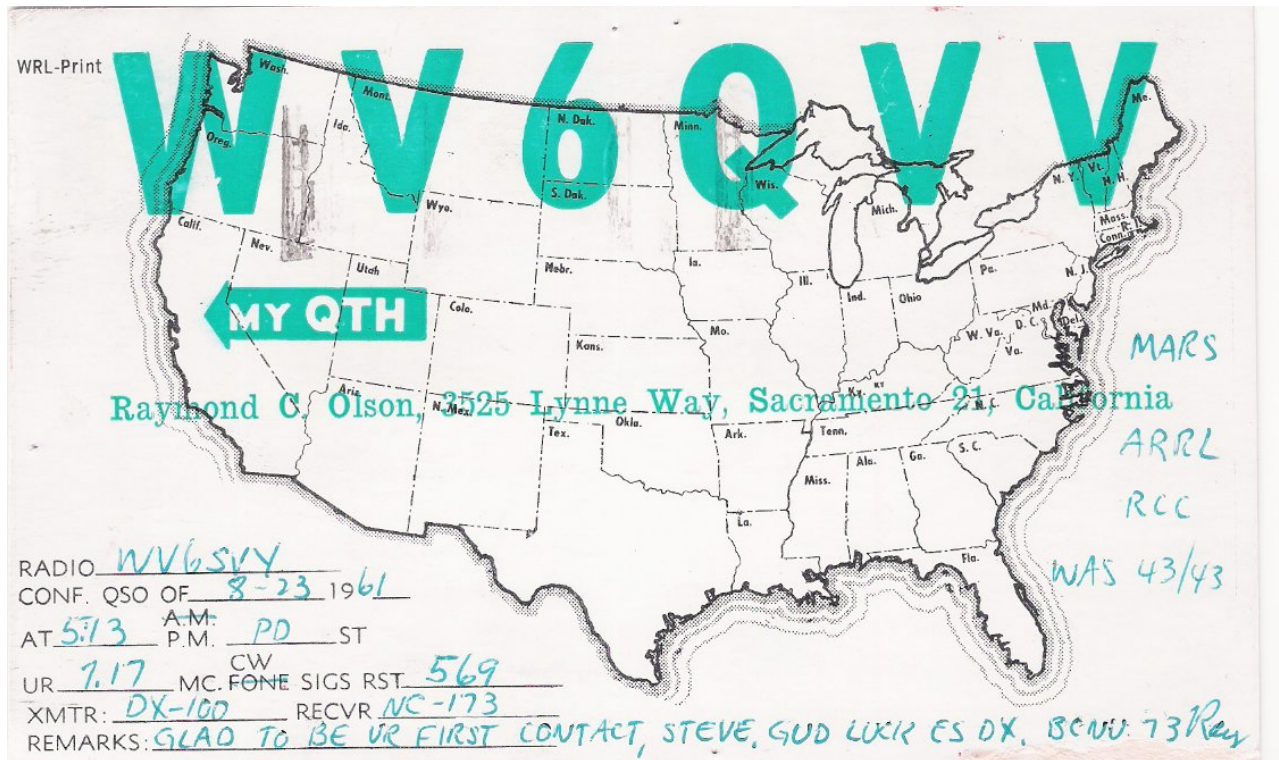
### *Steve, N6SJ:*

I received my Novice license WV6SVY on July 21, 1961. This call was two off from Craig Bradley's (AE6RR) who had WV6SVW! I was very lucky to have a Dad who bought me a used Collins 75A-2 and a new Heathkit DX-60. I had two crystals, 7168 and 7172 Kc/s. This pair allowed me to straddle Radio Moscow which came on at 7170 every evening and was a solid S9 in Sacramento. The QSL is from my first QSO ever, on August 23rd with WV6QVV. Ray was also in

Sacramento, and a few days after I met him on 40M, I walked about 6 blocks to his house and said "Hi" in person. Note that my signal report from 6 blocks away was 569. My first antenna was a Gotham Vertical mounted on the wooden fence outside my window. I didn't work much DX as a Novice with that Gotham, but it sure did a good job putting my 3rd harmonic into the 21 Mc IF strips in the neighbors' TVs!



The photo is a Polaroid of my station, WA6SVY, probably in late 1962. I had since upgraded to General and put up a 20M ZL-Special fixed wire beam. It was strung between the upstairs window of our house and a tree in the back yard, up about 30 feet and aimed at 20 degrees azimuth. This was (and still is) a great heading for working about 200 countries over the North Pole, while I was in Junior High and High School. The thing on top of the DX-60 is a vacuum-tube keyer I built using two 12AU7s, from the 1962 ARRL Handbook. The output was a fairly slow relay which clunked loudly as it keyed all those dits in my call sign. In 1962 I met George Steinert, WA6SLU (now N6ZS) and Lou Ogaard WA6SBS (now W0LO) and they have been great friends and fellow DXers for 50 years.



Funny, I have a story similar to the other articles, when I took the cover off the 6146 final enclosure to adjust the parasitic trap on the tube's plate lead. Don't know why I thought I needed to do that, but sure enough I got my fingers across the 600 VDC plate supply (off, but not yet discharged!) and when my arm shot up in the air, it tipped me over backwards in my chair and onto the floor. It seems like young hams have an affinity for high voltage. I heard my first UJ8 in the spring of 1962, warbling over the North Pole with an exotic flutter on his CW tone. I think that haunting, almost ghost-like sound is what hooked me on DX!

Steve, N6SJ

**Amateur Radio Technology Day  
Saturday, May 14  
8am to 6pm**

At SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday>



Press Release #2

By N6PSE, Paul Ewing, The Intrepid-DX Group

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The Intrepid-DX Group continues to move forward with our plans to conduct a DXpedition from Afghanistan to take place during ten days in May of 2011. Due to security concerns, the exact dates and location of the DXpedition will not be announced until the eve of our activation. The team is closely monitoring the security situation and events in the news coming from Afghanistan. Unless conditions worsen in the coming weeks, our plans are a go!

Our primary objective is to activate Afghanistan with a goal of providing as many DXers as possible a "new one" with this rare DXCC entity and, as a secondary objective, to give as many band-slots as possible. We will focus on North and South America during those periods when propagation is possible to those areas. We anticipate that we will be working EU amateur stations nearly around the clock, but we will ask for their cooperation to allow us to work North and South America during those brief periods each day when propagation will permit us to work those far away regions.

The team consists of eight operators including: Co-Leader Paul Ewing-N6PSE, Co-Leader David Collingham-K3LP, Hrane Milosevic-YT1AD, Krassy Petkov-K1LZ, Al Hernandez-K3VN, David Flack-AH6HY, Alex Pavlenko-UX0LL and David Ritchie-W6DR.

You can find out more about our plans at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/t6pse/index.php>

Thank you,  
Paul S. Ewing-N6PSE  
Co-Leader T6PSE DXpedition



## **2010-2011 Northern California DX Club Officers:**

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DXer Editor Phil Verinsky, W6PK

(dxer at ncdxc.org)

Webmaster Phil Verinsky, W6PK

Web Hosting &

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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.

**REMINDER  
NO NCDXC MEETING IN APRIL**

**See you at IDXC!**