



The DXer

November 2013

The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club

November Meeting
Thursday November 21
Holder's Country Inn
998 S. De Anza Blvd
San Jose 95129
www.holderscountryinn.com

5:00pm Socialize
6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Club Meeting

“Compact Travel Antennas”
by Glen Brown, W6GJB

Interim President Discussion
Bylaws Requirements
Ratification Vote

Raffle Prizes

MFJ-986 3KW Antenna Tuner
Diamond CX-210A Ant Coax Switch
Plus More ...

Holiday Luncheon - Sign Up Now!
More Information on Page 3

Saturday Dec 7, 11am - 3pm
Michael's At Shoreline
2960 N. Shoreline Blvd
Mountain View 94043

Vice President's Letter **By Jim K8JRK**

What a month! Our President, Ross Forbes K6GFJ, has resigned to protect his health. Most of you know Ross has to be ultra careful of his health after his transplant and so we wish him continued progress to that end. The board is already working on his replacement and we thank him for keeping the NCDXC momentum going during his all too brief tenure.

The other surprising news of the last few weeks is that there really is a 10 meter band. The last few days in particular, as I sat here doing paper work, I had 10 on and was listening to the guys on T33 roll in as if they were next door. The openings on 10 were hours long and solid copy to most of the world. With a Solar Flux in the 170s, sunspots at 230+ and best of all a K at 1 or 2, well, its about as good as we are likely to get this cycle so, if you aren't on the air, you're missing a lot of good DX. Long path, short path, even the QRP guys are cleaning up. Some of the groups out there now or soon include Lakshadweep, Bangladesh, Burkino Faso and South Sudan ---- and did I mention the 160 meter crowd is also off to a great season?

Best of all we have demonstrated yet again that this club is all about DX. Over the last few weeks members of the NCDXC had the opportunity to pick up an all time new one

(continues on page 3)

if they needed it -- IRAN, EP. Members quietly arranged schedules, quietly alerted the needy and then there were a lot of very happy participants as it was worked on phone and CW without an east coast peep! On top of that we had John, K6MM on the Wake Island expedition listening for we west coast dx'ers. Last I heard they had over 100,000 Qs! Speaking of rare -- no, very rare, our own Paul, N6PSE, is in Myanmar, no less, delivering that long needed entity to the deserving.

The club reputation of being the DX as John and Paul (and many others) have demonstrated, or contributing to DXpeditions, as our \$23,000 in grants over the last few years illustrates or being a pilot as Rich KY6R was for T33A, continues. If you aren't a member but like DXing, or are new to the hobby and want to give the best part of it a try, give coming to a meeting serious consideration, OK? See you there!

Jim K8JRK Vice President, NCDXC

Welcome New Members!

The following new members were voted into NCDXC during the October meeting:

Sheryl Harkleroad, KJ6UXU

Robert Wortman, WB6VYH

Welcome to NCDXC!

Annual Roster To Be Posted

The NCDXC 2013-2014 Annual Roster (for printing) will be posted on the NCDXC website by or before December 14 at:

www.ncdxc.org/members-only/membersonly.html

Board Meeting Minutes Posted

The minutes from the October 10 Board of Directors Meeting are posted on the NCDXC website:
www.ncdxc.org/members-only/membersonly.html

Meeting Minutes Posted

The minutes from the October 17 Club Meeting are posted on the NCDXC website:
www.ncdxc.org/members-only/membersonly.html

Interim President - What Do Our *Current* Bylaws Say?

Our BY LAWS state that ..." a vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Directors and ratified by the membership at the next regular meeting. ..."

... a discussion topic for the November 21 meeting

Northern California DX Club Holiday Luncheon

Saturday December 7 11:00-3:00

Michael's At Shoreline

2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View 94043

*Luncheon is for Renewed Members Only
and their Significant Others*

Luncheon Entree Choices:

New York Steak.....\$27.00

Breast of Chicken, Portobello.....\$20.50

Broiled Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc.....\$23.50

Grilled Vegetable Brochette with Wild Rice..\$18.00

Entree Salad: Chinese Chicken Salad..\$19.00

Prices include tax and tip

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT TO BE RECEIVED IS NOVEMBER 30

The best way to pay and register your entree choice is via the club's website: go to www.ncdxc.org and click on the big green GO button to the right of "Register Now". You will see a new page where you select your entree, enter your call and select "Add to Cart". Your guest can be registered at the same time: before leaving the Shopping Cart simply click on Continue Shopping, select the second entree, re-enter your call and Add to Cart. Select "Check Out" or "Check Out With PayPal and pay via credit card or PayPal.

To pay by check, please write check to NCDXC and *include your callsign and food choice on your check*. Send to:

Mike Gavin - W6WZ

132 Alta Vista Rd.

Woodside, CA 94062

CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Saturday, November 30

Hope to see you there!

Northern California DX Club Holiday Luncheon

Program Highlight:

Our Speaker will be Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK

His topic will be “DXpedition Edges: Good Planning, Good Luck, Good DXing.” Bob has assembled some backstories from his many expeditions that will give us a rare “inside” look -- and maybe some news about Heard Island.

Continuing the tradition of great raffle prizes, the list this year includes:

- **Elecraft KX3 Transceiver** with ATU and Mic
- **Green Heron Rotor Controller** - simply the best
- **Tom Schiller’s “Array of Light”** Antenna Books
- **Palstar AT2KD Tuner**
- **K6TU Propagation Tools** by Stu Phillips
- **Club Shirts - 3** - your choice of color
- **Begali Key Gift Certificate**
- **Davis Wireless Weather Station** to protect your beam
- **Nordstrom Gift Certificates** for the ladies

Members and Significant Others Are Cordially Invited

Save the Date - Hope to See You All on December 7!

HRO Holiday Specials For You!



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FTDX5000MP 200W HF + 6M Transceiver

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NCDXC DX Ladder

All Entity Counts Must Already Be Confirmed With LOTW-QSLs or QSL Cards

Call Sign	DXCC	Chal	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m
K6TA	377	2764	212	295	332	301	339	325	332	305	320	3
K5YY	375	2636	196	289	240	297	340	314	278	294	287	101
W6OAT	373	2611	133	279	328	271	339	316	336	285	320	4
N7NG	372	1826	166	205	257	140	320	158	266	121	191	2
K6RIM	367	2310	45	173	299	289	340	308	324	255	268	9
K5JB	367											
K6ANP	365	1395	58	167	218	73	320	84	240	41	190	4
N6JV	360	2815	189	263	318	321	338	327	334	310	322	93
W6CUA	357		18	168	246	179	352	190	329	134	297	1
K6XN	355	1733	13	139	215	136	328	205	286	165	243	3
AJ6V	354	939	16	118	153	2	282	6	201	1	160	
K6SQL	354											
W6CYX	353	1753	112	170	225	159	276	154	241	173	242	1
W6DPD	353	1153		21	21		320	168	253	126	193	51
W6OSP	353	242	178	10	17		16	2	8	2	9	
NI6T	352	2772	229	286	330	319	339	326	329	301	309	4
N6TA	352	1494	0	127	198	126	287	205	226	153	172	0
K6MD	351		1	6	68	9	128	9	74	3	53	1
W6KM	350	465		65	100		100		100		100	
K6KLY	349	2398	99	181	285	249	335	303	253	272	314	107
AG6Q	349			100	100		100		100		100	
KX6C	349											
KC6AWX	348	2189	36	158	269	233	337	301	315	243	285	12
W6EKR	348			123	146		338	211	316	141	234	
W6NWS	347	2056	144	200	289	161	329	190	305	152	285	1
K6UM	345	2043	29	135	205	168	327	286	307	244	282	60
N6TV	345	1036	41	147	207	2	271	3	202	1	160	2
K6CTA	345											
KI6CG	343	1785	79	152	191	97	320	180	284	146	267	69
W6OD	343	1726	12	101	151		321	283	310	255	293	
N7TW	342	1017	0	126	96	4	318	22	221	6	224	0
AC6HY	342		19	255	236	9	316	216	271	56	199	1
K8JRK	341	1123	1	145	174		293	43	242	26	199	
K6KO	339	2236	153	227	293	236	317	242	282	224	262	0
W6QUV	338	2172	118	152	298	262	311	271	263	238	203	56
K6BZS	338	1427	37	122	202	105	280	141	240	126	173	1
K6YP	335											
N6TQ	334	1949	44	159	249	213	307	230	270	227	250	
N6ATD	334	848	1	83	113		249	59	166	40	137	
N3RC	332	1759	50	139	202	177	300	225	278	145	240	3
K6IPM	332	1287		72	145		311	211	232	146	170	

(continues on next page)

K6SIK	329	1593	11	135	178	134	301	184	252	165	233	
K6MM	327	1448	36	109	195	127	296	168	234	120	157	6
W6YD	319			19	5		204		127		114	
N6NU	316	1330	22	106	199	123	245	160	219	103	151	2
K2RD	315	1605	73	143	216	71	294	179	254	133	237	5
K6DY	310	958	7	12	30	1	223	154	204	140	181	6
W6JJW	310	749	0	3	73	21	225	91	153	63	120	0
WX6W	309	569	0	26	71	19	200	25	107	20	101	0
K9YC	306	1810	127	181	230	165	272	229	235	177	183	11
KE1B	303	1417	18	70	163	95	275	224	239	152	177	4
W6EKR/M	297			5	4		196	61	230	13	104	
W6DR	294	999	68	83	126	52	248	52	194	17	155	4
W6OPO	291	802	1	18	87	17	241	96	173	38	130	1
W6RK	285	1161	19	76	189	115	250	138	176	67	129	2
K6MKF	281	881	2	13	57	17	190	105	216	114	165	2
N6BM	278	928	1	22	91	41	222	144	214	75	118	0
W6PK	275	607	0	9	50	4	223	47	152	32	90	0
EA2RY	273		1	60	134	72	208	99	233	60	126	43
W6GJB	268	719	0	39	101	35	174	84	163	9	109	5
K6BV	260	525	0	3	23	0	230	15	156	11	87	0
NE5EE	254	602		8	23		195	91	150	65	70	
AD6HF	254	526	10	20	73	14	213	30	92	10	62	2
NR6M	247	803	0	2	63	1	182	132	188	98	136	1
N6WM	246	999	35	76	144	37	208	101	179	81	135	3
AE6RR	229	666	3	38	70	27	184	71	124	33	114	2
N6MM	215	614	1	8	60		147	88	137	61	106	6
N6NKT	210											
N6DVR	208	348		3	8	1	98	30	80	12	116	
K6ML	206	334	0	2	18	6	71	43	130	28	33	3
W6NN	201	474	4	26	53	3	149	48	125	20	44	2
WD0FAA	195	391	7	20	69	20	78	16	102	16	61	2
K6MMM	153	467	4	24	77	0	125	5	127	0	103	2
WT6X	142	368	0	24	69	15	108	55	40	18	39	0
AG6HE	135	230	2	4	54	0	29	9	114	11	7	0
KU6W	131	328	0	28	50	0	108	0	112	0	30	0
AI6RE	118	237	0	0	10	4	54	37	51	21	59	1
K6TU	100	208	13	12	39	0	75	2	49	0	17	1
N6OI	87	163	0	1	8	0	37	7	59	1	49	1
K6MP	75	123	0	3	27	0	32	4	32	5	18	2
W6MSB	74	134	0	1	4	0	31	6	48	11	33	0
WB6MRQ	46	75	0	1	7	0	14	3	21	1	28	0

How To Update Your DX Ladder Numbers

- For all DXCC and band counts, only include QSOs **for which you already have LOTW-QSLs or QSL cards.**
- **Entries in the ClubLog NCDXC DXCC League** are imported into DX Ladder if the member is registered at <http://www.clublog.org> and member log is uploaded at least once per year.
- **Members who prefer not to use ClubLog can use the web form at: www.ncdxc.org/pages/dxladder.html .** Band information is helpful but not required.
- The DXCC count includes current and deleted entities.
- **The Chal (Challenge) count is the sum of the current entity band counts (no deleted entities)** and is automatically calculated in the DX Ladder spreadsheet.

The DX-pedition e-Pilot By Rich Holoch, KY6R

What Is an “e-Pilot”?

A DX-pedition “Pilot” is a helper who receives feedback from the DX community on how well a DX-pedition is running, and pays particular attention to how the DX-pedition team is leveraging available propagation.

The e-Pilot idea is the use of a Blog to take the usual burden off of the pilot, with the goal of greatly improving communication between the DX-pedition Team and the “deserving” DX-ers. Pilots get hundreds of emails a day - for a big DX-pedition, and managing communication is a real problem.

I first used the concept on the TX5K DX-pedition, but the idea back then was to use a blog to let family members know how their DX-er loved one’s were doing. It was not meant to be an e-Pilot at all. However, I found that having many “traditional” pilots self-organize and use one leader (point of contact) to try to communicate with the team is almost an impossible thing. With social media and email - everyone starts emailing and posting everywhere - and control goes out the window. Two things that (IMHO) make the “traditional” pilot situation difficult or impossible:

- 1) When the DX-pedition leader gives no way for the pilots to communicate with the team - not even on a “high end of the band frequency” using a “secret channel”. Or better yet - Winlink if satellite access is not possible.
- 2) When the leader of a DX-pedition just doesn’t have the time to worry about pilots - because his / her hands are too full.
- 3) When the pilot team breaks down under pressure and basically become more of a liability than an asset

I have experienced some or all of these things in my past year of piloting. However, I just solved ALL of these problems by doing this:

- 1) Setting up a blog that is specifically as an e-Pilot - this example has proven to be stellar. In fact, it is “transparent” - everyone can see what the pilot sees - which I think is a great educational value for everyone - DX-ers and Dx-pedition leaders. It becomes a “living history” of that DX-pedition - in a far better way than ye olde “static” HTML web site:

<http://banaba2013.wordpress.com/>

On first blush “exposing dirty laundry” would seem like a bad idea. Its not a bad idea because in today’s day

and age of “social media”, people have many outlets to complain about a DX-pedition. I feel its better to try to manage the complaints and turn them into a win-win situation. The old adage applies “How can I fix a problem if I don’t even know I have one?”.

2) Limiting the number of pilots to whatever is reasonable given the scope of the DX-pedition, but with T33A there is only one - and that is me. We are trying 5 with this concept on VU7AG. We are working on exactly what the work flow will be - because the Blog obviates most of the need for more than say, one e-Pilot. As I have learned from T33A - one e-Pilot works - until something like not being able to upload logs every day - and the “deserving” go half out of their minds. Then that single e-Pilot goes into “damage control” mode for the team - by trying to ensure that everything will work out.

3) There are several aspects of using a blog that make this an obvious way to go:

a) No more emailing between pilots with every pilots email inbox filling up with DX requests, suggestions, complaints and praise.

b) All comments, requests and suggestions are in one place - for the DX-pedition team to see and do a “de-brief when they get back. If the team has the ability to browse the web - then it becomes a total “Live Blog” with only one person needed to moderate the Blog. That could even be a DX-pedition team member - which would then totally obviate the need for an e-Pilot. However, most DX-peditions want to do radio - not live blogging. But this is the most flexible and simple approach to getting the pilot job done.

c) Every time someone posts - the e-Pilot is notified to moderate the comment. I have been doing this all day every day just by quickly scanning the post for “tone” and as long as it’s not threatening I let the post happen - even if it’s a bit “testy”. As long as it’s not downright rude. Negative comments can be very useful, actually. I have been using my Smart phone - even riding to work on BART to moderate, and my web browser at home and work. You can also use an iPad - or any device with internet access

4) You can also post pictures and status reports at any time - without having to “futz” with HTML - just type in your “content” and go. I have even done this with my Smart phone riding to and from work in SF while on BART. The DX-ers wonder how I seem to be working on this 24x7, and the truth is - it fits in fine with my day job with long hours!

5) Trying to modify static web pages to do this can be disastrous. If you change HTML and make a mistake - your static DX-pedition web site can be seriously compromised. Therefore - with TX5K and T33A - once the DX-pedition is under way - I only modify the content on the blog. If I make a mistake on the blog, I can correct it with a few mouse clicks - something you could never get away with a static HTML web page - where you have to download a page, edit with an HTML editor, know HTML when the WYSIWYG editor doesn’t cut the mustard, upload that page and pray you haven’t broken a bunch of links.

Finally, here is the work flow for a team of say, three pilots - where the three are geographically dispersed in the Americas, EU and ASIA-PAC-OC (time zone / daylight hours based):

1) The “e-Pilot on duty” works only during set hours - mainly when the sun is shining - and for 8 hours. With 3 e-Pilots, 24 hours are covered, and then this job becomes so easy - and there is also backup if one e-Pilot ends up having any problems where they can’t do the job. On T33A I am doing this myself - so it CAN be a one person job.

2) The e-Pilot moderates the blog - allowing posts by DX-ers. The e-Pilot adds any news or content to help answer as many DX-er’s issues, requests and problems all at once - this cuts down the “traffic” needed to send to the TEAM by a magnitude.

3) The e-Pilot then combs through the content and puts together a very short list that can be sent via Satellite Mail or Winlink. All duplicate or low / no priority requests are removed, and the information the team needs is passed on. The e-Pilot posts anything the TEAM wants them to as well - so it's a 2 way street.

4) When the team returns - they will see exactly what went on - and can do a team de-briefing, learn from all of these comments and whatnot, and even have a keepsake of sorts. It's a "live blog" - which means its fluid and flexible - but afterwards is a wonderful historical artifact that the team member can use in their scrap-book!

5) All DX-pedition news outlets are told about the blog - so these editors can simply subscribe to the RSS feed, Facebook or Twitter to get fresh and up to the minute news. BTW - each and every post is automatically posted on Facebook and Tweeted - so there is NO work there, and you get very wide coverage - for free and with no work involved.

With Wordpress (the blog provider I use), I don't have to manage any software - its "in the cloud" and backed up and managed for me. Now - security is also a feature. Spam is automatically filtered out, and I get IP addresses and country of origin - so I can tell who is posting from where. For example, a ham from the Netherlands tried to make a nasty posting calling himself Bugs Bunny, and I immediately deleted him - and won't respond or call him out. That is the only one nasty-gram I have had to reject.

I also was able to keep a couple cranks off the blog on TX5K . . . and these are the times where I think about the Microlite Penguins approach - no log uploads, no pilots, etc. There are days I feel that if I were to lead a DX-pedition I would do it the "Penguins Way"!

I have been asked to help in this regard with the upcoming VU7AG Lakshwadweep DX-pedition - as an "e-Pilot advisor" and one of five e-Pilots on their e-Pilot project within their dx-pedition. They totally "get it", and I am honored how they saw this as what they said was a "Why didn't I think of that moment", and asked me for my advice and help. It was totally unprovoked on my part.

This is a work in progress, and the VU7AG team are attempting to do a few things I have not been able to resolve - like the emailing between pilots getting a bit out of control - like it was on TX5K. The guys at VU7AG are very smart and resourceful and have come up with what I think will move this e-Pilot idea forward and take it to the next level. I just received a much better "workflow" than the one I suggested above using 3 e-Pilots, so lets just say this idea will improve as others play with it and perfect it. With the VU7AG Team, its a joy to work with such like minded DX-ers!

73,
Rich KY6R

Hy-Gain TH-7DX Antenna Needs a New Owner

I have a **Hy-Gain TH-7DX** antenna that is coming down from a tower in the very near future. This **7 element, tri-band Yagi** is in need for a new QTH. Please feel to to email me directly about the antenna. I am able to send an image of the antenna sitting on top of the tower.

Manual available at <http://www.hy-gain.com/support.php?productid=TH-7DX>

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt AT yahoo.com, pickup from his QTH

Items For Sale By Russ, K6KLY:

Ameritron RCS-8V Remote Antenna Switch, Like New Condition, \$129 + shipping as needed

Yaesu MD-200 Microphone, top Yaesu mic, Like New, Non-smoker, \$229 + shipping as needed

From Estate of W6EIO

Contact Russ, K6KLY, k6kly AT sbcglobal.net, Tel: 510-852-0002

Item For Sale By Dick, W6KM:

Hy-Gain Rotator # HDR-300, works excellent ... \$400

Astron Power Supply, never used # VS-35M

Sells new for \$210 ... **only \$120**

Phone# 408/267-2624

Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:

LMR600 200ft with N Connectors \$225

Helper Instruments Sinadder Model S-101 \$50

Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt AT yahoo.com, pickup from his QTH

Log Antenna For Sale By Noland, WB6CKT:

M2 Model 1330LP11 13-30 MHz

www.m2inc.com

It was professionally assembled on the ground, and then we realized it would Overhang our neighbor's yard by 7 feet or so ... and I miscalculated even the antennas on my roof ... it was then professionally disassembled and put back in the box and now resides under my house all protected

I think the list price is around \$1700 plus Tax.

So how about \$1200 pickup or I would consider Best Reasonable Offer

Or trade straight across for a Kenwood TS990 :<)))

Contact Noland WB6CKT

Tel:650-595-8588 FAX 650-591-2891

Send Your DX-Related Swap/Sale Listing to: dxer at ncdxc.org

To prevent outdated listings, ads will run for only one issue unless otherwise requested

Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday Dec 7: Holiday Luncheon, 11:00-3:00. Location: Michael's At Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View 94043. More information on pages 3-4.

Fill Out Your QSL Cards For The Buro

Dick Letrich, W6KM collects members' QSL cards at the meetings for the Buro. Proof of current ARRL membership is needed. NCDXC pays the ARRL fees and shipping costs.

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.

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2013-2014 Northern California

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Maintenance: Peter Grabosky, W6OOL
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Net Manager: Open
Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)