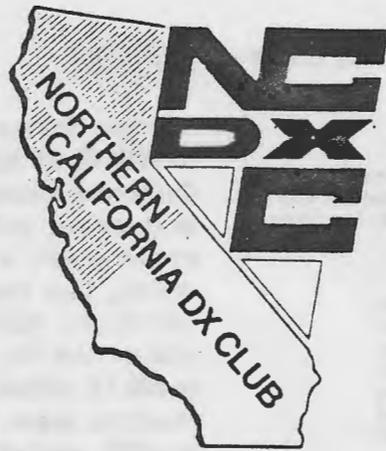


THE



DXer

APRIL 1987

VOL. XL - NUMBER 4

CALENDAR

- April 3-5 - 38th International DX Convention, Visalia, Grosvenor Hotel (formerly the Visalia Holiday Inn).
- April 11 - Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College, Los Altos.
- April 22 - Last date for inputs to May DXer.
- April 24-26 - Dayton Hamvention.
- April 25-26 - Helvetia DX Contest.
- April 30-31 - CQWW WPX Contest CW.
- May 9 - Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College, Los Altos.
- May 9-10 - U.S.S.R. CQM Contest.

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APRIL MEETING - NONE THIS MONTH!!

There will be no regular meeting of the NCDXC this month. The Visalia International DX Convention (also known as the Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club) will be held April 3 through April 5 at the Grosvenor Hotel, Visalia. Pre-registration is long gone, but there is plenty of room left at the regular convention price of \$45.00. A meal package (banquet and Sunday brunch) is available for \$30.00. A star-studded convention is planned, with the main event at the Saturday evening banquet to be a presentation on the recent Peter I DXpedition, by Einar Enderud, LA1EE/3Y1EE. This is shaping up to be one of the great conventions, one not to be missed!

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FROM THE PREZ

My sincere thanks to all that participated on behalf of the club in the ARRL DX Contest. The word from the Southland is that they have 7.1 mega-points. Our score currently is slightly more than 7 meg. So, it

is really going to be close. Please be sure to get your logs and summary sheets into the ARRL and be sure to indicate that your score is to go to the NCDXC. Also, send a copy of your summary sheet to Steve, WC6I.

The BIG news this month, of course, is the International DX Convention in Visalia. The convention committee has really put together an outstanding program. DXers from around the world will be there to exchange greetings and partake in the social aspects of the meeting, as well as to be brought up-to-date on what's happening in the world of DX. It's going to be the place to be on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of April, 1987. Attending the convention will be a great way to celebrate the club's 40th Anniversary.



K6TMB, falling to pieces from pre-convention tension.

I am still getting requests from DX stations to remind the members to please QSL for the 40th Anniversary and California Awards. Please QSL the DXers you work as they really feel they are a part of the celebration of our Anniversary.

Hope to see you all in Visalia.
73 es DX.

Lou, K6TMB

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NCDXC QSLs STILL AVAILABLE

Knock, K6ITL, reports he still has 24000 NCDXC QSL cards on hand. The price, including imprinting with your name, address and call, is \$54.00 for the first thousand, \$52.00 per thousand thereafter. Yes, less expensive cards are available, but these full color cards are real eye-catchers, worth using to confirm new countries and other special QSOs. Send your orders to K6ITL at his Roster address.

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

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

NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
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W6TI, the NCDXC memorial station, broadcasts
DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST
(Monday at 0200 GMT) on 14.002 MHz.

nounced the next board of directors meeting at home of W6VG will be March 17. Phil, K6ZM, presented the California Award to Rudi, PAORLF. W6TEX announced that award coffee mugs still available. After the smoke break, a film on Viet Nam was presented by W6ISQ, Jack Troster. This was a DXpedition in 1973. Phil Wight, VS6DR, offered comments and additional info on the film. Secretary W6VG gave first readings to N6LFX, VP2ML, W7SW, N6NBB, and W6TZA. Second readings were given to W8MEP, W6YHM, K6CXT, WA0QII, and all were unanimously voted into membership. Volunteer bartenders for the convention were forthcoming. WB6WKM asked for a reading of the February board of directors minutes as they reached the DXer too late for inclusion in the March issue. Meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Panton, W6VG
Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Meeting held on March 17, 1987, at home of W6VG. Present were K6TMB, KA6W, K6ITL, N6AN, W6TEX, W6SZN, W6VG, and guests AA6G and W6MKM. Meeting convened at 7:21 PM when called to order by president K6TMB. Chuck, AA6G, gave a special report on their committee's recommendation for a NCDXC 9 band DXCC award. The committee consisted of Larry, KG6GF, Ted, KA6W, and Chuck, AA6G. The board agreed unanimously to accept the award. Details will appear in the DXer. The suggestion of Dick, WB6WKM, to show the all-time list of DXer of the Year in either the Procedures Manual or the roster will be done. A petition to expel a member was considered at length, and a special board meeting will be held March 19th with the member present. Knock, K6ITL, gave his treasurer's report. With the increased cost of club badges and postage, the board has raised the new member fee for club badge and pin to \$15.00. Knock also reported that the NCDXC now has ARRL insurance in force. Designs for the 40 year award were shown, and one picked out to be used. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Panton, W6VG
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC

March meeting held at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto on Friday, March 13. During cocktail hour W6MKM sold raffle tickets. The club made \$108 over the cost of the prizes. Meeting called to order by president Lou Beaudet, K6TMB, at 7:55 PM. Guests N6NBB, VP2ML, WB9HIP, N6BIS, W16Y, PAORLF, W6TZA, WB6YKI, and Merle Parten K6DC & XYL were introduced by v.p. KA6W. Lyle Meek, WW6F, gave update on Visalia DX Convention. Lyle outlined the guest speakers, seminars, prizes, both hospitality evenings. Len Gerald asked for volunteers to help at the convention. Volunteers to handle convention raffle include W6MKM, W6OSP, W6REC, W6VG, any other volunteers will be welcome. Thanks were given to Louese, KA6ING, and Steve, WC6I, for their work on the spotting nets during the ARRL contests. A "dramatic" reading of the "Ballad of Peter I" was given by Ted, KA6W. Words by Catperson, music "Antarctic Blues" by Venerable Goat. K6TMB an-



CONVENTION PROGRAM

Following is the latest edition of the program for the upcoming Visalia DX Convention, per co-chairman Lyle, WW6F.

Friday, April 3

- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Registration in lobby.
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cocktail party - hosts *The DX Bulletin* & NCDXC.
- 8:00 PM - Dinner - On Your Own.

Saturday, April 4

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Clipperton '86 - F6GXB.
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Registration in hall beside seminar room.
- 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM DXing with personal computers - N6VI.
- 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM Contest Forum - W6SZN, N6TJ, K3ZD, N6BT and others.
- 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM VK9XI Christmas Island - ZL1AMO.
- 12:00 N - 12:50 PM DX Forum, a Proposal for Restructuring - K3NA.
- 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM VK9YW Cocos-Keeling - W5KNE.
- 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM Antenna Forum - KA6W.
- 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM Cocos Island - TI9W.
- 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM YASME '87 Indian Ocean DXpedition - W6QL/W6KG.
- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Cocktail party poolside - hosted by US Tower & NCDXC.

Saturday Evening Program - Valley Oak Center Room

- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Banquet dinner.
- 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM Evening program and awards presentations.
Guest speaker - 3Y1EE Peter I by Einar Enderud, LA1EE.
Grand prize - TS940S.

Sunday, April 5

- 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM Breakfast brunch.
Guest speakers JY7Z/N6TJ and team.
Prize drawing - Yaesu FT-757.

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K6DC NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Merle, K6DC, has been having more than his fair share of troubles since he moved to Santa Barbara a few years ago. He is now threatened with a lawsuit which, if successful, may put him off the air permanently - even though he is in accordance with all city ordinances and has caused no radio interference!

How can we help? One way is to WRITE. Write a letter "To Whom It May Concern" telling what you know of Merle, his support of world-wide amateur radio, his public service activities, his value as a good, honest and decent human being, the respect we all hold for him. Write using your own thoughts and words, and mail it to Merle Parten, K6DC, 930 Alston Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108-2312. WRITE TODAY. Time is of the essence. Let's give Merle a box full of testimonials to carry with him into court.

Jim, W6CF

REPORT FROM LLOYD & IRIS

4 March 1987

Maldiv Islands, Indian Ocean

Dear Friends,

A dictionary gives the following information: MAL -- means evil, harmful, hurt, bad; DIVE -- means fall or plunge.

The dictionary is absolutely correct because on 4 February 1987, while leaving the Maldiv Telecommunications, Iris slipped on their steps, fell and broke her leg just below the hip joint. There is no qualified doctor or facilities in the Maldiv Islands to perform the extensive surgery required. With considerable difficulty and pain, Iris was transported on a stretcher by small boat to the island where planes land, and from there by airplane (we had to buy tickets for four seats) to the country of Sri Lanka where Iris had a four-hour operation. She now has a pound of metal in her leg and has started the rather long time required to get back on her feet and walking again.

The radio amateurs of Sri Lanka, 8Q7CH in the Maldiv Islands, and the radio amateurs world-wide have been very helpful and kind to Iris. Their support, gifts and messages have gone a long way in making Iris determined to get well as soon as possible.

We flew back to the Maldiv Islands and have finished our operation as 8Q7QL as of today, with more than 4,000 QSOs with radio amateurs in 120 countries. There is no QSL bureau here, therefore all QSLs should go to YASME.

We plan one more stop before returning to the USA in April 1987.

73 es 88.

Lloyd Colvin Iris Colvin
W6KG W6QL

AMATEUR RADIO SUSPENDED IN INDONESIA

Dudy Ramli, YB0DPO, of the Orari National QSL Bureau in Jakarta reports that the Indonesian government has imposed a "radio silence" on all Indonesian ham stations from Mar. 17 until May 1, 1987. The General Elections on April 23 are cited as the reason for the suspension. Let's hope ham radio resumes after May 1, as promised!

The DX Bulletin, March 20, 1987

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INDIA AND "GREEN STAMPS"

It has been mentioned frequently that "green stamps" should not be included with QSLs for the on-going Andaman and Nicobar operations. Evidently it is not necessarily illegal to possess foreign currency in India, but the source of the foreign currency may be a problem. According to one Indian ham, who now lives in the U.S., some Indian hams may not be able to justify having foreign currency in their possession, particularly a large number of "green stamps." IRCs are acceptable.

QRZ DX, March 23, 1987

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ALBANIA TOPS MOST WANTED LIST

The DX Bulletin has just released the results of its 1987 Most Wanted survey, based on 679 surveys returned this past summer. The top ten worldwide, with percentages needing them, are as follows.

Country	Prefix	% Needing
Albania	ZA	81
S. Yemen	7O	75
Bouvet	3Y	74
Burma	XZ	72
Andaman	VU7A	72
Vietnam	XV	68
Afghanistan	YA	67
N. Yemen	4W	65
Libya	5A	57
Laos	XW	56

As pointed out by Chod Harris, Publisher of *The DX Bulletin*, Libya and the Andamans have been activated since the surveys were returned - in fact they are both active right now. Five of the top 20 have been activated in the past few months.

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REPUBLIKA POPULLORE E SHQIPERISE



OPERATED BY: CW - DL7AV + DL7NS
SSB - DJ0UJ + DL7FT

CONFIRMING-RADIO	DATE	GMT	MHz	RST	2-WAY
W6	18 JUNE 1971	0435	14	559	CW SSB

QSO verified by DL7FT QSL-manager VY 73 *ham*

Who Needs It?

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GOLDEN JUBILEE UPDATE

W6BIP DOES IT ON 80/75 METERS
W6GO RECEIVES CERTIFICATE

The big news this month is that Bip Bachman, W6BIP, has applied for his Golden Jubilee Certificate for QSOs made since the first of the year on 80 and 75 meters only. He did the job in 53 days. 75 countries were worked on 80 CW, and 25 were worked on 75 phone. Congratulations, Bip, for a real achievement!

Jay, W6GO, received his Golden Jubilee Certificate on March 12. It was dated January 5, 1987. Jay reports that the certificate is "really nice," apparently worth the long wait. Although Golden Jubilee Certificates aren't numbered, Jay is almost certainly the first person in the world to have qualified for the award. His time of 48 hours, 42 minutes, was the shortest reported thus far.

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NOVICE ENHANCEMENT

The following info was copied by Ruben, WA6AHF, from W1AW on Feb. 23. Tnx Ruben!

Novices will be able to operate through repeaters. As long as the repeater input is in the novice subband, it makes no difference if the output is or is not.

Novices may operate only CW and SSB on the phone segment of the novice subband, 28.3 to 28.5 MHz.

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REVERSE CALLS FOR RECIPROCALLS?

At the January 1986 annual meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to petition the FCC to allow reciprocal operators in the US to put the prefix first, followed by their call sign. For example, "W4/DL6TJ" instead of "DL6TJ/W4." This modification was also endorsed by the Region 2 IARU Conference in Buenos

Aires last year. The ARRL had held off filing the petition because the Canadian/U.S. reciprocal agreement specifies the current call sign system. However, HQ now understands the Canadian government would be relaxed about enforcement about that point, and that CRRL is also in favor of switching. The matter has been preliminarily discussed with FCC, and so far HQ has found no reason for FCC to object. Upon approval of the Executive Committee, ARRL will petition FCC for such a change shortly.

ARRL Letter, March 10, 1987

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ART COLLINS, W0CX, SILENT KEY

Arthur "Art" Collins, W0CX, founder of the Collins Radio Company, died February 25 at age 77. First licensed as a radio amateur in the 1920s, Collins formed the Collins Radio Company in 1931 to build quality transmitters principally for radio amateurs. When Admiral Byrd planned his 1933 expedition to the Antarctic, he selected Collins to build his transmitters.

There were two key inventions by Collins which helped make the company's transmitters superior to any other commercial manufacturer: the Autotune, a device which enabled the transmitter to be tuned instantly, and the permeability tuned oscillator (PTO).

In the 1930s Collins began building transmitters for Braniff Air Lines, placing the company as a leading supplier of avionics equipment. By the 1970s, it was estimated that Collins equipment was used for communications or navigation by 80% of the free world's airlines.

Prior to WWII, the Collins Company won major US Navy contracts, which launched the company into large-scale electronic production. During WWII, there was Collins communications equipment in most Navy ships. Collins transmitters aboard the USS Missouri were used to broadcast the V-J Day surrender ceremonies.

To radio amateurs, the Collins Radio Company is best associated with its early work with single sideband. In 1955, its KWS-1 was virtually the first commercially manufactured SSB transmitter. For decades Collins equipment was the "top of the line" amateur equipment and it was a dream-come-true for many amateurs when they could eventually own it.

ARRL Letter, March 10, 1987

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FOR SALE OR TRADE

Tri-Ex 70 ft. Sky Needle Model TM370C. Heavy-duty tip-over base, motorized. Unit has been modified so that complete mast rotates. Trade for late model car or pickup.

Jack Reeder, W6NGZ
408-867-7926

HOMESITE FOR SALE

5 acre homesite in foothills just outside city limits of Saratoga where county permits are available for high antennas. Excellent site for your future QTH. View of San Francisco Bay. Excellent terms - 15 years: \$199,000.

Jack Reeder, Real Estate Broker
408-867-7926

**THE BALLAD OF PETER I
THE ANTARCTIC BLUES**

Words by CatPerson-Music by Venerable Goat
March 5, 1987

A m Dm6 Am G Am F Dm Dm6 E7 Dm6 E7

F7 E7 F E7 Bflat 7 A7

F7 E7 Am Dm6 Am F7 E7 A m6 F Dm6 Am

Here it is - the Ballad of Peter I ! Words by CAT-PERSON, music by W6VG. Memorize the words and tune for the Visalia banquet sing-along!

INVITATION FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

We of the Southeastern DX Club would like to extend an invitation to NCDXC members to visit us at a meeting if you find yourself in Atlanta. Call any 1987 officer for details.

President - K4TEA 955-5800
 V.P. - K4PI 942-4576
 Secty. - K4JAG 355-4850
 Treas. - W4UYC 255-5299
 Activities - K4JRB 448-0588
 Spec. Pgm. - N4NX 993-3631

Mike, K4PI

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WEST COAST VHF/UHF CONFERENCE

The 32nd annual West Coast VHF/UHF Conference will be held May 1-3 at the Dunfey Hotel, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo. Convention chairman is NCDXC member Ross, WB6GFJ. Although not directly related to HF DXing, several topics may be of interest to DXers. The first three talks on the agenda are

W6RXQ- LORAN C: Secret Weapon for Grid Positions.
 N6NB - Stealth Antennas Are Out of Sight.
 KE6ZE (NCDXC Member) - Computer Design of Very Long Yagis.

Advance registration of \$10.00 must be received by April 17. Thereafter it will be \$15.00. The banquet will cost \$22.00 per person, including tax and tip, with a choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Kiev. Send registrations to Project OSCAR, Inc., PO Box 1136, Los Altos, CA 94023-1136.

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ARRL PHONE DX CONTEST PRELIMINARY SCORES

Contest chairman Steve, WC6I, reports the following preliminary scores for the phone weekend of the ARRL DX Contest. When you send your entry off to ARRL, don't forget to list the NCDXC for club competition, and to send a copy of your score sheet to Steve.

Classes listed are as follows.

MS Multiop. single transmitter. (Mostly net users.)
 MM Multiop. multi transmitter.
 M2 Multiop. two transmitter.
 SOAB Single op. all band.
 SOSB Single op. single band.

Call	QSOs	Mults	Score	Class	Notes
K6TMB	1176	220	776k	M2	
K6XO	1416	199		MM	
W6GO	1440	238	1M	MS	
WG6P	870	172	450k	MS	
WX6M	450			MS	
N1EE/KH6	1500			MS	
K6LRN	105	48	15k	MS	
W6BSY	330	120	118k	MS	
WA6AHF	224	109	73k	MS	
KD6AZ	87	56	4k	MS	
WC6I	82	38	9k	MS	
W6BIP	62	29	5k	MS	75m
N6ITY	111	54	17.9k	MS	
NQ6X	58	50	8.7k	MS	
N6RC	42	32	4k	MS	
6Y5V	6500	300	5.85M	SOAB	A16V op.
WR6R/KH6	3940	250		SOAB	
WZ6Z	861	166	428.7k	SOAB	
K6GSS/KH6	1617	57	276.5k	SOSB	20M
W6REC	692	172	350k	SOAB	
K6ITL	456	156	213.4k	SOAB	
K6SIK	356	156	107k	SOAB	
K6DR	365	100	109k	SOAB	
KB6GV	351	133		SOAB	
K6MA	175	89	46.7k	SOAB	
W6YVK/QRP	165	53	26.2k	SOAB	
N6OJ/QRP	278	90	75k	SOAB	
N6JM	274	113	92.8k	SOAB	
KG6AM	32	29	2.7k	SOAB	
KD6XY	26	24	1.8k	SOAB	

Other scores of interest -

XE2EBE 5080 270 MS
 Ops AA6DP, KI6EZ N6BT, W7MAP
 HR6A 7700 Op WB5VZL
 V31CV 7000 Op. KE5CV
 K2SS/VP2V 10300 296 M2
 Ops. WA6VEF, K3EST & others.

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SPOTTING NET - THANKS AGAIN!

The following persons acted as control stations over W6TI during the DX Contest. Thanks to them, and thanks especially to Steve, WC6I, who organized the net operation.

WC6I, W6BSY, AG6Q, WA6AHF, W6TEX, WA9WYB, W6OAT, N6NE, WA6LIJ, W6TMA, W6MKM, KR6T, N6BIS, W6OSP, AA6T, AA6G

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Stan, K6MA, Knock, K6ITL, and Jo, WB6ZUC, caught playing at the Burlingame Toy Store. Note the ever-ready baton in Jo's left hand. Photo by W6DUB.

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LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de DJ6RX -

I studied the paper on the proposed DXCC rule change. Some paragraphs are rather difficult to read. For instance 2a i). The main outcome however seems to be clear - we will get 10 to 20 percent more countries. I like the idea for only one reason. It will boost DX activities and bring back some of the "have all countries confirmed" guys back on the bands. Sometimes I hear guys saying "They should delete all countries where there was no operation for more than a certain time period." In particular younger DXers never have a real chance to climb up to the worked all level without such a rule. What is ARRL's position to these rule changes? Is there any indication they may accept the changes?

Some local guys did interpret ARRL's info about 3Y1 absolutely wrong. It was understood 3Y1 would not be accepted as a new country, however they overlooked the little word "yet."

My 160 meter work came more or less to a stop. I guess the season is over. Worked 121 now and have 93 confirmed. It is looking good for my DXCC application. The last good ones were HR6, J7, 3A and ZL.

Meanwhile I got the KLM KT34XA antenna and I'm waiting now for warmer weather to take my home-made antennas down and replace them by the KLM.

This may allow someday to add a 40 meter directional antenna above the tribander.

73.

Klaus, DJ6RX

[Editor's note: Copies of last month's *DXer* were sent to W1XX at ARRL Hq. and to several members of the DXAC, including chairman W4FRU and W0SR, the chairman of the DXAC criteria re-write sub-committee. It's too early to know what will become of K3NA's approach, but based on past experience in dealing with W1XX, W4FRU and W0SR, I'm sure they will give K3NA's material careful consideration.]

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de K6DR -

After trying for about three years I was finally successful in receiving my QSL for the VU7WCY/TS Laccadive DXpedition. Attached within the envelope was a personal note from Ganesh in which he lists a number of NCDXC stations in the log for K6 stations worked by VU7WCY on the same day he worked K6DR. That date as you will note was 13 Jan. 1984. The list, although only covering K6s for that one date, may lead to someone's confirmation that is still needed. He claims 2352 stateside contacts between 8 to 25 Jan. 1984, and a worldwide total of 7560 QSOs.

Other K6s worked by VU4WCY on Jan. 13, 1984 -

K6DDO, K6GA, K6DC, K6PU, K6UJG, K6MA, K6AYA, K6RK, K6CBL, K6LM, K6DT, K6AAW, K6GXO, K6XP, K6JG, K6OX, K6TQ, K6GA (again), K6YV, K6AC.

73.

Tony, K6DR.

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de N6TJ -

Obviously the Editor has been smoking a bad brand of rope in claiming that he and N6JV set a NCDXC record (*The DXer* - February 1987) for Around-the-World propagation. If W6CF can, for a minute, return to earth, he may recall the incident preceding the 1968 ARRL Phone DX Contest when he (as W6CUP) was operating WA6GFY in Sunnyvale, and this writer (as W6BHY) was manning K6OHJ in Belmont. With WA6GFY's beam pointed SE and K6OHJ to the NW, these intrepid DXers, located a scant 25 miles apart, had a long path QSO with S-7 signals.

Since the K6OHJ-to-WA6GFY long path is clearly greater than the W6CF-to-N6JV path, how can W6CF claim a record when he (as W6CUP) already is a co-holder at a greater distance?

Shoddy journalism, indeed!

73.

Jim Neiger, N6TJ

[Editor's note: Congratulations to Jim for remembering 19 years into the past, no mean feat for one with his unfortunate disability.]

DX OPERATING TIPS

(Editor's note: The following article has a fascinating history. It appeared a few months ago in the monthly newspaper of a certain U.S. military base. The newspaper, which is professionally produced, is circulated to all base personnel. Each issue carries a column for the base ham club. Because the newspaper is circulated to non-hams as well as hams, the column is written to inform and entertain a general audience as well as the licensed club members. The author therefore puts a little gentle humor into his column from time to time. Several months ago, in order to make a point, the author poked some innocent fun at some of his military colleagues. At least he *thought* it was innocent fun. The military did not agree. When the newspaper appeared, a roar of protest broke out. The entire press run was withdrawn, destroyed, and then reprinted *without* the offensive ham radio column! But a small number of copies survived the purge. I found the column amusing, and find it astounding that it generated such a harsh reaction. It is reproduced below, with permission, of course. All names and locations have been changed from the original; please don't come on 2 meters and ask where the article was originally published, for I won't tell. The author, incidentally, is a well-known and highly skilled DXer and contesteer, but his identity must also be withheld.)

I sat in the Club late one evening just before Christmas trying to write out a gift list for some of the fellows in the ham club: a bottle of Jim Beam for George; a weight-lifting set for Al; the 1987 edition of Las Vegas at Night for Pete; and the latest *Robert's Rules of Order* for our president Henry. All that thinking made me thirsty. To get another beer would take no small effort, I thought, since the latest crop of TDY military pups were sniffing around the bar as Julie and Michelle drew the brew and popped tops as fast as their fingers would fly. I decided to get two beers.

Those who know me or perhaps saw my photo in last month's column will appreciate that I am no featherweight, and can appreciate what a MAJOR obstacle those boys in green presented to my refreshment when I unsuccessfully tried to work my way to the bar. I sat down again to plan my next maneuver when I noticed a pretty, petite blonde sauntering in with a friend of mine in tow. I invited them to join me, and my friend expressed amazement that I had an empty beer bottle in front of me with no refill prospects. He offered to buy the round, but he, too, was discouraged by the density of the O.D. green skin heads at the bar.

His girlfriend, Elaine, assured us that she'd handle the details of the next round. She rose from the table with her back to the crowd and bent down as if to pick something up from the floor. A few eyes turned her

way, then she walked up and down the line of fatigued flesh once apparently trying to size up the force distribution. Soon all eyes in the second and third ranks had focussed on various parts of Elaine's body. The hard core, first rank began to weaken, and she made a break for a strategic point in the mass of bodies. I imagined Moses beheld a similar sight when the Red Sea parted, as those boys with the funny haircuts peeled away from the bar to make room for Elaine. Within a couple of minutes the three of us enjoyed our drinks. Mission accomplished.

I thought about the event and its similarity to certain types of behavior on the ham radio frequencies. Competition is often keen to work a station in a rare country for either an award, contest points, or another sense of satisfaction, and enormous "pile-ups" can occur when it seems everybody and their brother is trying to simultaneously call the rare station ("DX" in ham lingo). A pileup sounds like a shark-feeding frenzy looks. So much radio frequency energy is poured onto the air at once that the casual listener must be careful to avoid electrical burns from his radio's knobs. DXing is not for the faint of heart.

One might correctly assume that the "big guns" using impressive antenna systems and kilowatts of power snag the rare ones first. But effective radiated power is not the only way to get that rare contact. After all, there are plenty of little guys and gals who've worked two or three hundred countries with hardly more than a few watts and a simple antenna. Technique counts for quite a bit, just as it did in Elaine's case. "Tail-ending" (in a certain sense what Elaine did when she bent down) is tossing part of your callsign out just as the DX finishes a contact, hopefully getting his attention before other stations make their call. A particularly devious method to break into a pileup is to pretend to call an even rarer station on a slightly higher or lower frequency, thereby drawing off a significant fraction of the pack for a few moments while you slip back to the original frequency and make your call to the real DX station.

Perseverance and technique often prevail, but the DX station may invoke certain rules to make the game a little easier for him to manage. For example, he may request only JA calls (Japanese hams) to call for a certain period of time then request calls from another country. The DX station may set aside a period for lower power (QRP - 10 watts or less) stations only. Another technique is to use a not-so-rare third party station to manage the pileup and provide a list of calling stations to the DX taking a great deal of burden off the rare station. This latter technique of taking lists is controversial at best, since it relies not so much on the contact with the rare station as it does with the list manager. In the end, no matter what, some hams turn away winners, others "pull the plug" as losers. It's all in the name of fun.

TECHNICAL TOPICS

ADDING A "MAGIC EYE" TUNING TUBE TO THE TS-930 AND TS-940

As most owners know, the Kenwood TS-930 is a fine rig with the exception that the built-in S-meter is poor in appearance and awkward to use. With little difficulty, however, the S-meter can be replaced by a sophisticated, green "magic eye" tuning tube as used in Gonset Communicators in years past. This modification, although originally designed for the TS-930, can be adapted readily to the TS940 also. The electrical changes are simple: follow the schematic in Figure 1. The existing S-meter can be removed with a pry-bar or wood chisel. The front panel opening is then enlarged with a rat-tail file, and the "magic eye" tube is fixed in place with white "medical" adhesive tape. Use tinsnips to cut an empty Sucrets can to form a new bezel. Paint it grey for a professional appearance. The filament transformer for the 6E5 tuning tube can be obtained from any junk TV set and mounted on the top cover of the transceiver, 2-1/4 inches in from the right rear corner.

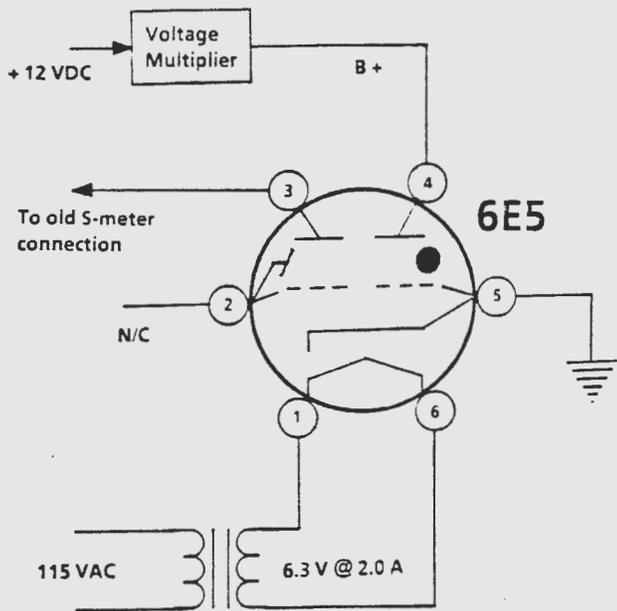


Figure 1

Thanks N4GG and the *GEARVAKf Bulletin*

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QUIZ

What is the longest English word that can be formed from dot letters only? (Dot letters are letters made up of only dots in Morse Code, such as e and i.) Similarly, what is the longest English word that can be formed from dash letters only? 0.78 CAT CLAW points will be awarded for each correct answer.

YEEEEEOOOOOOOWWWWLLLS HEARD ON THE CATS NET

By CATPERSON

Being a precise record of what probably did and did not happen on the CATS NET since the past report.

CATPERSON wants to begin this month by apologizing to all CATS on the CATS NET for various indiscreet remarks made in the past about some of you sweet TOMS and TABBIES.

YOU FOOLS! If you believe that, you will believe what you read here.

CATPERSON NEVER APOLOGIZES. APRIL FOOLS!

All CATS were very happy to hear Iris, W6QL, back on the air from 5Z4 after her recent fall and subsequent operation in Sri Lanka. But watch out for that net she checks into --- On 27 Feb. one of the MCs of that net is reported to have said to ZY0SA (who was trying to check in), "get off net frequency. This is a DX net."

NEW COUNTRY ODE - CATPERSON's latest gift to catkinds literary treasures:

Oh, it's Andaman and Nicobar,
And never the twain shall meet.
Or is it Andobar and Nicaman?
Now wouldn't that be neat!

The DX report by Low Sierra Filosofer Fil, W6LQC ("Six Love Quenched CATS") on the weekly Thursday night net meeting continues to be interesting and informative. Few weeks ago after his report, Fil stood by for "any other DXers with reports?" WWTHA5IN (formerly WA6AHF) hollered, "break-break-break. Big News." Fil: "I didn't hear any DXers; go ahead Rubin."

25 Feb. W6KH: "Yeah, that rig only has 1700 watts out --- very wimpy by today's standards."

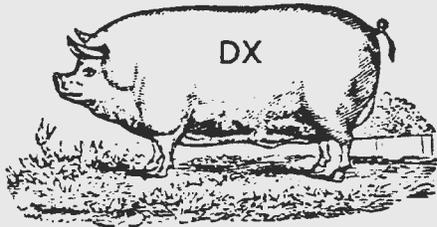
29 Feb. W6GO: "Congratulations on your sharp listening, Sam. I only sent my call once and you knew I was there immediately."

W6TSQ: "Well naturally. I'll put that in my book of gold stars."

CATS were back in DX heaven. Right on the heels (or paws) of PETER I came VU4 and later TU4 and 4M0. CATS want to thank W6RJ and WB6ZUC for alerting CATS during the ARRL phone contest that the VU4 was on 20 CW and the FT8 was on 75 CW. Lot of CATS took advantage of most ops attention to the phone contest and worked these stations on CW before the mob later descended.

Speaking of the VU4 operation: After a few weeks of the VU4 showing on several bands/modes, N6QP stated over the NET somewhat as follows: "We want to thank all the CATS who worked the VU4 a minimum of 5 times each mode each band --- with many who still need it for a new one still calling."

Shame on such selfish CAT ops! CATPERSON seconds --- and thirds that one. Your calls have been clawed and inscribed on the lid list. You know who you are!



You Know Who!

30 Feb. K6LM: "In Japan radio dials turn from right to left."

31 Feb. Word is out that there may be electromagnetic emanations polluting the seas near Gloriosos sometime soon. Knowing of Dr. Epps', W6OAT, overwhelming commitment and interest in the Save the Seychelles Seashells Society, in the part of the world, many CATS foned him to say that pollution may soon be occurring in that area. However, a telephone recording answered, "Dr. Epps, W6OAT, has departed on a scientific mission of mercy for an indefinite period."

32 Feb. W6TSQ to K6SSJ: "You have not been on this band (75) long enough. You don't have a well-developed sense of ESP."

Speaking of K6SSJ --- and who is --- isn't? --- Bob has been heard doing a lot of mobile operation lately. Actually, he has been driving around from one final farewell banquet to another before his departure from the Bay Area. So far, 17 final banquets this month. We hope he will change his mind and stay. What have all those open-spaced ranches have that those beautiful densely-packed Los Gatos houses don't? But Bob says, "NO. I GO." His big problem is that his new adobe rancho Casa in the Valley is still filled with iron workers and steeple jacks --- all 129 acres packed with workers. CATPERSON tried to interview the workers to find out why they were in SSJ's house so long. Problem is they only spoke French. But spies reported that the workers were seen trudging periodically over to look at --- and take measurements from --- a huge picture of the Eiffel Tower nailed to the barn wall. When asked to comment, SSJ replied, "Wee, Mias, Non, Monsewer. Zey Beeeed la leetle towaaaare pour whippe W6KPC."

1 March. KG6GF: "It is a horrible, disgraceful and terrible thing for amateur radio operators to try to get on any list any time to try to work DX stations --- and where are they taking the list?"

3 March. A few CATS phoned the editor of this tabloid, W6CF, to complain that CATPERSON did not mean to say that AG6Q would be singing double basso profundo in the all volunteer ensemble which would perform the BALLAD OF PETER I at Visalia. They said CATPERSON meant AG6D. You TOMS do not understand. When CATPERSON says AG6Q will sing double basso profundo, AG6Q will loosen his belt and bellow

double basso profundo. Actually, AG6D was going to sing triple basso profundo. But in the tryouts for the chorus, AG6D set off all the earthquake listening alarm systems in the Santa Clara and San Benito counties.

6 March. K6LM: "Working DX into a head wind is kinda hard."

7 March. ROADS SCHOLAR, English teacher, whistle blower, W6ERS, submits the following:

Oh am she went,
Or are she gone?
And is me left here all alone?
It cannot was!

Thank you, Uncle Vern. Someone please lead him back to his book stall.

8 March. W6LQC: (Lately he's on the net even more than a couple CP could name --- but we love it.) "It is refreshing to see the rest of the world does not live by our puritanical laws."

CATS overwhelmed. What is the real meaning of those profound words? What is the hidden consideration? LQC just does not speak idly without producing something for the masses to ponder and strain over.

CATS vote to send delegation to consult the Oracle of San Rafael, Prof. Cassidy, WA6AUD, to help search for the true truth of those enigmatic words. W6OL ousted as chairman of the delegation because CATS didn't like the answer he brought back from the oracle last trip. New delegation chairman is WB6CUA who will surely extract something of the truth.

13 March. Fantastic club meeting. The BALLAD OF PETER I written by your ever-modest CATPERSON was set to music by W6VG, our Venerable Goat, and played on a tape recorder of dubious quality. Gorgeous, sonorous, soleful, organ music. Sheet music and words were distributed to all present. WC6I was supposed to dramatically read THE BALLAD but he had a hangnail. So Ted, KA6W, read the haunting verse in a beautifully melodic voice which soothed and caressed the words for the listener's ears. Tabloid editor W6CF was so overcome and overwhelmed with emotion that he leapt from his chair, tears in his eyes, clutched the mike from KA6W, and sang the second round --- all unrehearsed. Obviously. Many CATS also joined the chorus, but most were too overwhelmed with emotion to sing or purr. Most had swooned.

There were, of course, CAT cries of "author-author" for CP and VG. CP was not present, but VG modestly took his bows and also took his right full place alongside Mozart, Beethoven and Spike Jones.

Immediately following the emotional presentation, tabloid editor, James MacSwill, W6CF, was beseeched and besieged by CATS begging him to autograph the sheet music. And he did! Imagine! CATPERSON is livid. The contemptible imposter CF taking credit for the immortal works which he didn't write. CP is vengeful and demands all those having a CF autographed sheet of music to bring them as evidence to the courthouse where the plagiarism trial will be held.

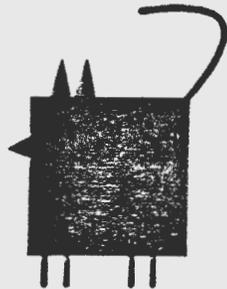
The music appears in this tabloid. Memorize the words for Visalia. It will be sung there by the full chorus and all CATS are expected to stand with respect, heads bowed, during the performance. CATS may join in on the 21st repetition --- if they can hold back that long.

N6HR was contacted to do an accordion rendition of the Ballad, but he had to go to Easter Island on business. N6RO and the Devil Mountain Jazz Band were all set to play the Ballad but RO decided it was too overwhelming a work for such a small band --- there must be someone...

14 March. WWTHA5IN is chasing girls again and is trying to lure other OLD TOMS into similar hot pursuits. Yes, Rubin got the DXCC-YL itch. It used to be all the NET had to put up with was strange chasers-of-awards like N6JV and his WPX, and W6CF and W6ISQ with their County Hunters. But now Rubin is trying to organize the OLD TOMS into a DXCC-YL CAT chasing society.

Expect that Rubin and the OLD TOMS will be on the NET calling CATS to frequency every time a TABBY meeeoowws. Rubin got so excited trying to work Martha, the YL operating the 4M0, that he forgot to turn off his QSL printing press machine --- and he printed 23,000 extra YASME 5Z4 QSLs for Lloyd and Iris. Will be cheaper for the Colvins to return to 5Z4 than to throw away the cards.

15 March. Little Puddy Tat, CATPERSON saw you out there jancing around on the back fence the other night. And if any of those Billy Goat Gruff OLD TOM DXCC-YL-Chasers give you a bad time --- bend a claw in my direction. Indeed, you have grown up since I saw your picture in this tabloid a few months ago. Perhaps --- when the moon is full in a few weeks...



Puddy Tat

CATPERSON thanks K6ZX for the late-arriving answers to the Marathon Quiz. A big 5 CAT CLAW points to you. However, you had all 7 answers wrong. So we take away 7 CLAW points. Your answers will be published soon.

WWTHA5IN has written a second verse to the BALLAD OF PETER I. This doggerel reads as follows.

I no longer got the Antarctic Island Blues
And I gave up 8 pair of my shoes
Cause someone gave me the news
Of what calling frequency to use.
Now I've got the 3Y Blues
Cause I got no QSL cards I can use.

Following this, even CATPERSON has trouble continuing. Still, Rubin is herewith commended for his mighty effort! This is pretty good considering his

poetical capacity. But, sorry! Ruben is awarded a negative 2.32 points for this poem for using up too much valuable CATPERSON time just reading it. Also, it is viewed as a thinly veiled advertisement to sell QSL cards.

16 March. WB6CUA reports back to the NET that WA6AUD refused to receive the delegation who wished counsel for determining the unanswered, hidden truth of LQC's epithet. The Oracle's pet squirrel reported that AUD was on a nearby mountain ridge alternately contemplating the Farallons and the Coit Tower. AUD is still in a considerable dilemma about whether the DX Convention name should be "The Annual Joint Meeting of the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club" or, "The Fresno (or Visalia) International DX Convention." However, the real, overpowering problem now seems to be that he cannot determine whether NCDXF should precede SCDXC or vice versa. It would be terrible to say "...Annual Meeting of the SCDXC and NCDXC" if, in actual fact, it should be "... NCDXC and SCDXC." AUD is emaciated and tense as he wages his lonely battle with satanic forces to determine the truth. Can anyone help out our dithering Oracle?

WB6CUA fired as Chairfeline of the delegation.

REMEMBER. At Visalia, carry yourselves with dignity and sobriety. Do nothing that would demean the CAT'S NET and its members. Let the SCDXC CATS do their weird things, NOT YOU. You are above that. CATPERSON will be most everywhere, monitoring. And if you, readers, discover anything that you think CATPERSON missed (heaven forbid!), please write in.

At all times follow the Universal CAT CONDUCT CODE of HONOR.

Be alert. Bob and Brandy may be at Visalia.

Red Flash Alert --- will Digger accompany the 3Y ops? W6DU hopes so.

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ROSTER CHANGES

Add new members -

- W8MEP (E) Gerald D. Griffin, 123 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA. 408-649-5705 (H).
- W6YHM (E) G. Donald Eberlein, PO Box 1064, Los Gatos, CA 95031. 408-354-2058.
- K6CXT (A) John N. Knight, 322 Coleridge Dr., Salinas, CA 93901. 408-757-8542 (H).
- WA0QII (A) R. (Rod) Roderique, Box 60982, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. 408-737-2000 (W).

Changes -

- K6QPE R. Nick Hauck, Phone No. should be 209-875-2451.

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