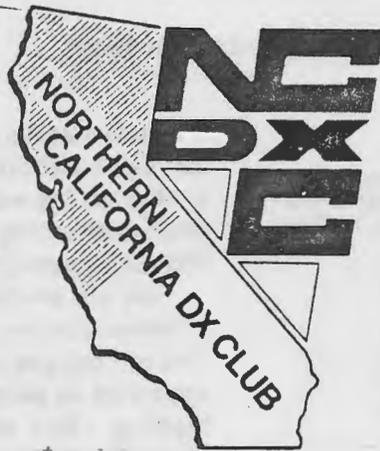


THE



DXer

MARCH 1987

VOL. XL - NUMBER 3

CALENDAR

- Mar 7-8 - ARRL DX Contest Phone.
- March 13 - NCDXC March meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto.
- Mar 14 - Electronics Flea Market, Foothill College.
- March 25 - Last date for inputs to April DXer.
- Mar 28-29 - CQWW WPX Contest Phone.
- April 3-5, 1987 - 38th International DX Convention, Visalia, Grosvenor Hotel (formerly the Visalia Holiday Inn). Call (209) 651-5000 for reservations.
- April 24-26 - Dayton Hamvention.
- April 30-31 - CQWW WPX Contest CW.
- May 9-10 - U.S.S.R. CQM Contest.

+ = + = +

MARCH MEETING - FRIDAY, MARCH 13

The March meeting of the NCDXC will be held on Friday, March 13, at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Jack, W6ISQ, will be the main attraction, with a slide show covering his 1973 operation at XV5AC in beautiful downtown Saigon. This was a contest operation for the CQWW in collaboration with Vince, K6KQN, Don, K6RV, and the late Don Riebhoff, K7ZZ. Cocktails at 6:00PM, dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

+ = + = +

FLASH!! STOP THE PRESS!!

3Y1EE TO SPEAK AT VISALIA!!

Just before going to press it was learned that Einar Enderud, LA1EE/3Y1EE, will attend the Visalia DX Convention. Einar will speak on his recent and highly successful DXpedition to Peter I Island with LA2GV.

FROM THE PREZ

February has been a busy month. DX abounds! 3Y1EE, 3Y2GV, XF4DX, VK9YS, FH4EC/FR7G, and now VU4APR. Now all we need is a little propagation into the Indian Ocean area, keen ears, and some luck. The Peter I Island DXpedition was an outstanding success, and sure had the ol' repeater jumping with spotting information. Congratulations to all who made a 3Y contact, and a BIG thanks to those who helped.

The 40 Countries in 40 Days Award activity is in full swing and providing a lot of fun. It is a nice complement to the DXCC Golden Jubilee Award activity.

Even though the propagation was poor, the club really put forth a good effort in the CW portion of the ARRL International DX Contest. I think we are off to a good start in winning the North-South trophy again.

Bruno, AA6AD, established a new record, I think, for going from major surgery to DX contest. 4 days and 2 hours after having a major back operation, Bruno was in the middle of the ARRL DX Contest, banging out CW contacts. The members of this club really have great spirit. Thanks, Bruno.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting on March 13, and at the REALLY BIG SHOW in Visalia, April 3-5. 73 es DX.

Lou, K6TMB

+ = + = +

FROM THE EDITOR

What is a DXCC country?

In the past several years we have seen great controversy over the question of what is and what is not a DXCC country. We have had an unsuccessful attempt at creating a new DXCC country from the remnants of the American Phoenix Islands after the United States ceded our claims to the lion's share of the real estate



Lou, K6TMB

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB, INC.

P.O. BOX 608, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

The DXer is the bulletin of the NCDXC and is published monthly for the benefit of its members. Permission to use any portion of this publication is hereby granted, provided credit is given to The DXer.

NCDXC OFFICERS

President	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB
Vice Pres.	Ted Algren	KA6W
Secretary	Ron Panton	W6VG
Treasurer	Jim Knochenhauer	K6ITL
Director	Kip Edwards	W6SZN
Director	Bill Fontes	W6TEX
Director	Hal Godfrey	N6AN

DXER STAFF

Editor	Jim Maxwell	W6CF
Contributing	George Allan	WA6O
Contributing	Hal Godfrey	N6AN
DX Ladder	Jim Hicks	KK6X
Production	Dave Hillman	N6AUS
Production	Ron Panton	W6VG

Send DXer contributions to

Jim Maxwell, W6CF
PO Box 473, Redwood Estates, CA 95044

Send DX ladder reports to

Jim Hicks, KK6X
2260 Santa Fe Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405

NCDXC REPEATER W6TI/R

Input 147.96 MHz; Output 147.36 MHz;
Simplex 147.54 MHz

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
Repeater Committee chairman	Smitty Smithwick	W6JZU

NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

On W6TI/R Thursday at 8:00PM local time.
Operations Manager

	Ralph Hunt	AG6Q
DX News	Phil Garrahan	W6LQC
Propagation	Al Lotze	W6RQ
Westlink	Chuck Vaughn	AA6G
Contest News	Steve Brunt	WC6I
Swap Shop	Steve Munro	KZ6Z
QSL Info	Jan O'Brien	K6HHD

NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
---------	------------	-------

W6TI, the NCDXC memorial station, broadcasts
DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST
(Monday at 0200 GMT) on 14.002 MHz.

biguous manner, means for rigorously defining boundaries of nations and other political entities which border on the world's seas. Eric has spent nearly three years sharpening his approach, and has extended it to include reasonable and workable deletion criteria.

We are privileged to have a brief summary of Eric's proposal starting on page 14 of this issue of *The DXer*. This is, I believe, the first time details of his work have appeared in print. Please give Eric's article a careful reading - Eric will be on the agenda at Visalia to discuss his proposal in greater detail.

Jim, W6CF

+ = + = +

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC

Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto was the location for the February 13th meeting. Very large turnout. After cocktails and dinner, the meeting was called to order at 7:43PM by president Lou Beaudet, K6TMB. Wine was supplied to members courtesy of Lou Beaudet and Jay O'Brien, in celebration of Lou having attained 5 band DXCC and Jay attaining 5 band WAZ. Guests were introduced by Ted Algren, KA6W. Guests included K6LOK, W8MEP, K6CXT, W6YHM, KB6PDU, WR6B, WA0QYI, KB6ZV, KC6O. Iris Colvin, W6QL, was wished "Get Well," and a card signed by the entire gathering will be sent to her. Jay O'Brien spoke on A6XYB. N6DKP, the 3CDXC contest chairman, has issued a challenge to us for the upcoming ARRL DX contest. Eric Edberg, W6DU, spoke on the Peter I expedition, the cost of the operation, and the need for donations. 20K contacts were made by two operators. Cups were given out by KE6OT for the 40th anniversary 40 zone mini-contest. The excellent presentation by Jo Clarke was on her visit to Roumania, Poland, and England. Excellent slides, and a knowledgeable talk was given by Jo. Jo also showed some of her slides of Peter I Island taken on her Antarctic trip. Secretary W6VG gave re-instatement readings to Bill Stevens, W6ZM, and Nick Hauck, K6QPE. First readings were given to WA0QII, W6YHM, K6CXT, and W8MEP. Second readings were given to WG6P, WN6R, N6EK, WZ6Z, WA8LLY, W6OSP, WB6UDS, K6MBV. All were voted into membership unanimously. Welcome fellows! A petition to place Baldur, DJ6SI, in honorary membership of the NCDXC was passed. Need for a *Westlink* volunteer was filled by KD6AZ, and Louese, KA6ING, volunteered for spotting net operation in the upcoming ARRL DX contest. KB6ZV, Rod Stafford, spoke on the happy news of a ham in Kentucky winning his tower dispute, and also collecting court costs, attorney fees, etc. A very successful raffle was conducted by Steve, W6MKM. The first prize of a Kenwood

to the Republic of Kiribati. Our friends of the Alaska DX Association unsuccessfully attempted to obtain country status for the Pribilof Islands. These questions, and others, have become disputes for a variety of reasons. The Pribilof dispute was fueled in part by the looseness of the definition of "mainland" in the DXCC criteria, while the American Phoenix problem became a problem because the DXCC rules do not contain criteria for deletion of countries. It is because of questions such as these, and others, that a subcommittee of the DX Advisory Committee for several years has been struggling with a revision to the countries criteria.

All of the above is for the purpose of introducing a new approach to the DXCC rules devised by Eric Scace, K3NA. Many of you will remember Eric from his DXpeditions to Clipperton Island, as well as his recent DXpedition to Lord Howe Island, from which he operated the CW ARRL DX Contest as VK9LT. Eric has been concerned, as have others, with ambiguities in the DXCC rules. Eric's new approach is based on *The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. *The Law of the Sea* establishes, in a thorough and unam-

SW2000 power meter was won by guest KC6O. Prize of a clock was won by Hal, N6AN, and the Yagi antenna book won by AA6Z. Meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ron Panton, W6VG
 Secretary, NCDXC

+ = + = +

REGISTER NOW FOR VISALIA!!

The time to register for the Visalia Convention is NOW. Pre-registration is \$40.00, and MUST be postmarked no later than March 8, 1987. All subsequent registrations will be \$45.00, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** A meal package (Banquet/Sunday brunch) will be available for \$30.00. Seminar only registration is \$15.00, with limited prize eligibility. Please make your checks payable to the **DX CONVENTION 1987**. Mail your registration and check to KK6X at the address given on page 2 of this *DXer*.



Jim Hicks, KK6X

+ = + = +

SPOTTING NET - THANKS TO ALL!!

The ARRL CW DX contest is now history. Some preliminary scores of NCDXC members are given elsewhere in this *DXer*. The success of the club effort was in no small part due to the efforts of the gang who acted as net control stations on W6TI throughout the contest period. If you worked a new multiplier as a result of the 2M net, thank the person who announced it first, but also thank the crew who took care of that thankless NCS job, and especially thank Louese, KA6ING, who worked for weeks ahead of time lining up the crew and ensuring that everything ran smoothly. The gang included the following:

K6ZM, K6KLY, K6TMB, KN6K, NV6Z, AG6Q, K6ITL, W6BSY, WX6M, K16CG, N6NOY, WV6U, W7SW, N1EE, N6BIS, WB6MZQ, KA6ING, WC6I, and AG6D.

A similar net operation is planned for the phone weekend coming up. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Think about it!

+ = + = +

DX CONTEST PRELIMINARY SCORES

The following scores have been reported thus far to contest chairman Steve, WC6I. Some mighty fine scores there - congratulations to all! When your logs go off to ARRL, don't forget to list the NCDXC for club competition, and send a copy of your score sheet to WC6I. This is important - Steve must have a final score from you to submit to League Hq., even if you have already given him your preliminary score!

In the listing, 1+ ops denotes single operator plus the spotting net, which places a station in the multi-single (MS) classification.

Call	Class	QSOs	Mults	Score	Ops	Comment
WX6M	MS	45	31	-	1+	
AG6Q	MS	57	45	7500	1+	
AA6AD	S	4	4	-	1	20M only
AG6D	MS	696	151	315k	6	
WA6TKT	S	136	74	30k	1	
W6REC	S	388	109	126k	1	
W6BIP	MS	93	34	9486	1+80M	only
K6LRN	MS	232	84	58464	1+	
K6ZM	M2	730	-	-	9	
W6XR	MS	150	59	-	1+	
K6RQ	MS	83	44	-	1+	
N6RO	M2	1927	271	1.566M	5	
NQ6E	MS	21	21	-	1+	
N6GG	S	510	81	-	1	20M only
KD6XY	S	19	19	1083	1	QRP
N6AUV	S	125	75	9575	1	
K6ANP	S	158	93	44082	1	
W6BSY	S	159	152	24800	1	20M only
N6OJ	S	127	56	18392	1	QRP
K6DR	S	400	80	96000	1	
KG6AM	S	10	-	-	1	
W6WB	S	300	116	104400	1	

Other scores of interest -

WA7NIN	MS	417	151		1+	W6OAT op
XE2EBE	MS	2746	242	1.9M	3	including W7MAP
N7NG	MS	700	-	-	2	N7NG + WA6AUE

+ = + = +

40 COUNTRIES IN 40 DAYS - APPLICATIONS

New member applicant Rod, WA0QII, has prepared an excellent application form for the 40 Countries in 40 Days award. A copy is enclosed as p. 17 of this issue of the *DXer*. Copies will also be available at the next meeting and from W6CF for an SASE. See page 2 for W6CF's mailing address.

FCC RELEASES CALL SIGN INQUIRY

Acting in response to a letter written by ARRL last June, and requests by three other interested parties, FCC has asked for comments on a proposal inquiring if call signs could be issued by the private sector. As stated in the Public Notice: "FCC favors the implementation of such a system if it can be accomplished with no additional cost or workload to the FCC. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments and proposals on this matter...so that a determination can be made as to whether to proceed with its implementation."

According to this proposal, FCC:

- Would only issue one 2x3 call sign for each new licensee, regardless of license class.

- This call sign would be from the NA-NZ block.

- FCC would then discontinue processing requests for any call sign changes, and freeze all presently assigned call signs.

- All other call signs would then be available to a special call sign coordinator, or SCSC, who could assign one or more supplemental call signs at the request of the licensee. This supplemental call sign could be used in lieu of the FCC assigned call sign.

- A SCSC would be operated on a not-for-profit basis but would be allowed to recover administrative costs.

- FCC said, in its preliminary view, that it would prefer having only one SCSC, since it would be more efficient in preventing the same call sign from being assigned to different stations and avoiding inconsistencies of assignment. Further, a single SCSC would minimize the number of points of contact between the SCSC and the FCC, thus holding the administrative burden upon the FCC in check.

- The FCC said its selection criteria for an SCSC are:

1) The ability to assign call signs in an efficient and objective manner;

2) The ability to provide an accurate on-line access data base of assigned special call signs for Commission monitoring and compliance work;

3) The ability to minimize FCC resources required in the establishment of the special call sign system and;

4) The ability to minimize the cost to the licensee for administering the system.

Written comments on this matter, numbered PRB-3, and proposals to be the SCSC, are due on or before April 23, 1987, with reply comments filed on or before May 22. The Commission requests an original and 4 copies.

The ARRL Letter, Feb. 10, 1987

+ = + = +

REPORT FROM LLOYD & IRIS

28 January 1987
Seychelles, Indian Ocean

Dear Friends,

We have concluded our operation as S79KG in the Seychelles Islands with 9,000 QSOs with amateurs in 130 different countries. We were on the air from 9 January through 27 January 1987.

We were very lucky. We arrived at the airport late in the afternoon. The information desk had a list of ten hotels to choose from. We asked them to give us one that was on the way to town from the airport. They then confirmed reservations for us at the Eureka Guest House. When we arrived at the Hotel, we were surprised to see a tri-band beam on a 60-foot tower. It turned out that this is the former QTH of VQ9R who departed the Island about ten years ago. We used VQ9R's beam the first night, but the transmission line was damaged, the rotator would not turn, and some of the rubber ends of the traps were missing. With great reluctance, we installed our own tri-band beam on our own telescopic mast just ten feet behind the one owned by VQ9R. We often wonder how much interaction there was between the two beams. In any case, we worked out great.

The Seychelles was really on the air in a big way this January, because Ian Shephard, G4LJF, was active as S79LJ during most of January 1987 on his own DXpedition.

73 es 88
Lloyd Colvin Iris Colvin
W6KG W6QL

+ = + = +

W6YFW IS STILL A MEMBER OF NCDXC !!

Ever heard stories from your friends about how they were done in by administrative goofs and by unthinking, unresponsive computers? Well the NCDXC has had its share of horror stories, with the latest victim Glenn Koropp, W6YFW. Although Glenn paid his renewal dues ahead of time many months ago, they slipped through some kind of crack. It took months to get the record straightened out, during which time Glenn was beginning to wonder if there was some sort of conspiracy at work to deny him his just benefits of membership. Well, the problem is finally solved, the cracks are chinked, Glenn is now and always has been a member in good standing! So, fellows, be nice to Glenn on the bands and on 2 meters! He's one of us!

Jim, W6CF

DXPEDITIONING IN ANGUILLA

I was in St. Maarten last summer for 10 days with my wife and three kids. One day I went over to Anguilla - 11 miles by boat. While there I saw a big house loaded with antennas - 4el quad for 20, Yagis for 10/15, 2 el 40 mtr beam, wires for 80 mtrs. I made some inquiries and finally got the scoop from VP2EHF. It makes for good reading.

If anyone is considering a DXpedition the points he raises about no one ever operating satellite, packet, 6m, etc. from VP2E may be of interest. Also the fact that there's been virtually no 160m operation from Anguilla might tempt someone to make the trip.

Tom, NW6P

(Following is the letter received by Tom from VP2EHF.)

The large house at Shoal Bay w/antennas is currently owned by a person who rents it to DX contest groups who come down, contest, drink beer, eat Oreo cookies and then fly home with their log books and dirty laundry. I have heard they pay \$2000 per week, but that is only rumor. We don't know exactly how to contact the owner, either, as he is supposed to be an airline pilot and who uses an agency to handle the rental.

There are other villa and house rental possibilities here on Anguilla, however. At one end of the spectrum is the Cinnamon Reef at \$360 per day. Very classy. Villa "L" at Cinnamon Reef is at one end of the bay and has 2 very handy palm trees. It has been used by several hams and the owner permits unrestricted operations! They should, at those prices.

There is our house on South Hill, which will be completed in March, and there are a couple of rather spartan "housekeeping" cottages which go for about \$150 per day, all of which have arrangements for ham radio operations.

Obtaining a license here is no problem. You need only a copy of your current FCC ticket and \$21.00 US. You receive a non-resident license good for 1 year. Your call would be VP2E/NW6P. A resident call such as Jerry's is available only to a legal resident of Anguilla. All of those people you see in the *Call Book* who don't have an Anguilla address have either expired licenses or were issued their licenses years ago when there was no control of callsign issue. Mr. Hodge, the Chief of Communications, is going to fix all of that eventually. It has taken me 3 years to receive my resident callsign, for instance, as I just became a legal. [Editor's note: The address for Mr. Hodge was given on an insert as on. Mr. Menes Hodge, Radio Anguilla, The Valley, Anguilla, B.W.I.]

Operating conditions are easily the most quiet in the area since Anguilla does not have a lot of noise

producers such as medical and cable TV devices. Also, not much AC line noise. You can carry your own equipment duty-free with only a list of equipment names and serial numbers. You probably already have that on your computer. Just give the list to the customs agent upon arrival.

I've enclosed a tourist brochure so you can get a general idea about Anguilla. The thing that you should know is that Anguilla is not the typical tourist trap, Caribbean island. We don't have gambling, nude/topless bathing, "tourist traps" that exist only to take your money, nor do we have crime, poverty, racial intolerance and prejudice, or general nastyness toward our fellow men and women. Anguilla truly is a paradise. Certainly, there are limitations, but does one really, truly, need Charmin T.P. and 110 channels of television?

Finally, unless you come here to contest, you don't need a beam. If you want real action just call "QRZ - VP2E/NW6P, Anguilla Island" on 14.225. Also, if you enjoy CW or RTTY, VP2E is rarely active on CW (except contests) and never on RTTY, 6M, FAX, slow scan, AMTOR, packet or EME. There has never been EME from VP2E, for instance. 160 meters has only been up once, when my XYL and I tried a 160 wire for a few days.

So, there you have it. I'll be back in the U.S. on February 2 for a while, so should you have any questions, please call me.

Best 73.

Dave Mann, VP2EHF/N4CVX

Whales' Walk
South Hill
Anguilla, B.W.I.

+ = + = +

WHITHER GOEST DXCC?

[Editor's note: The following letter was written recently by Jay, W6GO, to John Parrott, W4FRU, chairman of the DXAC. Jay has made some fascinating suggestions concerning the future of DXCC, in support of the DXCC restructuring study now being conducted by the DXAC.]

Dear John:

I really haven't had a position on the restructuring of DXCC until after the completion of my Golden Jubilee 100 countries. The effect that the Golden Jubilee has had on DXing in general has been the greatest shot in the arm for DX in a decade. This time, the ARRL really did it up right! The Golden Jubilee has brought out the old-timers, who, on the top of the Honor Roll, haven't had to work any DX for years, and demonstrated to us who are active that they really do

exist! Calls only read in *QST* actually show up in pileups for a "G"! Everybody gets into the act, and DX newcomers are treated to orderly pileups on normally not-so-rare DX. OK, ARRL, this is great, but what are you going to do next?

Here is my proposal for restructuring DXCC. It will greatly reduce Headquarters workload, make it easier and quicker to become a DXCC member, while preserving the tradition and processes so close to the hearts of those of us who have worked hard and long to get on the Honor Roll. And, it will continue the excitement of the Golden Jubilee!

1. The basic DXCC should be on a yearly basis, and on a log extract filing (no QSLs) as is the Golden Jubilee. This should be the only way to obtain a basic DXCC certificate. An aside: perhaps selected DX clubs could actually issue the certificates, merely notifying the League when a certificate is issued so that the recipient's call could be listed in *QST* as a DXCC member. It is expected that active DXers will earn a new DXCC each year.

2. To compete for the Honor Roll and to be listed in the DXCC country standings, the applicant would send all of his cards to the ARRL DXCC desk as is done at present. Perhaps the quantity of countries could be set at 150 or more before cards are sent to the League. The lowest country level to be reported in *QST* would be 150 (or whatever level is set).

3. To maintain good standing in the endorsed DXCC list (the "top" level) and the Honor Roll, one must submit a minimum of five new acceptable countries per year or qualify for the current year's DXCC.

John, my examples of the 150 country level for submitting cards, and the exact way to maintain proficiency and good standing are just that, examples. The concept of an easily obtained, yearly DXCC and a higher level of countries before Don Search and company come in to the act is what I am trying to sell. Also, I feel that some attention should be given to keeping those people who are touted as the top level of DXers proficient and active. I think we could heighten the interest in DX, bring in more DXCC members while at the same time continue the prestigious Honor Roll and DXCC endorsements for those who have worked so hard to get there; we would also increase the ranks of those aspiring to higher levels than just the basic DXCC; and, we would preserve the interest in QSLing while not making expensive and slow QSLing a prerequisite for membership in DXCC.

Please see that my proposal is considered. Thank you.

73.

Jay, W6GO

+ = + = +

SPREAD THE WORD AROUND THE WORLD!!

[Editor's note: Ripon is a city of several thousand population a few miles to the west of York in northern England. Ripon is also the home of NCDXC member Jerry Bliss, K6SMH/G0CLY. Alfred the Great granted Ripon its first charter back in 886 AD. Jerry's participation in the 1100th anniversary celebration resulted in super PR for ham radio, as can be seen by the following article from the January 23, 1987 issue of the *Ripon Gazette & Boroughbridge Herald*.]

While Ripon revelled in year-long celebrations to mark the 1100th anniversary of the granting of the city's first charter, there was another festival event taking place away from the glare of publicity.

And although American Jerry Bliss, of Orchard Close, Sharow, never left the city while on Ripon 1100 business he was perhaps the most travelled of any organiser throughout 1986.

For Jerry, an employee at the Menwith Hill communications base near Harrogate, is an enthusiastic radio 'ham' and a member of Ripon and District Amateur Radio Society who contacted 1,100 fellow communicators around the world.

"We set up a special events station on a certain frequency and explained the history of Ripon and the reasons for the festival - and thus the station - to anyone who contacted us. It was fascinating and rewarding work," said Jerry.

He went on: "Although most of the contacts were from around the United Kingdom and Europe, we talked to someone from all five continents - including 'hams' from behind the Iron Curtain."

"But then, as far as radio is concerned, the Iron Curtain doesn't exist. The radio is a great way of breaking through barriers like that."

Jerry, who talked to countries as far away as New Zealand, Andorra, Japan, Venezuela, Israel and Turkey, admitted that the 1100th contact was not made with a fellow radio operator in such an exotic location.

"His name was Chris Hardman, and he contacted our station from Blackburn in Lancashire, across the Pennines," Jerry reported.

"Each time a contact is made the two operators will exchange call signs and addresses and send each other personalised cards. These cards are collected by radio hams as records of countries and operators they have talked to," Jerry explained.

"The card we plan to send to Chris Hardman will be specially designed and based on the Ripon 1100 posters which could be seen around the city last year. We'll get it framed too and hope it will be a significant addition to his collection."



The Ripon Hornblower - a nightly curfew is still sounded



ARC EN CIEL PARIS-BEIJING-PARIS AIR RACE

On Feb. 28, WINGED QUEST piloted by Jim Bell and Judy Lund-Bell takes flight in an historic international air race beginning in Paris, France. The Arc en Ciel Paris-Beijing-Paris Air Race commences Feb. 28 and concludes March 27, 1987. During that time, twenty general aviation aircraft from around the world, three of which are from the U.S., will compete in the hope of winning this exciting sporting event. Of the three U.S. contestants, Judy Lund-Bell, a Fresno attorney, is the only woman pilot to participate.

It also happens that Judy Lund-Bell is the niece of NCDXC member John Gibon, N6OM! John has passed information along to the DXer covering the race itself, and

CATPERSON awards 0.29 CAT CLAW points each to AG6Q, KN6K, AA6G, KZ6Z, and WB6DFX for exposing more pearly whites at one table than ever before in the history of NCDXC meetings. The record-breaking event was captured on film by Mario, W6DUB.

TEN METER DEAD BAND CALLING FREQUENCY

The 10M band may or may not be open these days. We check it by tuning around and listening for a workable signal, hopefully a DX signal, and usually without much luck. Our chance of hearing someone on the ten meter band on a haphazard basis is about like drawing 4 Aces in a poker game. One way to improve the odds, to my way of thinking, is to establish a "dead band calling frequency" of 28,500 kHz on ten meters.

It would operate like this: you listen across the band and if you hear it open you know what to do. If you don't hear anything you don't know if it is open or if nobody is on. You can't tell which is which by listening. So you fire up on 28,500 and make a few calls. If everyone that is interested in a 10M opening would listen on 28,500 you could have a good chance of "opening the band." And if you monitored 28,500 kHz you might hear someone someplace when the band was open to that part of the world.

What brought this to mind was an experience of hearing a N4 station in a dead band condition who was calling CQ. I gave him a shout and had a short QSO with him and then had to leave on an errand but not before he and I had started a mini-pileup! There were about 6 or 7 stations calling that I could hear. This was on 28,500 kHz.

So if you think you want to open the band, try opening it on 28,500 kHz - the dead band calling frequency.

73.

Ray, K6FD

some tips on hearing the race participants on HF.

The air race consists of nine legs covering approximately 19,000 nautical miles from start to finish. Each of the twenty aircraft will be timed from takeoff to touchdown for each leg. At the end of the air race, the times will be compiled, and the contestant with the best over-all time will be the winner.

In their Cessna Turbo Centurion single-engine aircraft, Judy and Jim have installed Loran, SatNav, VHF and HF radio equipment, the latter being a Kenwood TS-430S. Their aircraft number for ID is N6113U.

During most of their flight, they will be within range of VHF facilities. However, during one long leg, from Hong Kong to Singapore via Kota Kinabalu, Brunei for fuel, they will be over about 1000 miles of open ocean. During this leg of their flight, which should occur near March 15, they anticipate using HF radio, in the USB mode. Four circuits will be in use, designated SEA-1, SEA-2, SEA-3 and CLARK AFB. (SEA denotes South East Asia.) Frequencies are as follows.

SEA-1	SEA-2	SEA-3	CLARK AFB
6556 kHz	3485 kHz	3470 kHz	6738 kHz
10066	5655	6558	11178
13318	8942	1066	13201
	11398	11398	18002
	13309	13318	23227
		17907	

Since there are 20 aircraft in this race, there is a good chance that their HF transmissions will be copyable in the U.S.

In addition to the excitement and intrigue of the race itself, many special events have been arranged at

the various mandatory stops enroute. In China, race participants will visit the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. Upon arriving in Amman, Jordan, the competitors will be welcomed by King Hussein, JY1, who is expected to host a reception with an air show.

+ = + = +

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

I'd appreciate having my license status changed in the club roster. I have upgraded to Extra this past summer - I could not stand not being able to make use of the first 25 KHz of the bands! [Congrats! de Ed.]

Perhaps the following information will be useful to others. Dacron line has practically no stretch so it works great for guy lines. The diameter will determine the load it will handle. Nylon will stretch like mad.

I cleaned up a rough case of horizontal oscillator radiation from my TV set. It was so strong that 40, 80, and 160 were almost useless. I found the radiation was escaping via the antenna twin lead. A Radio Shack high pass filter put in the TV twin lead input at the antenna terminals cleaned up the problem for me. The Radio Shack part number is 15-581.

73.

Hal, W6GQK

+ = + = =

Just a line to let you all know I'm still around. Changed QTHs a couple of years ago and I have not been too active. New location isn't so hot but I am back on the air. My son put up my 55' mini-mast a month ago with my Classic 33 triband and I've got my linear wired in and it works. So listen for a "weak" W1ICU.

A few other items should be squared up in the club records. There is a list of Silent Keys published, and for some reason Kay Brown, W6ZTJ, has not been listed. She joined the club shortly after I did in the late 60s and I believe was the second YL to join, as Iris was the first. Kay passed away in 1977. Also, I saw a list of Family Members Past & Present published in the last DXer and we were not listed. I realize that some records are not complete, so now maybe we can get in.

Otherwise we are doing the best we can. I did marry a gal I went to high school with. We live here in the winter at our home in Concord, NH. We have a place at York Beach, ME, that we use in the summer. Hope this finds all in fine shape!

Best regards and 73.

Norm, W1ICU

+ = + = +

NCDXC 40th Birthday cup arrived here the other day in FB shape! I am delighted to have it!

DXer for Feb 87 was great! Enjoyed seeing pictures of gang at HRO. I presume Brandy is an honorary member by now!

Enclosed news article ought to push G0CLY over the top of CAT CLAW point competition! [Don't count on it - CATPERSON's ways are straaannnnge, de Ed.] I had a lot of fun with GB2RIP operation - mostly a solo activity and over 1400 QSOs logged. [See reprint of article elsewhere in the DXer, de Ed.]

I will be QRV as GB4JLY on 4th July (all month) from here - hope to be QRO for that operation. Also the base (Menwith Hill) will be GB4JUL at same time. (QRV for NCDXC - 20M SSB.)

Our U.K. Volunteer Examiner team will be at the RSGB convention 27-28 March 1987 to administer U.S. exams for all interested hams. Expect to help out many U.S. hams over here to upgrade. Two local hams (U.K.) are delighting and amazing their friends with KB6 (novice) callsigns on local 2 meter nets. Products of the V.E. program.

73.

Jerry, G0CLY/K6SMH

+ = + = +

MEET THE MEMBERS

Sam Canter, W6TSQ

"---Terror of South Queens"

It's 1927, New York City, and Prohibition is in full control. Two cars full of Special "Revenoo" Agents ease to a halt and the men take their positions around the house. The inspector-in-charge peers through the night and nods to his assistant -- "This must be the place. Look through that basement window. See those dim blue and red lights...and look at all those copper coils. They must make a thousand gallons a day in there. The neighbors were right in reporting this place. They say the still is run by a fella they call the "Terror." He's supposed to have the biggest operation in South Queens! You take the rear -- I'll crash the front."

Thus did the Canter family lose their front door to a raid by the federals who sought to put an end to illegal operations. It's pretty hard to convince two truck loads of agents that those copper coils are really only radio parts. But closer inspection of a Federal Radio license on the wall which said "2BOZ," plus a breadboard full of those incriminating copper coils, and a 201A bulb, convinced the agents that this young high schooler was not only legal, but surely must be the next Edison. But the raid had its lasting effects, and ever thereafter, the young radio operator was

affectionately known in the neighborhood as the "Terror of South Queens."

Thus did Sam Canter, now W6TSQ, begin his colorful career in amateur radio -- or at least, it was something like that. Those early years in ham radio -- talking to far, faraway places, beyond the noise of the subway -- implanted the wander bug in young Sam, and it wasn't long before he was out to sea as a commercial ship's operator. And just to indicate Sam's enthusiasm for ham radio, he became one of the first amateurs to operate maritime mobile -- that was back in the early 1930's.



Sam - the Terror of South Queens

Sam continued sailing the globe and in 1940 operated from XU8AC in Shanghai. With WW2, Sam made one of the best decisions of his life and joined the Marines where he served for 3-1/2 years. After the war, Sam moved into federal employment in electronics, transportation, and computer systems analysis and design. He'd hit the beach for good.

Ever since the early days of 2BOZ, Sam has built his own receivers -- and still does. Just how good these receivers are can be judged by the results Sam gets on 75 which is nothing short of spectacular. We hope Sam will tell us about his receiver at some club meeting and rejuvenate some interest in their construction -- a moribund art.

Sam didn't just build his own rigs, he told others how to do it too. He is author of two construction articles: "The S-9er" in May 1956 *CQ*, and "The Poor Man's Signal Slicer" in December 1956 *QST*.

Sam is basically a DXer -- and always has been. He'll work a few during a contest, but the station has to be rare or a long way from home to get a call from "Tango Sierra Kaybek."

Sam says he has received only one certificate! A WAC dated February 20, 1930. It was the first of its

kind issued by the IARU and that same certificate was illustrated in April 1930 *QST* page 534 ... "issued to Sam Canter, W2BOZ."

And when a DX station gets a call from Sam, they really know they've been called -- loud and clear. Sam is located on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais and runs a 3253/2K-Ultra to fire a Mosely Classic 33. On 75 he uses a 100 foot center fed Zepp---and does it work out!

Of course, a lot of people have big sigs these days, so it has to be something else that gets Sam through the pile-ups. Sam keeps most of his secrets to himself, but does suggest that it's easier to "break" if you know the other op's nickname -- and he knows yours. And its pretty safe to say that the nickname "TSQ Sam" is well-known, world-wide.

Sam is a night owl and may be found in the wee hours prying new ones out of 75. Daylight hours, he's tuning the DX bands. But the 2 meter machine is always warmed up. As a matter of fact, Sam seems to be on 23 hours a day. He cannot be reached between 8 and 9 AM when he "goes down the hill to eat breakfast with the boys."

Sam, it's been a long way from being the Terror of South Queens, but we're glad to have you aboard NCDXC out here by the Golden Gate.

Jack, W6ISQ

(This biography originally appeared in the *DXer* in 1972)

+ = + = +

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO --

by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

Some years back, possibly a decade or two, Jim Neiger, N6TJ, showed at a club meeting after a long tour on a Pacific Island to ask: "What ever happened to the calling of the DX Convention by its right name, 'The Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club?' All I've been hearing on the air is the 'Fresno International DX Convention.' What happened?"

It was a good question, one which startled many of the club members. What did you say the name used to be? "The Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club? Are you sure?" It did seem that the members had long been accustomed to the International DX Convention title and it did not sound right to hear the phrase once used. Not at all.

Sometimes one will awaken in the middle of a night and grapple with a momentous question that comes to mind. Questions such as this one. How did things change? And why? And if you still remember the big questions when the dawn comes, you may even go looking for answers. We did.

We tried talking with some of the Ancients in the club. Those members with big scores, big antennas and long memories. They know and remember just about everything that ever happened within the club, or elsewhere. "Why did they change the name of the annual meeting?" we asked. And though the years may be many and the memories as sharp as they ever were, most of them replied: "Change? What change? When was it changed? No one told me about it! How come I wasn't told?"



Ancient DXer

We had to wonder about these ancient memories. There on the table was the announcement of the DX Convention over the signature of Len Gerald. And it was clearly stated there: "International DX Convention, Visalia, California." When we showed this to one incredulous Ancient, all that was said was: "Well, Son of a Gun!"

But one does not learn the eternal truths by confirming that in some instances the memories of the Ancients are not what they believe them to be. So we asked further. We found one who still had the thread of a recollection of things that happened back then. Back even twenty years or so.

"Seems to me that I recollect some discussion about such a matter," this one told us. "As I remember it, it was back in the mid-Sixties. Yes, that's when it was. I am sure that it was about the time that Bob Vallio was the club president. Someone asked about the title of the DX meeting, saying that calling it "The Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club" was just too unwieldy, that it made publicity and advertising difficult and that generally it sounded like a local hamfest. Some even suggested that a better title might be possible, something to sell the event. But the idea got nowhere and was quickly dropped. That's what happened!"

All of this was delivered with a note of finality that made any other opinion difficult to voice. "It got

nowheres?" we echoed, "what happened then?" The Ancient DXer smiled.

"The whole idea was being pushed by one of the newer club members," he recalled, "you know the kind, always wanting to change things and thinking that any change is for the better. But he was told rather bluntly that "The Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club" was and had always been the traditional title for the meeting and that was the way it was going to continue. Forever!" The Ancient leaned closer to make his point. "You do understand, don't you?" he asked. "What was being proposed was against the tradition of the DX Club. And never try to change tradition. Never!"

Some have told us that tradition is what you did last week. Or something you invoke when you don't want to be bothered or cope with any change in routine. But the more we talked with the club Ancients, the more it was realized that while the change in the title was readily apparent, most of them were not ever aware that it had happened. They knew for sure what the title was now, they could remember what it once had been called. But a change? Absolutely not! Nothing had been changed, nothing at all. That was for sure!" And at this point you should not ever ask questions about inconsistency. There are none. That's a club tradition. Never be inconsistent!

Should this sound to you like something made up along the way, you might be right. We were even having some bit of wondering ourselves. But, as it often happens, should you ask a lot of questions, you will get a bundle of answers, maybe even a few with the sign of the eternal truths written all over them. We did continue to ask questions and we did learn more. It was from another Ancient, one of the club elders, who told us another story and perhaps his memory might be better than others. But then again, maybe he knew more to start with.

"You have a bit of the right information," this one carefully advised us, "and it did happen back in the mid-Sixties, just about the time that Bob Vallio was the club's DXer of the Year. And though the proposal to change the name was lofted, it never flew. There were instant cries of "Tradition, Tradition!" and that ended it. At least out in the open." There was a small smile on the face of this Ancient and we suspected that there might be more to come. There was.

"This young fellow who was handling the publicity for the DX meeting came to tell me his problems," the Ancient continued. "It took almost two lines of type just to list the title and even then it meant hardly anything at all. He told me how he had made discreet inquiries over the air and while many knew about the Fresno DX Meeting, no one seemed to know what the annual joint meeting of the Northern California DX

Club and the Southern California DX Club was. And while most had never heard of a joint meeting, they sure did know what the Fresno DX meeting was."

The Ancient paused a moment, deep in the recollection of those great days of the Sixties, then continued his story. "This young fellow asked me what to do and I just advised him that perhaps he was right and if he thought he was, to go ahead. So he did. He had access to a lot of publicity outlets, used them to spread the title: "The Fresno International DX Convention" and, strange as it might seem, no one even seemed to notice it. Maybe only Jim Neiger but he was out in the Pacific, possibly Kwajalein or thereabouts, and Jim had a lot of time to read every letter in every word in the club bulletin. Back then about 125-150 would show for the big Spring DX gathering, look at the turnout now. But this fellow continued to use the Fresno DX Meeting title and it stuck. A few years later when it was moved to Visalia all they did was shift gears and call it the California International DX Convention and that has stuck. Is that what you wanted to know?"

It was. Somewheres along the way, and with asking all the questions, some feeling had been developing that someone had deliberately set out to change the name without telling anyone of his intent. Some of the Ancients we had asked were firm in their belief that nothing had ever been changed. How could it? Wasn't everything about the club absolutely perfect? And traditional to boot!

Perhaps some of the newer club members, those with ten or fifteen years of membership for example, may have difficulty in believing that the great DX gathering was ever known by any other title than the California International DX Convention. It fits, doesn't it?

And some of the honored Ancients will have difficulty in thinking of it as anything else than "The Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club." So what are you?

An Ancient? Or a Traditionalist? Or one of those new members who got in since 1970 who really cannot remember the right title for the California International DX Convention?

[Editor's note: So what is Cass up to - is this a parable, and if so, what is the eternal truth behind it? Well, the eternal truth is that it is actually a *true story*. The brash newcomer was Cass himself!! Back in 1968, during the early years of the *West Coast DX Bulletin*, Cass began to refer to the "Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club" as the "Fresno International DX Convention." The name stuck, although the informal change didn't become permanent until 1973.]

YEEOOOOWWWWLLLS HEARD ON THE CATS NET

by CATPERSON

To CATS on the CATS NET during the past month or so...

"For, look you, there is humour in all things, and the truest philosophy is that which teaches us to find it and to make the most of it." W.S. Gilbert, *The Yeoman of the Guard*.

Well, the BIG NEWS and Humour toward the end of January was PETER I. The CATS really screeched out. CATS who never were heard before on the NET were there. Even the ones who won't buy a gadget to put on their rig so they can key the repeater were there... listening and moving according to reports.

Some of you TOMS and TABBYS now know how it used to be most of the time when Gus Browning, W4BPD, was touring, or Don Miller, etc. etc. New one every few weeks...lot like Lloyd and Iris only more often (and we do hope Iris is much better after her injury!!). CATS were alive and well.

And, of course, with Peter on the air what seemed to be 28 hours a day, the CATS NET sounded like the First Annual Henny Youngman One-Liner convention. As Low Sierra Filosofer Fil, W6LQC, noted early on in the PETE Vigil, "There are some good one-liners here...I wonder if CATPERSON is listening."

You bet your bottles, Fil. Of course, CATPERSON was listening. CATPERSON is always listening. And what follows is only a small part of the repartee reported to CP during the GREAT PETE I CIRCUS. (And if you have others to share, don't forget to send them along to W6CF!)

Well, natch, W6GO and W6QHS were the first to work OLD PETE on CW and fone, respectively. So, what's new. And, congrats to both! After that, the ordinary, lonely, Citizen ALLEY CAT began to straggle in one-by-one with contacts, and when lucky, in batches of contacts when the pipeline was open in our direction.

W6MUR announces he has a switching problem.

After a few days of calling frustration, some of the sleepy CATS began to crack and crystallize, and their humor came in short spasms. Some interesting observations came forth--

N6DJM: "This is the best DXped since I been a ham."

W6KNH: "This is absolutely the worst DXped I ever heard. They have been working east coast U.S. for 2 days and never once stood by for sixes. It is unforgivable."

K6LM: "I am just pulling in to my driveway, so he will come on the air...right...now."

K6UD: "The pileups are beautiful and well-disciplined."

KR6O: "Anyone hear Peter I yet?"
CATS: "He's been on 2 days."
KR6O: "Is he signing 3Y1EE?"
CATS: "Yes."
KR6O: "How big a split is he working?"
CATS: "10-20 KHz."
KR6O: "How loud is he?"
CATS: "Good Q5 S5."
KR6O: "Is he taking tail-enders?"
CATS: "No."
KR6O: "Geeeee, I wish my rig wasn't broke."

K6LM: "You can measure PETER I sig strength with blood pressure gear."

K6XN was particularly hard struck with frustration. So, he told his penguin joke...K6XN was driving down the street with a load of penguins in the back seat of his car. Someone yelled, "What are you doing with all those penguins in your car? K6XN: "Taking them to the zoo." A while later XN is driving back down the street still with the load of penguins in his back seat. The fellow yells: "How come you still got the penguins in the car?" K6XN: "They liked the zoo so much, I'm going to take them to the baseball game." CATS meeeoowed sympathies.

W6KNH: "They have worked all over the U.S. as far west as Colorado and never once stood by for sixes...especially sixes who live behind mountains."

WB6OKX: after 4 days calling..."Almost like hooting fish in a rain barrel."

Did you note that after each TOM worked OLD PETE, he came on the CATS NET beat his chest, clawed the air fiercely, and yeeeoowwled about the great, fantastic operating technique he just used to snare PETE. "I just moved up about 342 Hz...one fast call... nothing to it!!" ("How long you been calling?" "5 days.")

K6LM: "After this guy works me on CW he is going to sail to Bouvet."

W6JD yelled on CATS NET..."long path, long path, long path." Everybody rotated north. The Greenland ice cap began to melt. JD quickly proceeded to work PETE with his vertical.

W6MUR spent 3 days on a computer calculating that the odds of anyone working BIG PETE on fone with the callers spaced out every 10-20 KHz was 1 in 25 million...or something like that. In the time it took MUR to calculate those incredible odds, BIG PETE made 4791 QSOs. Better run through that again... lessee...

W6GO: "People with garbage can lids for antennas were working PETE on 75." Well, a large lid at 23,000 feet, anyway.

W6KNH: ...6 days later... "They are doing a real job...lots of problems I know. They have a fantastic signal...I just zerrooed, one call...no problems. I'm going to relax." CATS too. We all knew the frustrations.

Right in the middle of the wailing CAT chatter on the NET, our bleary-eyed DX Advisory Committee Member K6SSJ waxed philosophic to Low Sierra

Filosofer Fil, W6LQC, and incredulous CATS. "Yeah, Fil, there are other things besides DX. There aren't many DXers who ever heard of the opera and ballet...or do any things that normal people do. I like to rag chew with even semi-rare DX stations. So, I QRX till the DXers finish, then I rag chew. There are a lot of other things as interesting as DX...and even more interesting. Some DXers don't ever think about the better things in life. I've talked too much and I got bad marks for my remarks."

W6LQC: "Very interesting, Bob. When you want to tippy-toe around on a stage, I'll sell tickets." There was a 15 minute silence while Ordinary ALLEY CATS recovered and raced to their phones to order opera and ballet tickets.

And so it went. All will agree...it was a GREAT SHOW. And one that may not be repeated very often again. If DXCC begins all over again, then maybe you will have this sort of excitement again. Otherwise, hooo hum. No new countries for the next 50 years.

ALL CATS SALUTE THE GREAT PETER I OPERATION AND OPERATORS! GREAT JOB. AND THANKS TO NCDXF FOR THEIR FINANCIAL AID!

5 Feb. W6JD quit smoking and his little 25 foot vertical magically turned into a triband beam -- (or will soon) -- long promised if he quit smoking. QUESTION: what will happen to N6QR's 180 foot tower and 7 multi-element monobanders when he quits smoking?

TWO QUESTIONS FOR CAT CLAW POINTS:

1. W6RQ asked this question in his Thursday night net commentary. How come they use "I" to designate amperes?

2. Where did the term "slim" (= pirate) originate?

QUOTE OF THE MONTH - W6LQC: "I wish you wouldn't doubt the sincerity of my remarks." Much too profound a statement for ordinary CATS. W6OL will again lead a delegation to the San Rafael oracle, WA6AUD, for interpretation.

EVENT OF THE MONTH - K6SSJ had 14 more absolutely final farewell, leaving town, moving banquets. K6SSJ is still here. K6SSJ departure delayed by nightly attendance at the ballet.

THE OTHER BIG NOOOOZE - K6ANP and his dedicated crew are feverishly preparing for Visalia. All those prestigious visitors, and BIG Prizes...and entertainment!!

For the banquet entertainment, K6ANP has commissioned Ron, W6VG, to set to music the "BALLAD OF PETER I." Which will be presented as a dramatic reading...to be read by WC6I with choral accompaniment and soloists. The "BALLAD OF PETER I" goes thusly:

"I got the antarctic island blues,
And I'd give up 8 pair of my shoes,
For someone to give me the news,
Of what calling frequency I should use."

The soloists, thus far volunteering are:

Castrato	W6PHF
Tenors	A few CW people
Baritones	A few fone fellows
Basses	K6WD, K6ANP
Double Basso	
Profundo	AG6Q
Sound effects	WWTHA5IN(formerlyWA6AHF)
Cheerleader	KA6W

After the usual 1 hour and 43 minutes of introducing the VIPs, and the 2 hours and 79 minutes of SCDXC giving away plaques and paper weights to every member of the club who could get to Visalia, and 1 hour and 57 minutes of giving away ARRL maps and ammeters and other valuable prizes...then and only then will W6VG and his harp and timpany Hard Rock group entertain for your ear-splitting rocketing pleasure until breakfast or until the NCCC hospitality suite closes---whichever is later.

If you would like to be a member of the ensemble, contact W6VG. W6VG would be even more grateful if you would help him with the music.

You all understand that W6VG has problems that many of us don't face. Did you know he once had a three piece combo? An organ, a cup and a monkey. For years he tried to write a drinking song, but he couldn't get past the first few bars. But he doesn't need glasses to face the music - - he drinks straight from the bottle. So, come on all you CATS give Ron a helpful paw. Volunteer for something. And if you don't want to compose, how about a call to K6ANP and say "What do you need? How can I volunteer to help with something at the convention?" Too many want a free ride. Do something useful!

REQUEST: Can anyone help the heavy-breathing and gasping *Westlink* announcer? Haven't heard so many gasps and wheezes since Arthur Godfrey used to advertise Chesterfields. (No, not Roy Neal. The other person.)

CATPERSON would like to thank all CAT REPORTERS who helped with gathering the quotes for this edition. N6AN writes to CATPERSON (can you imagine anyone writing directly to CATPERSON --- who usually receives correspondence through channels!) Anyway, N6AN writes, "CATPERSON deigns (sic) to call us OLD TIMERS aging TOM CATS. Admittedly a graphic but somewhat debasing description. We OTS prefer to be called members of the FELINIATRICES set, an apt description for aging CATS. Our motto is: "It is better to be over the hill than under it."

Now, CATPERSON can "deign" anything at all. If CATPERSON refers to some of us...sorry, you...as AGING TOMS, then you are AGING TOMS. When CATPERSON speaks...listen up! So, N6AN loses 1.98 Cat Claw points for questioning CATPERSON. However, CATPERSON is a charitable humanitarian, sorry humanitarian, type and likes to see a backbone statement by N6AN. At least he writes in monthly, which is more than can be said for 92.6 percent of you nincompoops. And CATPERSON likes the term FELINI-

ATRICES which you may now use amongst yourselves. So CATPERSON awards N6AN plus 1.39 Cat Claw points for his meager, but gutsy notations. CATPERSON even says, good for you, Hal, you OLD TOM. Remember that...to CATPERSON you're all OLD TOMS, even WC6I. Except for N6AN's net loss of 0.59 points, no Cat Claw points this month...no room. The rest of you take note.

LATE FLASH; Dr. Epps, W6OAT, President of the Save the Seychelles Sea Shell Society, learned of possible environmental problems on the Gloriosos that might effect the sea shells in the Seychelles. He is poised to leave for the Seychelles on first notice that the environmental problems have begun on the Gloriosos.

Digger...why didn't you call last week?

And goodnight Bob and Brandy...wherever you are.

+ = + = +

ROSTER CHANGES

Add new members -

- N6EK (E) Robert S. Fabry, 1175 Colusa Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707. 415-527-7655 (H)
- K6MBV (E) Michael Young, 2909 Frye St., Oakland, CA 94602. 415- 531-5197 (H), 414-774-7452 (W).
- WN6R (E) Val D. Quinn, 1130 Needham Dr., Vacaville, CA 95688. 707-446-7866 (H), 415-484-0340 (W).
- WB6UDS (A) Richard A. Carbine, 337 North San Pedro Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903. 415-479-3136 (H), 415-456-7677 (W).
- W6OSP (A) Bruce W. Butler, 3783 Young Ave., Napa, CA 94558. 707- 255-5424 (H), 707-257-1880 (W).
- WA8LLY (E) Steve Lund, 10180 Mill Station Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472. 707-823-4544 (H), 707-794-4456 (W).
- WZ6Z (E) Howard Brainen, 1110 Monan St., Oakland, CA 94605. 415-562-1716 (H), 415-548-6900 (W).
- WG6P (E) Dennis J. DuGal, 2008 Sharilyn Drive, Modesto, CA 95355. 209-571-9046 (H), 209-571-9046 (W).

Add reinstatements -

- K6QPE (E), R. Nick Hauck, 371 Bethel #27, Sanger, CA 93657. 209- 875-1351 (H).
- W6ZM (E) William J. Stevens, 2074 Foxworthy Ave., San Jose, CA 95124. 408-377-6722 (H).

Address changes -

- W6DB L. V. Krutz. Change address to 2387 W. Oakland Ave., Hemet, CA 92343.
- AE6U Scotty. Change phone numbers to 916-678-1713 (H), 916-678- 2103 (W).
- W6TPH Bill Zachman. Change address to PO Box 146, Southbridge, MA 01550.
- KM6N James L. Hanlon. Change address to 5635 Dupont Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.

An Overview of a Proposed Revision to DXCC Rules 2 and 3

by

Eric L. Scace, K3NA
10701 Five Forks Road
Frederick, MD 21701 U.S.A.

Abstract

This paper presents a quick overview of a proposed revision to the geographical country* criteria. The scope of the proposal is explained. Certain terminology receives a general explanation. The proposed rules (and methods of applying them) are then stated, with brief illustrative examples. The proposed rules are compared with the existing rules. Finally, an appendix suggests how to handle the transition between current DXCC practice and these revised rules.

Readers should be cautioned that this is a SHORT description. More detailed information may be found in other papers, *Detailed Discussion*, and *Background References*, both of which are available from the author at the address above.

1 Scope of proposal

The present DXCC Rules 2 and 3 are ambiguous. This proposal generally focuses on geographical criteria for determining what constitutes a DXCC country*, with the intent of removing ambiguity and inconsistent treatment of islands. The proposal does NOT:

- provide additional guidance on how to handle claims of "separate administration," such as 4U1VIC and 1A0KM;
- provide guidance to determine properly authorized amateur radio operation in a particular country;
- suggest whether or not to "start DXCC over."

Such issues can be resolved separately, without affecting the validity of this proposal.

An appendix discusses one possible method of transitioning from the existing country* criteria to the proposed criteria.

2 Concept and terminology

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the foundation for this proposal. Developed during 1968-1982, this treaty has been signed by almost every nation in the world (1). *The Law of the Sea* established certain principles which could be help-

* The word "country*" is used in this paper to designate a DXCC country, rather than the conventional understanding of a country as a political entity.

(1) The United States of America, although a key participant in developing *The Law of the Sea*, has not signed it. The Reagan administration disapproves of certain sections dealing with revenues from deep sea mining. These sections of *The Law of the Sea* have no bearing on its potential application to DXCC.

ful in DXCC country criteria. They are roughly summarized below:

- A baseline is the line around land from which all other sea territories are measured. Generally, the baseline follows the low water shoreline. Specific rules exist for handling barrier reefs, low water elevations, harbors, bays, river mouths, archipelagos, etc.
- The exclusive economic zone extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline. Within this zone a nation has sovereign rights to explore and exploit natural resources. The nation also has jurisdiction over matters such as artificial installations, scientific research, and the protection of the environment.

Where insufficient space exists for the complete width of exclusive economic zones between countries, a separating line equidistant from each country's nearest baseline points usually determines the limits.

The exact baselines and exclusive economic zone boundaries are filed with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Many recent nautical charts also show the limits of exclusive economic zones.

Since *The Law of the Sea* gives international recognition to these zones around land, and since the treaty contains precise rules for determining these zones, it seems reasonable to consider these zones as a basis for refining DXCC's geographical country criteria.

3 Approach

The concepts for applying *The Law of the Sea* to DXCC criteria were first suggested by K3NA in a conversation with W6SZN during March 1984. These concepts were subsequently refined through further discussions between K3NA and prominent DXers, including W6CF, W6ISQ, W6SZN, W6OAT, and W6RGG. The objective was to define and demonstrate systematic tests for separate country* status, based on geography and the principles of baselines and

exclusive economic zones, which could be replicated independently by anyone with consistent results.

In developing the following proposal, the approach taken assumes that the DX community would accept a moderate alignment of country* criteria with international legal practice, as expressed in *The Law of the Sea*. It further assumes that the DX community would prefer to retain country* criteria similar to those presently in use. It was also felt that the community would accept a limited expansion of the total number of qualifying countries*, as long as that increase results from a consistent application of reasonable tests.

4 Proposed rules and methods of determination

The following Rules, along with their Methods of Determination, would replace the existing DXCC Rules 2 and 3.

Rule 2: Intervening sea

Rule 2a: An isolated island/low tide elevation, or group of islands/low tide elevations, shall be considered a separate country* if, in its absence, its location would otherwise be on the high seas or in the exclusive economic zone of another country*.

Method of Determination: The test for this rule requires several steps. For the purpose of these tests, the word "territory" includes islands, low tide elevations, and continental land (2).

i) Construct the exclusive economic zone around each territory under the same administration, ignoring any other territory under the same administration but taking into consideration all other neighboring administrations and their territories.

Note 1 -- These zones may be overlapping.

Note 2 -- When an applicable exclusive economic zone limit for a territory has not been filed with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the zone limit shall be constructed from those points described below which are closest to the territory:

a) 200 nautical miles from the territory's nearest baseline point; or,

b) equidistant between the territory's nearest baseline point and the nearest baseline point of neighboring administrations.

ii) Test each territory under the same administration to see if it can be grouped together with other territories of that administration as follows. A territory under test becomes a member of a group if both of the following are true:

a) any point of the baselines of that territory under test lies within the exclusive economic zone (defined in step [i] above) of another territory/group of territories under the same administration; and,

(2) Continental land is the land of North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica, and Europe, excluding any islands and low tide elevations.

b) any point of the baselines of the other territory/group lies within the exclusive economic zone (defined in step [i] above) of the territory under test.

iii) Each resulting group, and each remaining isolated territory, shall be considered a separate country*.

Examples: Palmyra counts separately from the lower 48 United States, and from Hawaii.

Rule 2b: Two continental land areas, under the same administration, but separated by sea onto different continents, shall be considered separate countries*.

Method of Determination: Continental land is as defined for Rule 2a above. Continental land areas are considered separated if there is no overland great circle path between them. See Rule 3 below for definition of "overland great circle path."

Examples: Ceuta counts separately from Spain. French Guiana counts separately from France.

Rule 3: Intervening land

Two separated land areas on the same continent/island/or low tide elevation, and under the same administration, shall be considered separate countries* if they are separated by at least 75 statute miles of intervening land.

Method of Determination: Separation is determined by measuring the length of the shortest overland great circle path between each area. An overland great circle path must:

a) lie entirely on the inland side of all baselines; and,

b) be measured as if the line lay entirely at the low water line; and,

c) be constructed of one or more great circle lines which together comprise the shortest overland distance.

If the shortest overland great circle path is less than 75 statute miles, then the separated land area shall be considered part of the nearest country* under the same administration. "Nearest" refers to the shortest overland great circle path, as determined above.

Example: Alaska counts separately from the lower 48 United States.

Rule X: Deletion

A country* shall be deleted when it no longer meets Rule 1, 2, or 3. A country* shall be deleted if its surface area decreases by at least 25%, or increases by at least 33-1/3%; the new area shall be treated as a new country*.

Method of Determination: "Surface area" is comprised of all land surface area, all internal water surface area, and all sea surface area up to the limit of the exclusive economic zone (as constructed under Rule 2). Surface area shall be calculated mathematically.

ically by assuming a smooth surface located at the low water line.

- Comparison with existing rules

Existing Rule 2a:

The 225 statute mile limit is generally changed to 200 nautical miles (the maximum width of the exclusive economic zone). 225 statute miles = 195.5197 nautical miles, so the separation requirement has been increased by about 2%. However, in some places the exclusive economic zone is narrower due to the close proximity of neighboring countries*. In this case an offshore island or group could now qualify as a country*, even though there is less than 200 nautical miles of separation. A precise test has been defined.

Existing Rule 2b:

The 500 statute mile (434.4882 nautical mile) separation requirement is generally changed to 200 nautical miles. The same allowance for close proximity of other countries*, as explained above, is provided.

An important point is that a consistent treatment of islands is proposed. The existing Rule 2a now classifies a hypothetical Australian island located 300 statute miles from mainland Australia as a separate country*. A similar hypothetical New Zealand island located 300 statute miles from mainland New Zealand would not be considered a separate country* under Rule 2b. This inconsistency has been rectified in this proposal. The same precise test is applied.

Existing Rule 3:

No fundamental change, but a precise test has been defined.

New Rule X:

A new rule is proposed to indicate when countries* must be deleted, along with a precise test. Although the test is based on areas calculated using *The Law of the Sea* limits, the exact deletion criteria have been arbitrarily chosen to be large enough to significantly change the shape of a country*. A different percentage could be chosen.

6 Conclusion

Replacements for existing DXCC Rules 2 and 3 have been suggested, along the following lines:

- a) follow the general characteristics of the existing Rules;
- b) provide definitive tests for Rules 2 and 3, based on *The Law of the Sea*;
- c) align mileage criteria with *The Law of the Sea*;
- d) propose criteria for deletions, along with a definitive test; and,
- e) suggest a transition method (see Appendix).

Your comments and support are welcomed.

Appendix

Transition

If these proposed Rules and Methods of Determination are accepted in some form, then several possible transition methods exist. The choice of transition method does not affect the merits of the proposed new Rules; a different method from that found below could be chosen instead. However, the following transition seems reasonable and is recommended:

- a) Select a transition date. After this date, the new country* criteria would be in effect.
- b) Re-qualify all countries* on the basis of the new criteria to achieve consistency.
- c) Compare the re-qualified list against the present list, taking into account any changes in area and status. Handle each change as follows:

1 - An existing country* remains unchanged, or changes its size by less than the deletion threshold in new Rule X:

All previous QSOs which were valid for this country* remain valid. This is expected to be the usual case.

2 - An existing country* becomes significantly larger or smaller and thereby exceeds the deletion threshold in new Rule X:

The existing country* is deleted, as of the transition date. A new country(s)* qualifying under the new Rules is added to the current countries* list whenever the first radio operation occurs after the transition date.

3 - An existing country* does not re-qualify for some reason:

The existing country* is deleted as of the transition date.

4 - A presently deleted country* re-qualifies under the new criteria:

The country* is restored to the current countries* list, as of the transition date. Previously valid QSOs remain valid.

5 - A new country* is created:

The new country* is added to the current countries* list whenever the first radio operation occurs after the transition date, just like the way things are handled today.

If this transition method is applied in conjunction with the new criteria suggested above, a net growth of approximately 10-20% in the current countries list is expected. A preliminary list of countries* qualifying under the proposed criteria, and of associated deletions, is developed as part of the companion paper, Detailed Discussion, available from the author.

40 COUNTRIES IN 40 DAYS AWARD

(0000Z 13 FEBRUARY - 2359Z 24 MARCH 1987)



CALLSIGN _____

AFRICA

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

ASIA

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

EUROPE

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

NORTH AMERICA

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

SOUTH AMERICA

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

OCEANIA

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

ADDITIONAL

	DATE	TIME	STATION	BAND	MODE	RST	RST
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

OPERATOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____