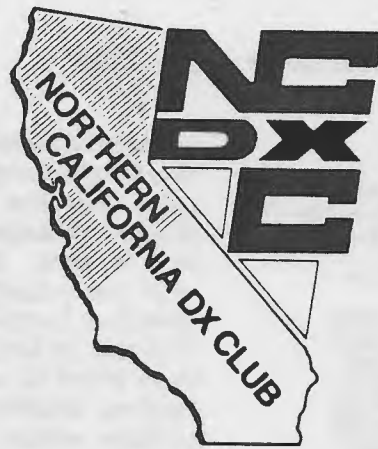


# THE



# DXer

JUNE 1987

VOL. XL - NUMBER 6



## CALENDAR

- June 12 - NCDXC June meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto.
- June 13 - Electronics Flea Market, Foothill College.
- June 13-14 - South American CW Contest.
- June 13-15 - ARRL VHF QSO Party.
- June 20-21 - All-Asian Contest, Phone.
- June 21 - Father's Day.
- June 24 - Last day for inputs to July DXer.
- June 27-28 - ARRL Field Day.
- July 1 - Canada Day Contest.
- July 11-12 - IARU World Championship.

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## NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY, JUNE 12 ELECTION NIGHT

The next meeting of the NCDXC will be held at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, on Friday, June 12. The meeting promises to be a good one - Howard, WZ6Z, will have slides and talk about his visit to a number of European DXers earlier this spring. And, of course, this next meeting will be election night - your once per year chance to select your leaders for the next twelve months. Cocktails at 6:00PM, dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

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## FROM THE PREZ

It's marathon time again folks. So get the rigs tuned, the antennas cranked up, blow the dust out of the paddles and mike, and get ready for some summer fun. The marathon starts at 0001 UTC 1 June, and ends at 2359 UTC 31 August. The way propagation has

been the last few weeks we should be able to really roll up some good scores this year. Get in there and participate. It is a lot of fun to see how many countries you can work during a three month period.

Speaking of participation, it is election time again. Now's the time to contact the nominating committee members, W6TEX, W6MKM, or WA6O, and throw your hat, or someone else's, into the ring. It's a lot of fun, it can be hard work, and it is certainly an honor to be an officer in the best DX club in the world. So run for office, and be sure to attend the election meeting on Friday, June 12, 1987, at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto. See you there.



Lou, K6TMB

73 es DX.

Lou, K6TMB

PS: CATPERSON, you felonious, prevariCATING feline, behave yourself.

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## DUES DUE JULY 1

NCDXC dues are payable as of July 1 for the period of July 1 1987 through June 30, 1988. The dues schedule is as follows:

- Regular members (living in No. Calif.) - \$24.00.
- Absentee members (living elsewhere) - \$16.00.
- Family members (two or more at the same mailing address) - \$24.00 for the first one, \$15.00 for each additional member.

Remember, the final date of payment is September 30. Those who do not pay by that cutoff date will not be listed in the next Roster, will not receive the DXer, and will be required to pay a \$10.00 reinstatement fee (plus a full year's dues) to get back in.

Pay your dues early and avoid the rush!

Knock, K6ITL

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**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 Pantan       | W6VG  |
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|              |              |       |
|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Editor       | Jim Maxwell  | W6CF  |
| Contributing | George Allan | WA6O  |
| Contributing | Hal Godfrey  | N6AN  |
| DX Ladder    | Jim Hicks    | KK6X  |
| Production   | Dave Hillman | N6AUS |
| Production   | Ron Pantan   | 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;<br>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       |
| Contest News                             | Steve Brunt WC6I    |
| Westlink                                 | Dave Bottom KD6AZ   |
| 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<br>DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST<br>(Monday at 0200 GMT) on 7.015 and 14.002 MHz. |                  |

performed by N6RO on the Peabody Banjo. Voices by the Schola Cantorum of the NCDXC, and profundo basso recitative by Al, AG6D. The ultimate award in this presentation to Hal was a "Cats Claw" whistle with lanyard. N6AN was understandably overcome with the presentation of such awards, and made a speech of humble thanks. Hal then presented a beautiful sack of Kitty Litter to be passed on to Catperson. In an effort to outdo the previous presentation, Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF, made a mighty presentation with glorious verbiage. The happy recipient of this gorgeous plaque was Eric Edberg, W6DU. This award was beautifully inscribed with the "Tail Ender" words - "Old Age and Treachery Will Overcome Youth and Skill." Needless to say, Eric was almost at a loss for words, but not quite. K6TMB gave club thanks to N6AN and WC6I for their work on behalf of the 40 year contest. Smoke Break. The slides and talk by Dave Engle, KE6ZE, on Greenland and Alaska were appreciated by all, and the presentation was very well done. Secretary W6VG read re-instatements for Bob Artigo, KN6J, (formerly W6GFS), and Carl Snyder, W6MSF. Second readings were given to N6LFX, Jim Bird; VP2ML, Chod Harris; W6TZA, Howard Swezey; N6NBB, Ray Minehan; Scotty Martin, W7SW. All were unanimously voted into membership. Life membership applicant Steve Stephenson, W6MKM, was unanimously voted in as life member No. 27. Details on the club achievement award 9BDXCC was given by Chuck, AA6G. The design for the award plaque was unveiled by Bill, W6TEX. It was moved, seconded, and voted to adopt this award which will start October 10, 1987. Howard, WZ6Z, spoke briefly on his recent trip to Europe, and brought back regards from the prominent DXers to our local big guns. The assembled group voted against a club picnic this year. Lloyd and Iris will however have their 4th of July "Do" this year, and all are invited. Details later. Meeting adjourned at 9:23PM.

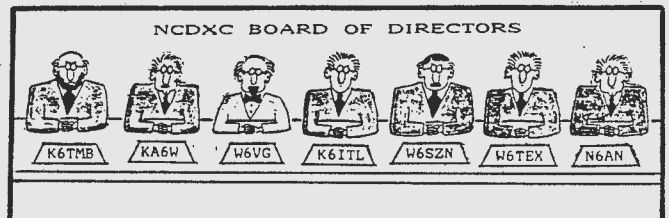
Respectfully submitted,  
 Ron Pantan, W6VG  
 Secretary

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**MINUTES OF THE MAY 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC**

May meeting held at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto. Before the business meeting got under way, W6MKM conducted a very successful raffle. Meeting called to order after dinner at 7:52 PM by president Lou Beaudet, K6TMB. Vice president Ted Algren, KA6W, introduced guests, including Herman, FO5HT. Len Gerald, K6ANP, spoke on our successful DX convention, and gave special thanks to Bob Ferrero for the prizes. Also his congratulations were extended to co-chairman Lyle Meek, WW6F, and registration chairman Jim Hicks, KK6X. Len also thanked the eager raffle ticket salesmen W6MKM, Steve, and Duane, W6REC, for putting the finances in the black. Lou thanked Len and his committee for such a superb job. The "Cats Claw" award was presented by Jim Maxwell, W6CF, to the lucky winner Hal Godfrey, N6AN. Hal is the first recipient of this prestigious award. The award was a beautiful bowl of cold mashed potatoes and gravy. However, the follow-up award was a cassette recording of the smash top 40 hit, "The Ballad of Peter I," as played on the mighty synthesizer with obligato

**MINUTES OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 4, 1987**



Meeting was held at the home of W6VG. Present were K6TMB, KA6W, W6SZN, K6ITL, W6TEX, N6AN, W6VG, and guest W6MKM. Meeting gavelled to order at 7:15 PM by president Lou Beaudet, K6TMB. A motion was made by W6SZN that the club have no picnic this year. Motion died for lack of a second.

Next motion was for having the picnic question placed before the membership for their decision. (a) Should we have a picnic this year? (b) Should the club participate in financial support of said picnic? A report of the nominating committee was made by chairman W6TEX. Also on the committee was WA6O and W6MKM. The procedures manual is going to be scrutinized for possible needs for updating, or changes. N6AN and W6VG will do the look over. A discussion of the 9BDXCC award eligibility requirements brought forth a vote on same. (The 9BDXCC was approved by the board on March 17th.) The vote was 5 ayes, 1 no, and 1 abstention. It was moved that the 9BDXCC award concept will be presented to the general membership in May. 6 ayes, 1 no. The DX convention recap shows the convention to be in the black. We have 64 winners in the 40 x 6 x 5 award. Discussion on repeater finances. Marathon contest ideas brought up. W6ISQ is bored, but it is too late to make any changes in the marathon this year. The marathon starts June 1st. Plaque designs brought forth to be used for the 9 band award. DXer costs discussed. The life membership application by Steve, W6MKM, was approved, and will be presented to the general membership May 8. The question of club QSL cards was brought up. Do we want to order more cards? It ties up a good chunk of club money which could be earning interest. The club makes nothing on the club QSL cards. W6MKM wanted ideas for raffle prizes. He got quite a few suggestions, and Steve will implement them at future raffles. Next board meeting will be June 15. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Panton, W6VG  
Secretary

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**SILENT KEYS**

C. B. Smith, K2RM, ex-W6RM -

I regret to inform you that an old friend of mine, and former member of the NCDXC, passed away in New Jersey on March 20, 1987.

Smitty was a member of the NCDXC way back in 1947, but his call at that time was W6RM, and he lived on a hill high above Hayward, CA, and worked much DX from there, winning the ARRL DX Contest and others several times. He worked for the Associated Press at the listening post they had in Hayward, for reception of news from the Pacific areas.

He was one of my best friends for many years, and many Club members will remember Smitty very well, especially Bud Bane, W6WB. You may recall reading in Jim Maxwell's recent recaps of historical data of the Club and its members that Smitty, Dan O'Brien-W6PB, and Bud-W6WB, and I used to get together in San Francisco, at Bud's place. Those were very lively get-

togethers that always lasted until the dawn of the next day!

Smitty suffered a severe stroke some 3 years ago, so that he was unable to continue his amateur radio activities. In fact, he could not do much of anything after that. I'm glad he has found rest and peace.

73.

Jim M. Ruys, N6ZX/7

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Shig Mori, W6SSA -

It was with great shock and considerable sadness that I learned that one of my closest friends and member of the NCDXC, Shig Mori, W6SSA, became a silent key on April 20, 1987. Shig, in his quiet way, had a beneficial effect on all who knew him and was a major influence among young amateurs in the San Mateo area, as well as being an outstanding, albeit, unsung DXer.

As a DXer, Shig was somewhat of a "Johnny-come-lately," even though he had been licensed since 1937, having less than 150 countries confirmed at the time he joined the NCDXC in 1984. Over the years, Shig had participated in virtually every type of amateur activity and particularly enjoyed multiple contacts with his many friends abroad and here in the states. Several years ago his eyesight began to deteriorate and he was unable to continue in his work as an audio-visual technician for the City of San Mateo Elementary School District. Rather than considering this a handicap, he felt it gave him the opportunity to explore DX on a more regular basis and spent many hours each day chasing DX stations and, more importantly, actually talking with the operators and making friends rather than just giving and getting signal reports.

Despite his very limited station, which consisted only of a TS- 820S and an old tribander at 25 feet, Shig not only increased his country total to 278 countries, he became a regular for many DX stations who wanted to chat. His soft voice and gentle spirit may have kept him from the limelight and out of the record books; however, he was a staunch supporter of the DX Community and participated in all NCDXC activities. Although Shig's station was modest, he entered almost every HF contest with surprisingly good results. More than anything else, he demonstrated that dogged determination, skill, patience, and outstanding operating techniques were equal to brute force. Indeed, in the past three years, Shig never missed the rare station, including 3Y, VU4, VU7, HK0, CE0AA, and many others that some of the big guns were unable to work, or did so with great difficulty.

But Shig's DX amateur radio activities did not detract from his home and community life. Subsequent to his retirement, he began service as a volunteer at

the Senior Citizens' Center, was President of his church, traveled with his wife Kitty to many far distant meetings of the Japanese American Radio Society (JARS) where he received many accolades, and was one of the faithful overnights every Field Day for the San Mateo Radio Club. He was instrumental in founding Troop 700 of the Boy Scouts of America and taught, among other subjects, communications theory and practice to the scouts, many of whom entered the field of electronics because of his leadership. He said little about his many contributions but everyone who knew him had to be aware of all that he did. In this world of today, gentle people like Shig should not go unheralded, but they often do.

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I send this letter and deeply regret that it is necessary to do so.

73.

J. D. Knochenhauer, K6ITL

### W6SZN WINS NCDXC GOLF TROPHY AT VISALIA

The first golf field day was held at Visalia on Friday, April 7, in conjunction with the Visalia DX convention. It was an erg of success with the boys of winter, W6SZN, WB6UOM, W6DU and W6DUB doing early morning gopher hunting. They were closely followed by W6TEX, AG6Q and K4UVT who finally broke 100 in California after putting his driver back in the bag. KE6OT, after convincing his chauffeur K6LM that golf is a game and not a car, arrived on the scene around 10:30 AM and gathered K6ITL and K6MA, both claiming their game ruined by Al's authentic Scottish tam. The tam never made it to the eighteenth hole. Somewhere in Visalia there is a well-adorned gopher. W6SZN was presented a trophy at the banquet for his efforts and creative scorecard. More next year.

Bill, W6TEX

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### NCDXC MARATHON KICK-OFF JUNE 1

Contest chairman Steve, WC6I, has just announced the 1987 NCDXC marathon, which runs from 0001 UTC June 1 through 2359 UTC August 31. As usual, the objective is to work as many countries as possible on the ARRL list during the contest period. Contest categories are phone, CW, or mixed. Members may submit for only one category. For mixed competition both modes must be used, with no less than 25% of the countries worked on each mode. The marathon, unlike other competitions this year, is limited to club members residing within the club geographical boundaries of Northern California, from the Oregon border to the Tehachapis. Other rules as given in para. 7-101 of the Procedures Manual apply.

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### A "NEED TO KNOW" MAP OF THE WORLD

Quite a number of NCDXC members are on the go throughout the year. A monthly publication, recently mentioned in *Motorland*, may be of some interest to those travelers. This publication is called the *World Status Map*, and it is crammed full of information on the world's trouble spots. Areas of the world which present a risk to travelers are outlined, State Department Travel Advisories are listed, warnings and other data from the Center for Disease Control are listed, and so on. The map is updated each month. The price is \$4.50 for a current copy, from World Status Map, PO Box 466, Merrifield, VA 22116.

Gary, WB6EXW

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## 4TH OF JULY PARTY

**ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NCDXC AND NCCC ARE INVITED TO A 4TH OF JULY PARTY!!!!**

by Lloyd (W6KG) and Iris (W6QL)

2:00PM to 5:00PM

5200 Panama Ave., Richmond

SEE THE LARGEST QSL COLLECTION IN THE WORLD!

DRINKS!!

FUN!!

MUSIC!



FOOD!!

CHEER!!

VISIT THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN AND HELL!!

Directions: Take Highway 80 from in the direction of Sacramento toward Richmond. Look for three 100 ft. poles to the left of the freeway. Take El Cerrito Central Ave. Exit.

## 4TH OF JULY PARTY

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LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de G0CLY -

Enjoy each copy of the DXer! I distribute it around here to other DXers. The club station is coming along slowly - hope to have a TH4 plus linear ready for the CQ WPX-CW contest on May 30. Please have NCDXC be QRV for GB5DX - the first GB5 license issued in the UK. Should be quite rare. Will be operated by G0CQW and the gang here. The club will also be active as GB4JUL on 4th of July.

73.

Jerry, G0CLY/K6SMH

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de W2IYX - (to Lou, K6TMB)

Please convey my personal congratulations and sincere appreciation to Len, Lyle, and their team for a brilliantly planned and superbly conducted '87 convention. If they observed any glitches in the proceedings, I'm sure no one else noticed them. I, for one, had a wonderful time - as did all whom I met there.

On a separate theme: Please inform Jim Maxwell, W6CF, that he owes me two expensive cocktails (payable in full at the '88 Convention) for two goofs in the May '87 edition of the DXer.

1. He identified my prize subscription of the Long Island DX Bulletin as LIDX. (That makes for great publicity, doesn't it?)

2. In the caption under my photograph in the gag-strip of the same issue I am identified as W2ITX instead of W2IYX.

In the meantime, tell him to get a new proof-reader!

73.

J. Harvey McCoy, W2IYX

[Editor's note: Sorry for the errors, Harvy!]

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LETTER TO CATPERSON

[Editor's note: The following letter was sent to me for transmittal to "The Honorable Catperson." Catperson replied with a low growl - I do hope a serious incident is not brewing. Only time will tell.]

Dear C.P.:

Listen here, you fickle feline: I for one am sick and tired -- you hear me? SICK AND TIRED -- of your never-ending subtle and not-so subtle attacks on the current Board of Directors of the NCDXC. Any reader of your turgid prose would likely believe that the Board, and each of them, has two or more heads, their hands constantly in the till, and hair where it's not supposed to grow. To dispel forever any such ill-founded beliefs, I enclose herewith two Exhibits (marked "A" and "B" respectively, you dummy) consisting of two pictures of the Board at its latest meeting. [Editor's note: These two exhibits are reproduced in Catperson's column.] Please note the serious

and somber attitude which the Board brings to the affairs of the NCDXC. These guys deserve your humble respect and praise, instead of your incessant diatribe. I trust that you will make amends in the next issue of the DXer (be aware that doing so will not serve as an excuse for another 39 cent issue on behalf of your sidekick, Dr. J. A. M. Axwell!).

Please note as well that Exhibit A provides a complete defense (that of truth) to the published libel about our esteemed President, Thatsa My Boy, which you recklessly and in conscious disregard of the truth saw fit to publish in the May issue. You and your sidekick will be hearing more on this subject from Thatsa's esteemed attorney. For now, don't make any improvident investments that will impair your personal liquidity.

Regarding Exhibits A and B, I should add that the "missing" Board member, W6SZN, was actually the photographer at the last meeting and, of course, was present at the meeting, voted (after full discussion) on each weighty matter brought before the Board, and is missing from the pictures only because of a propensity always to draw the short straw. Should any member care to check that I do not have the attributes described in the first paragraph, please see page 12 of the last issue (and, while you're at it, note that only 7-UP bottles appear in the background).

Finally, I am also enclosing two pictures of the Venerable Goat, holding his DXer of the Year Award. Publish one or the other and, once you have done so, remove the paw marks and return the pictures (including Exhibits A and B) to me (or, if you prefer, send me the Exhibits and send the others to Venerable Goat).

Once I find my hat for Thatsa, you'll be hearing from me about Beudet vs. Catperson, Axwell, et al.

Regards,

G. Kip Edwards, W6SZN

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CATPERSON QUIZ - RESULTS

A dot/dash quiz was given in the April DXer, asking for the longest English word formed exclusively from dot letters and, similarly, the longest English word formed exclusively from dash letters. 0.78 CAT CLAW points were offered to all those getting the correct answers. Hal, N6AN came crashing in with the whole story, and his full answer follows.

"Longest English word made exclusively from dot letters:

SISSIES, plural of sissy, (7 letters, 17 dots) - word used by K6SJ and others to describe DXers (?) who participate in list operations.

Another but shorter all dot word is HISSSES (6 letters, 16 dots) - an audience reaction to the villain in an 1890 melodrama.

MOTMOT (6 letters, 12 dashes) - a bird of the kingfisher family. A word not widely used, except in very rare instances, as : "QRX, there's a motmot on my aerial."

If Catperson is liberal, of generous heart, and a champion for a broad and enlightened mind, and is willing to accept pronunciation which reflects regional usage of English speech, then the word would be: TOMMOTTO (8 letters, 16 dashes) - tomato, as pronounced in England or by the Boston elite."

So, there we have it. Catperson awards N6AN a total of 1.56 CAT CLAW points for his efforts. No credit is given for TOMMOTTO, and in fact Catperson was originally inclined to deduct points for such a blatant attempt at stacking the results. W7SW knew of motmot, but failed miserably on sissies. Scotty gets 0.78 points for the bird, 0.07 points for "hisses" for a total of 0.85 points. W6ISQ and WA8LLY each get 0.13 points for their near misses.

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### THE VISITATION

by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

Back twenty years or so, the Northern California DX Club met regularly at the Fork and Cork Restaurant in San Mateo. Meeting attendance usually ran between forty and fifty, the meeting room was small, intimate but adequate, and everyone rushed to the meeting bursting with good will, hilarity and DX togetherness.

And back twenty years or so Don Miller was the guest speaker at a summer meeting. It was a blow-out! Attendance just about doubled. The early ones nailed down the available seats in the meeting room, the overflow had to eat in the main dining room. There, banished from



Don Miller, W9WNV

aura exuding from the Great DXer, they dined in loneliness while the roars of good cheer and approval came from the meeting room. But it still was a great meeting and Don Miller, with his great concern for the common DXer, even left the meeting room to greet and shake hands with those dining in the outer darkness. Every DXer there that night had his hand shook by Don Miller. But that just was the way things were in those days.

It was a time of controversy. Don had brought much needed DX to the Deserving, not only some of those which had not been on the air for some time but a lot of new ones like Spratly, Ebon Atoll and Cormoran Reef. And there had been Maria Theresa and Minerva Reef. There had also been China and Burma

and Heard Island and the Laccadives. Don managed to get on the air from every place the DXers needed. And he was not yet through with the great work. But even busy as it was for him, he took time out to visit his friends and supporters at the Northern California DX Club.

Back in Newington they were giving Don some trouble. The minutes of the Annual Board of Directors meeting reported that the Board had engaged in an extended discussion of matters concerning the DX Century Club. No details, just that they were talking. There were undercurrents of talk going about that the ARRL was out to get Don Miller.

Don came to the NCDXC with a slide show. He took the floor after the dinner was completed to regale the members with stories of his DXpeditions. There was little doubt that Don was doing great things for the DX world. He told of how, on one of his African trips, he had landed at an isolated harbor in East Africa and had learned that the son of the head of the country was gravely ill and was not expected to survive. And though this was a country where amateur radio had been banned for years, Don dropped everything, delayed his journey and traveled all night over unmarked trails to the bedside of the sick child. Within a day or two things were turned around and the child was obviously on the road to recovery. When Don told how the ruler there was so grateful for the saving of his heir and favorite son, there was hardly a dry eye in the meeting. And furthermore, the ruler promised to open the country to amateur radio and wanted Don to pass along the word that amateurs would be welcomed as soon as things were worked out and any visiting amateur from the States was personally invited to visit the ruler when in the country. Unfortunately, because of some things developing in the United Nations, it was not feasible at the time to mention the country involved but the word should be out soon and Don would be operating from there.

On the slide show, Don showed slides of his trip to the Laccadives to a receptive and enthusiastic audience. This was a country under question, the ARRL demanding some specific and solid proof that Miller had actually been in the Laccadives and had permission to operate. To those at the meeting there certainly was adequate proof. There was a slide showing palm trees sticking right up out of the ocean. "We are approaching the Laccadives and the island where we operated," Don commented, "you can see how low the islands are." After the palm trees was a slide of a handful of natives standing in front of some more palm trees. "There are the head man and his family on the island," was the explanation, "they had word that we were coming and were down at the shore to greet us." Sure enough, some were waving their hands.

And Heard Island. We remember that one well because it was then we got solid proof that the trans-

polar path can be bent when it passes close to the arctic ice park. We worked Don on a beam heading of about 350 degrees. We believed! We still even have the QSL card to prove it. Don had pictures of the island, the treeless landscape and the big mountain that dominates all the scenery. It was Big Ben and Don noted that they held their breath that it would not erupt while they were there operating. He showed slides of the old Australian cable station buildings, the towers still standing from the radio antennas, even the insulated pass-throughs where the signal was fed through the walls of the communication building. And always the comment on the wind and the cold and the birds. Certainly it was a good and comprehensive discussion of Heard Island.

It was a night of "Hooray for Don Miller and Company," the cheers interspersed with jeers directed at the dummies back in Newington who were antagonistic towards DX, and quite evidently the antagonism came because they just did not understand DXing and were afraid that it might lessen some of the thundering accolades for the great work of the traffic nets and the National Traffic System.

Though many had previously contributed to the group sponsoring Don Miller in his world-wide propagation studies, there was a bread basket passed around and the members stuffed it with five and ten dollar bills, some even more. Don Miller was a DXer, one of the best and there was no matching him in technique. He could work a key with his left hand while making log entries with his right. He was a superb operator and the club had stood up for him when the ARRL first raised questions about some of his operations, firing off a letter to the ARRL and firmly telling them that they had acted hastily in suspending some of Don Miller's operations.

One impressed listener stoutly declared to those close-by as the meeting broke up: "With all those photos, the ARRL just must be blind. If they would look at those slides they wouldn't have any doubt." Then it was noted to this stalwart that while the photos and slides were interesting, in none of them did Don Miller or any of his various operators appear. It brought a pause and some thinking.

Perhaps it was a good time for Don Miller to make a visit to the NCDXC. Certainly in retrospect the wave of skepticism was starting to mount. Some were openly questioning his operations while others were

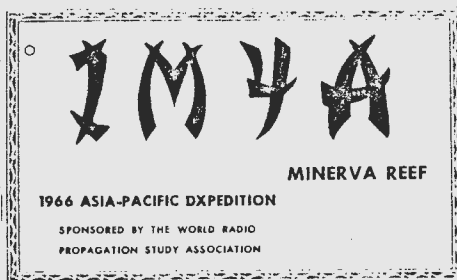
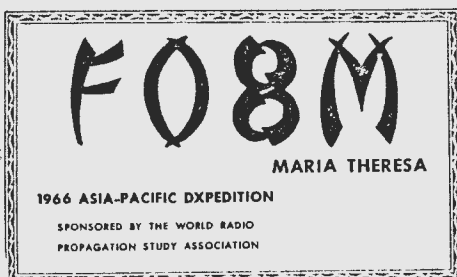
still strong in defending them. Possibly the operation at St. Peter and Paul Rocks finally broke things down. Don and a friend had operated from Navassa, this being disallowed for credit because he did not have permission from the Coast Guard to land. Then the crew headed on to Bajo Nuevo and a St. Peter and Paul operation. This one really unraveled things. Don continued to operate, heading for the Indian Ocean area while the debate grew over St. Peter & Paul and this time they were in the pictures of their operation. But geologists did not think the rocks were right for St. Peter and Paul, Miller sued the ARRL and the whole thing collapsed at the deposition stage.

How did the DXers take it? Even to this day there are some who will not mention Don Miller's name and are still obviously bitter. There are others who believed in Don and were chagrined to find out that their trust had been misplaced. And it might even be a surprise to many to know that many of Don Miller's operations are still valid though in some instances they were suspect. This mostly because it was never possible to prove he was not there and the provisions for verification were rather loose back then.

Those who knew Don Miller well were always ready to admit that he was a highly intelligent person. When his DXing activities blew up, he returned to medical practice and operated a clinic and was in private practice down in Indio outside Palm Springs for years. He married and there was a son. Then Don Miller and his wife separated and a bitter custody battle erupted. Always one with a good plan, Don got the janitor of his clinic to find a hit man for him so he could get the custody battle settled. The janitor found one but it turned out to be an undercover investigator for the local District Attorney. In recent years Don has been working for the State of California.

But never doubt that Don Miller was a watershed in DXing. Things were never the same after Don Miller showed, the way things were handled before Don Miller will never again be the way they will be handled again. But it was a great meeting at the Fork and Cork that summer night, a meeting that many still remember when a lot of others have been long forgotten. And everyone shook Don Miller's hand. Try and beat that with the programs you get these days. Those were the great days of DXing!

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## CURING TELEPHONE INTERFERENCE

by Bip Bachman, W6BIP

Several NCDXC members have had serious cases of telephone interference, and others may have the problem too. It therefore seems worthwhile to summarize here in the *DXer* what is known about curing such interference.

Recent editions of the ARRL *Handbook* have pointed out some of the general features of the problem today. An excerpt from the *Handbook* is given here, followed by some new information.

"Because of a change in FCC rules, subscribers increasingly own their telephone instruments, leasing only the lines from the telephone company. Interference-prevention measures to the instrument are the owner's responsibility. If a fault occurs in the line, the telephone company must make the necessary repairs. Responsible instrument manufacturers should provide necessary modification to minimize RFI.

Telephone interference may be cured by connecting a bypass capacitor (about 0.001uF) across the microphone unit in the telephone handset. Telephone companies have capacitors for this purpose, but will only service their own instruments. When such a case occurs, get in touch with the repair department of the phone company, giving the particulars. If you have purchased your instrument from the phone company, you will be billed for the service call if the warranty has expired. Section 500-150-100 of the Bell System Practices *Plant Series* gives detailed instructions; for the General Telephone System, refer to General System Practices *Engineering - Plant Series* Section 471-150-200. This section discusses causes and cures of telephone interference from radio signals. It points out that interference can come from corroded connections, unterminated loops and other sources. It correctly points out that the RF can be picked up on the drop wire coming into the house, and also on the wiring within the house, but the RF detection usually occurs inside the telephone instrument. The detection usually takes place at the varistors in the compensation networks, and/or at the receiver noise suppressor and the carbon microphone. But interference suppression should be handled two ways: Prevent the RF from getting to the phone, and prevent it from being rectified."

The *Handbook* article continues with a discussion of compensation networks available from the phone companies. Unfortunately, the compensation networks listed have been discontinued and deleted from the AT&T inventory.

Some modifications to the *Handbook* approach are sometimes necessary. W6GO and W6OG both recommend the smallest size 0.01uF ceramic capacitor across the microphone and another 0.01uF ceramic capacitor across the earphone to reduce interference. I found that 3/16" diameter ceramics were superior in RFI reduction to the common 3/8" diameter ceramic capacitors. My correspondents report that the value 0.01uF is not a sacred value for certain frequencies. If there is no reduction in RFI with 0.01uF, try different values 0.001uF to 0.047uF. When used in conjunction with the new AT&T RF filter module Z100A, they substantially reduced the interference.

This new AT&T RF filter module Z100A (consisting of 2 each 7.2mH 8 ohm RF chokes) which can be plugged into the telephone jack, is now sold at local AT&T Co. Phone Stores. Stores are located in San Mateo, San Francisco (3), San Bruno, Redwood City, Mountain View, Cupertino, Concord, and Walnut Creek. Check your phone book for the one nearest you. Ask for Stock #SKU-52610. Surprisingly, prices vary from store to store. The San Mateo AT&T store asks \$13.95, the Sansome St. store in San Francisco asks \$15.95, while all other Bay Area locations want \$17.95. Older OMs may qualify for a Senior Citizen discount of 10%.

The Z100A filter may also be ordered from the AT&T National Service Center, St. Louis MO, phone #1-800-222-3111, under a different stock #SKU-52710, for \$11.95 plus sales tax and \$4.75 shipping and handling charge. They will ship one or more filters for the \$4.75 shipping and handling charge. VISA and MC accepted.

A second AT&T RF filter Z101A, Stock #SKU-57293, for wall mounted telephones, is available for \$15.95 plus sales tax and \$4.75 shipping and handling - ONLY from the AT&T National Service Center in St. Louis.

The above filters should work satisfactorily for those using 1 Kilowatt input with their horizontal antennas at least 25 feet above the roof. For those using vertical antennas with radials on the roof, slopers with ends close to the roof, indoor antennas, and end fed antennas, so much RF will usually be going into the house electrical wiring and indoor telephone lines, that the filtering described above may be inadequate.

If your horizontal antenna system is at least 25 feet above the roof and you continue to have problems with AT&T telephones, I suggest you or your Pacific Bell repairman contact Mr. John Chimienti, AT&T Corp. Associate Engineer in Charge of RF Interference Problems, AT&T Telephone Repair Center of California, Oregon and Nevada, 2200 Williams St., San Leandro, CA 94577. Phone 415-678-1284.

I'd appreciate hearing from any who successfully clear up interference in these more difficult cases. Good luck!



### NCDXC ARCHIVE NEWS

Thanks to Walt, WD6EKR, for the latest donation of material to the NCDXC archive. Walt donated a copy of the NCDXC Constitution from 1955, a 1956 membership list, and a biography of Omer Wright, W6EFR, now a silent key. The material came from Omer's estate. Thanks Walt!

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### INTERFERENCE HANDBOOK

The U.S. Government Printing Office has an excellent interference handbook available for only \$1.50 per copy, postpaid. Order from the USGPO, Washington, DC 20402. Ask for the *FCC Interference Handbook*.

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### MEEEEEOOWWS HEARD ON THE CATS NET

By Catperson

This is an accurate (or inaccurate) record of what transpired (or didn't transpire) to CATS on the CATS NET during the past month or several months.

**OLD CHOD** - Right off the top, CATPERSON herewith awards 7 CAT CLAW points to club member Old Chod, VP2ML, for his great perspicacity in quoting CATPERSON'S glorious words to the "Antarctic Island Blues" in his international weekly DX rag. CATPERSON is quite overcome and flattered by this international recognition and accolade. What took you so long Chod? CATPERSON thanks Old Chod, of course, but CP is not pleased for himself alone, but rather for all CATS on the CATS NET who can preen and bask in this reflected glory.

In great appreciation therefore, CP has written and dedicated a short verse of gratitude for OLD CHOD'S DX BULL which he has permission to print.

The DX Bulletin gives you everything you need  
For all that DX news you should really read.  
So, pedal right down to the Post Office with  
great speed,  
And send in your subscription today --  
Yes, indeed.

Unfortunately, CP must retract 6 of the 7 CAT CLAW points just awarded to OLD CHOD. It seems that Chod is trying to gain fame and recognition by riding the coattails of our esteemed, world-famous Presidente. OLD CHOD is doing this by attempting to LOOK EXACTLY LIKE Ole That'sa by wearing a beard. Can you believe it? Now, that in itself would only count for a minus 3 points. But, this is going on without Lou's permission. Dock another 3 points.



OLD CHOD, VP2ML

But be happy, Old Chod. You are on the scoreboard with a plus one CAT CLAW point which is a whole lot more than most of these miserable Toms and Tabbies have --- or are worth.

**LOVABLE LOU** - Speaking of "That'sa My Boy," Catperson takes full credit for smoking out the real Lovable Lou --- finally, after a whole year. You see that picture of Lou printed on page one of this issue? Bet you didn't recognize our gallant prexy. None of you would have known the gentle features of Lou until CP goaded him to provide us with a photograph sans beard for the one final next-to-last immortal photograph of him as Presidente of NCDXC. Lou, of course, stoutly maintains that his beard is real. He even had W6SZN send "Exhibit A" purporting to "prove" that the beard is real. Well, Exhibit "A" is reproduced below. All you Toms and Tabbies can draw your own conclusions - but my case rests.



Exhibit "A" - K6ITL adjusting Lou's beard (in chin position).  
W6VG and KA6W looking on in stunned disbelief.

**COMMENTS** - Now for a few CATS NET comments as space will allow.

16 May - WB6ZUC again talking to phantoms on CATS NET. She has these long meaningless conversations on 2 meters with ops no one else can hear, not even the Mill Valley Philosopher. We know she just got that new multi-KW final. Could it be that the rig is not matched too well to the transmission line and --- perhaps --- too much RF lingers and circulates inside the shack? We must advise Jo to open her window and let old demon RF escape before it adelpatates her completely.

W6KH is QRX until the superconductivity experimenters can raise the necessary temperature for superconductivity a few degrees more or KH can get his final temperature down a few more. His new superconductor final is about ready. It is a moderately powered, pulsed rig, but it pulses so fast that everyone thinks it is CW. KH is stockpiling bags of coarse salt to use in his temperature-lowering machine. Some morning when you think the sun spots have wiped out

the south end of 20, listen again. It could be that the CATS NET has another first to talk about.

Did you hear WWTHA5IN (formerly WA6AHF) the other day? As usual Rubin did not hear the entire DX announcement. So, he says ---

"What was the frequency of the ZA?"

Silence.

"What was the frequency of the ZA, you turkeys?"

Silence.

"You ask a simple question and you get 15,000 smart alek answers. Somebody say something!"

"There is no ZA."

"Then why did somebody announce a ZA?"

"It was a ZY."

"Well, why don't you turkeys speak more clearly?"

If you worked ON4UN on 80/75 and you didn't send him a QSL for his Club Worked 40 Award, why didn't you? You should hate yourself! How long does it take to fill out a QSL? Do it. Help him out. And all the others who asked you for QSLs for club awards --- you turkeys.

Every time it is candidate time, a lot of CATS go into hibernation. "Oh, I don't have time --- I can't write --- I can't blaahhh, blaahhh ---." Does W6VG have to do everything? Just being a member of CATS NET means you are taking something "out" of the club's bank account. Someone has to put something back "in" to keep things balanced. Why not you? If you have never volunteered to be a club officer or serve on convention work details or whatever, don't you think you owe it to yourself and the other CATS to put something back "in" for a change? Maybe CP should award CAT CLAW points to club officers and worker bees.

**HAL'S WHISTLE** - About the last meeting ---

Yes, CP was crushed by President TMB's wicked reference to "Catperson, that Slinky Feline." After all that CP has done to polish Lou's image! Hurts!

CATPERSON noted that N6AN was awarded to coveted first CAT CLAW award. Of course, he has the required 5 points, but he didn't deserve this accolade because of serious transgressions upon the honor and integrity and dignity of CP. However, the editor of this tabloid, W6CF, insisted. So, CONGRATS, Hal!

Actually, CP now feels happy that Hard-Working Hal got his whistle. Of course, Hal did his best to appease CP with his presentation of a bag of Kitty Litter. For his thoughtfulness, CP will return all the used litter to Hal to mulch his tomatoes. Hal is guaranteed first place in the tomato-growing contest at the San Mateo County Fair this summer.

**THE REST OF YOU** - You pin heads take notice. There is hope for the rest of you. Get out there and earn your CAT CLAW points. CP wants to hear a meeting room full of hear-alike Uncle Vern toodling whistles.

And CP wants to thank editor, W6CF, for crafting these outstanding whistles. Great job, James. You got more hidden talent than most of those miserable CATS have fleas.

Oh, winners such as N6AN are advised that they must wear their whistles to all meetings. And announce their presence over the CATS NET with a short, shrill "HI." Any breach of these rules will result in unfrocking (unwhistling) the guilty. To be done in front of the entire meeting.

**OTHER NEWS** - Did you catch what W6RQ said on the CATS NET meeting the other night about the National Geophysical Center announcing that Cycle 22 began March 1986? But the WWV boys haven't committed yet. RQ says he hasn't seen anything to indicate the actual bottom. Actually, Al suggests that maybe March 86 was a typo and it should really be March 87. Stay tuned.

Speaking of NET meetings - Where does DX reporter Low Sierra Filosofer Fil, W6LQC, get those pronunciations for TanZANia and LichtenstEEN? Maybe fom N'Yawk.

We forgot to report an exciting egghead QSO on the CATS NET a few months ago:

K6LM: At the equinox you can balance an egg on its end.

WB6CUA: Blunt end or pointy end?

K6LM: Blunt end works better.

WB6CUA: My egg just fell over.

K6LM: Be patient. Wait till 1942 Zulu and it will snap up straight.

WB6CUA: Hard or soft boiled?

K6LM: Soft.

WB6CUA: Mine just cracked.

What's the CATS NET coming to?

And again: KG6GF called VK3ZA.

GF: "VK3ZA, is that your call?"

ZA: "Aye."

GF: "Oh, VK3ZI."

ZA: "No, A."

GF: "Oh, ZA."

ZA: "Aye, Matie."

GF: "I?"

ZA: "No, ZED dit dah."

GF: "Oh, ZA."

ZA: "Aye."

**CONCLUSION** - At last we come to the conclusion -- and maybe CP's conclusion too! Elsewhere in this tabloid you read a letter by that Grand Inquisitor, W6SZN. The same one pictured in the last DXer. He look nice, right? But, ohhh ---

Note that he began with "Honorable CATPERSON," trying to soften me up. But then he goes on --- but what the Grand Inquisitor fails to realize is that the Club President and Bored of Direktors were abso-

lutely *nothings* before CP began coaching them. Before CP they were just wishy-washy, inept, cold, bureaucratic bodies in a room - all at odds with each other. But CP pushed and shoved and pointed the true way. Of course, there were never-ending lessons dispensed all to the good. They shaped up! And now, look at that magnificent, smooth-running, efficient team. All sharp, decisive, move-ahead attitudes. Kinda makes me proud of those laddies.

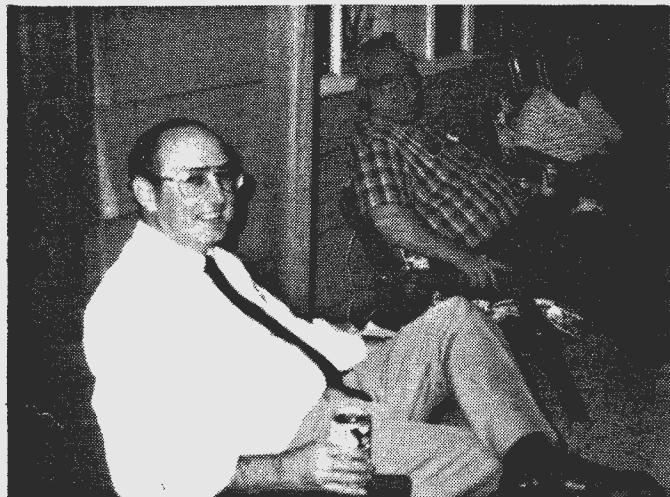


Exhibit "B" - W6TEX, W6MKM, N6AN in somber, sober Executive Session.

Just look at that "before" picture on page 2 of this issue --- the picture heading the Bored Minutes --- slovenly, groping, "what-happend?" And now look at the pictures above. What a change! And CP did it all. All CATS should praise CP for the Bored's turn around. For the new inspirational look. And be proud of their elected leaders.

But CP gets only letters like this one from the Grand Inquisitor. Where is the great Silent Majority out there on the CATS NET? CP is deeply wounded. CP is not appreciated. CP has worked his claws to your bone. CP needs a vacation.

So, CP now leaves, driven away by the Grand Inquisitor. Perhaps never to return except for short observations. And, of course, unless the next administration demonstrates the same miserable attitude and ineptitude that the present Bored had just a year ago. But look at those fellows now!

CP loves all his little Toms and Tabbies and wishes you all good DXing. Until we meet again --- or until I am forced to return to straighten out the mess on the CATS NET, which, no doubt, you will create almost immediately without CP's benevolent guidance.

There won't be old CATPERSON to kick around any more. I bid you farewell.

[Editor's note: Yes, CP is taking a vacation. Something about going south to whip the SCDXC into shape. CP has promised to drop us a note from time to time. Frankly, I don't think CP will be gone for long - the NCDXC has sort of gotten under his fur, and it will be difficult to lie still. I'll try to keep things running until CP returns, difficult as it may be. All CAT CLAW point totals will be frozen at present levels until CP is back to continue his crusade for better CATS NET CATS.]

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### ROSTER CHANGES

The following changes should be made to the November 1986 issue of the NCDXC membership roster.

#### Add New Members:

- N6LFX (E) Jim Bird, 1655 Willow Ave., San Leandro, CA 94579. 415-357-7750 (H).
- VP2ML (A) Chod Harris, 3529 Deer Park Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95404. 707-526-2198 (H), 707-523-1001 (W).
- N6NBB (E) Ray Minehan, 23 Maple Hill Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903. 415-499-0121 (H), 415-546-8244 (W).
- DJ6SI Baldur Drobica, Zedernweg 6, D-5010 Bergheim, West Germany.
- W7SW (E) Scotty Martin, 1765 Shamrock Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051. 408-244-4178 (H).
- W6TZA (A) Howard R. Sweezey, 4594 Las Lindas Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. 916-967-3588(H).

#### Add Reinstatements:

- KN6J (E) Robert R. Artigo, 18360 Knuth Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95030. 408-395-4887(H), 415-961-1473(W).
- W6MSF (A) Carl E. Snyder, 27097 Adonna Ct., Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. 415-941-9592(H), 408-447-6300(W).

#### Other Changes:

- WA6HAT Chris Lee, change address to 51 Santa Lucia, Salinas, CA 93901. Home phone same, work phone now 408-633-3335.
- NU6O Dennis Jones, change address to 3408 Elke Ct., Modesto, CA 95355. No phone changes.
- W6SZN Kip Edwards. Change entry to 3144 Brittan Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070 415-598-9468 or 598-9844(H), 415-773-5444(W).

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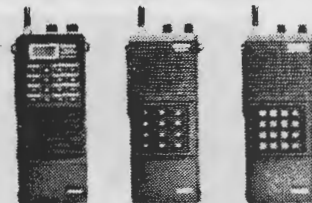
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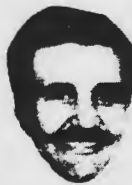
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