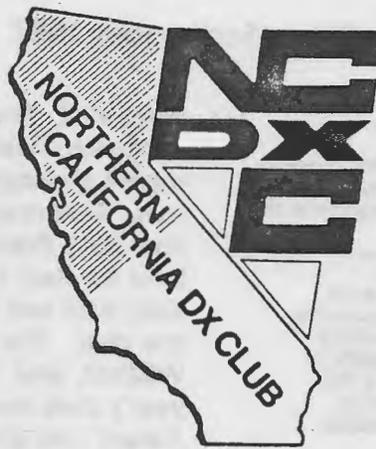


THE



DXer

SEPTEMBER 1987

VOL XL - NUMBER 8



CALENDAR

- Sep. 11. September NCDXC meeting.
- Sep. 12. Electronics Flea Market, Foothill College.
- Sep. 12-14. ARRL September VHF QSO Party.
- Sep. 12-14. European DX Contest, Phone.
- Sep. 13. North American Sprint, CW.
- Sep. 19. Amateur Radio Flea Market, Sebastopol Community Center, Sebastopol, 8AM-2PM.
- Sep. 19-20. Scandanavian Activity Contest, CW.
- Sep. 19-20. Can-Am Contest, Phone.
- Sep. 20. North American Sprint, Phone.
- Sep. 23. Last date for inputs to October DXer.
- Sep. 26-27. Scandanavian Activity Contest, Phone.
- Sep. 26-27. Can-Am Contest, CW.
- Sep. 26. Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean, 1513.
- Oct. 2-4. ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Jose.
- Oct. 3-4. California QSO Party.
- Oct. 3-4. VK/ZL/Oceania DX Contest.
- Oct. 10. NCDXC 9-Band DXCC Award kick-off.
- April 22-24, 1988. Visalia International DX Convention.

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SEPTEMBER MEETING - FRIDAY, SEPT. 11 HARRY'S HOFBRAU, PALO ALTO

The September meeting of the NCDXC will again be at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road East, Palo Alto. The main show for the evening will be a presentation by Dean Straw, N6BV, on computer-aided design of Yagi and other antennas. Dean has a great deal of experience in this area, and the presentation will be first-rate. The usual schedule: Cocktails at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

FROM THE PREZ

The month of August was especially busy and exciting for me. Michel Rousselet, FT8XB, stayed as a guest in our home and Kim, my XYL, was able to practice her French while both of us learned viewpoints from another part of the world. To those of you who have not had a chance to travel, I strongly recommend that you open your home to a DXer and experience what Kim and I have recently enjoyed.



Ted, KA6W

And from Michel..." Thanks to all the members of the NCDXC for making my visit so enjoyable." Special thanks to Rich, WA9WYB, for his guided tour of San Francisco and to Bruce, W6OSP, for his assistance in directing Michel on his trip through the Napa Valley - the Chandon Brut was great, Bruce!

What is all this bellyaching about? Who says that conditions are lousy (I'll give you poor...maybe!) and that the DX has gone to another planet where sunspots are more active? Think of FR5ES. That's a pretty rare catch! He was active this past month...and some of us with antennas were able to score a new one. I, like so many more before me, shall have to be content in needing Juan de Nova and waiting for the next DXpedition. Think of the mid sixties. That was when conditions had bottomed and we DXers were recovering from the best sunspot cycle ever! It all got better and we survived...to mope through this present ebb... starting cycle 22 with the best yet to come. Cheer up! A lot worse can and probably will happen...but one thing is certain. We are charging up O'l Sun Spot Hill, so get ready to hang on to your Astatic (D-104 or Bencher if you love CW). W6RQ assures us that the days-of-old with 10 meters open most of the day are soon-a-coming!

August 31st marked the end of our club Marathon. Send your entries to the attention of Larry, KG6GF, at the club PO Box. A non-entry is a default no-win!; may the best DXathoner (sorry Webster) in each category win!

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*.

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President	Ted Algren	KA6W
Vice Pres.	Rich Stempien	WA9WYB
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NCDXC REPEATER W6TIR

Input 147.96 MHz; Output 147.36 MHz;
Simplex 147.54 MHz

Trustee	Bob Vallio	W6RGG
Repeater Committee chairman	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB

NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

On W6TIR 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 DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST (Monday at 0200 GMT) on 7.015 and 14.002 MHz.		

WA9WYB. The program by Michel Debois, FT8XB, on Kerguelen Island, was enjoyed by all. Michel is an expert photographer and all of the slides were excellent. First readings were given for Tom Jones, K6TS, and Jerry Bransome, WT6V. Second readings were held for Paul Dexter, KC6O, and John Bronin, K6LLK. Both Paul and John were welcomed unanimously into the club. The treasurer's report was given by Frank, W6ZKM, and he reminds all of us that the current year's dues are due and payable now. A California Award was given to Bill, VK2CWG, by K6ZM. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Gearhart, W6PKB
Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19 1987 MEETING OF THE NCDXC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Ted, KA6W, called the meeting to order at 7:26PM. Present were club officers WA9WYB, W6ZKM, W6VG and W6PKB, and the guest W6MKM. The treasurer was asked to notify all members now delinquent in dues and subject to being dropped. Please remember that there is a \$10.00 reinstatement fee. Keep your membership active - please send your \$24 dues off now. No holiday party chairman has yet volunteered and the party is in jeopardy. The end of the marathon is August 31; send your entry to Larry, KG6GF, our awards chairman. WA9WYB will be looking for a new contest chairman. The closing financial report for the 1987 DX convention was gratefully accepted with very special thanks to Lyle, WW6F, Len, K6ANP, and all the many others who worked so hard to make the convention such a great success. K6TMB gave a report on the visit to the repeater site and the desire of the repeater committee to spend repeater funds on a new antenna and a new controller. On consultation of the bylaws, it was noted that the expenditures would have to be referred to the membership at the next meeting. The board felt that the dollar amounts were too restrictive and the board voted unanimously to amend the procedures manual, section 8-104 as follows.

I shall close on a happy and sad note: Len, K6ANP, will be leaving to take an extended assignment with the Bell Corp. on the east coast (booooo and burrrrr). The happy note is that it isn't permanent (3 years) and that he will be keeping his great location in Penn-grove, CA. The sad note is that we have temporarily lost direct contact and the supportive services of a great DXer and good friend. Len, we will all miss you and wish you the best of health and luck at your new location. Remember to have the Euros and Afros listen for us weak and suffering sixes!

73 es GUD DX,

Ted, KA6W

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE NCDXC

The regular meeting of the NCDXC was held on August 14, 1987, and was called to order by president Ted, KA6W. Visitors were warmly welcomed by Rich,

8-104g. Change to read: Expenditures from the repeater fund may be made for non-expendable items costing less than \$100.00 upon approval of the repeater committee chairman. For non-expendable items costing over \$100.00, item (f) applies.

The board approved a motion that the repeater committee purchase a new antenna not to exceed \$800.00 and a controller not to exceed \$250.00. A new position of publications manager was created and the new manager is W6VG, continuing many of his services he has been doing for the club. Steve, W6MKM, proposed to have a special raffle for the 41st anniversary meeting in October. The board noted with sadness that Bill Winnegar, N6UW, is now a Silent Key. A donation of \$25.00 will be sent to NCDXF in his memory.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Gearhart, W6PKB
Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT - AUGUST 1-31, 1987

Checking account activity

July check balance	\$2617.36
Deposits from dues	1472.00
Other receipts	276.50
Subtotal	\$4365.86
Accounts payable	(550.30)
Current balance	\$3815.56

Bank of America Savings \$13494.62

Reserve Fund/Savings Account

Dues Life Members 86-87	\$ 624.00
Dues Life Members 87-88	624.00
QSL Cards	2500.00
Subtotal	\$3748.00
At depletion of reserve fund-	
Savings balance	\$9746.62

Certificate of Deposit American S&L
1 yr 7.411% annual yield \$5800.00

Frank H. Holst, W6ZKM
Treasurer

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FROM THE EDITOR

How time does move along! Here we are, September 1987, and the beginning of my second year as editor. Quite a few comments on the DXer have arrived this past year, some pro, some con. The pro ones have most often commented on the light touch

we've tried to bring to the DXer - articles that are not only interesting, but also fun to read. Perhaps the single most serious deficiency in the DXer commented upon by members is the shortage of information with real, solid relevance to DXing. It is very difficult to provide fast-breaking DX news in a monthly bulletin such as the DXer, but several members have made concrete suggestions for improvements along this line, and you will see some changes in the months ahead.

Thanks to all who have shown great cooperation this past year - thanks especially to past president K6TMB and the Board of Directors who listened to my occasional gripes with great patience - to W6VG and his helpers who with great dedication have taken care of the nasty job of final production and mailing - to the special contributing editors whose names are listed on page 2 of each issue of the DXer - and especially to you, the members of the NCDXC, who have been super in your support.

Jim, W6CF

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DUES DEADLINE - - - - - DUES DEADLINE

Bunky, are you willing to pay a premium to the NCDXC because you've neglected to pay your dues by September 30th? Save the \$10.00 reinstatement fee by mailing your dues now!

Regular members: \$24.00
Absentee members: \$16.00
Family members: \$24.00 for the first, \$15.00 for each additional member

Late payment also means you will be dropped from membership, and from the roster listing. Final notices will be sent to all that haven't paid by September first. So Bunky, whoever you are, it's up to you!

73.

Frank, W6ZKM
Treasurer

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BILL WINNEGAR, N6UW, SILENT KEY

It is with deep sorrow that I report the passing of Bill Winnegar, N6UW, on August 17, 1987. He was a native son born in Mountain View, CA, 81 years ago. He retired after a long tour of duty as engineer with RCA Communications, San Francisco. Bill was a multi-faceted ham - a DXer, a contester, a county hunter (he worked them all), a 10-10er, a HF mobiler, and a collector of many ham awards. He joined the NCDXC

on November 8, 1968, as W6CLM. Bill was a member of the NCDXF, ARRL, and the 10-10 International.

Hal, N6AN

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PIET NEVE, PA0PN, SILENT KEY

I'm sorry to advise the members of the NCDXC that my old friend, and well-known Dutch amateur and DXer, Piet Neve, PA0PN, passed away on 20 September, 1986. He was 75.

Piet lived in Middelburg, in the Province of Zeeland. It had been my good fortune to visit Piet and his charming xyl, Wilmientje, for the last time, during our 1985 trip to Holland. Piet was honored following WW2 by General Eisenhower and the Queen of The Netherlands for his excellent work in the Dutch underground during the war.

Jim Ruys, N6ZX/7

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THORN MAYES, W6AX, SILENT KEY

Thorn Mayes, W6AX, is now a Silent Key. Although Thorn was not a member of the NCDXC, he did attend meetings occasionally, and had many friends in the club. Thorn was perhaps best know for his fascinating historical talks and demonstrations. At his last visit to the NCDXC some years ago, prior to his departure to Colorado, Thorn gave his very popular demonstration of a working spark transmitter. Thorn was a member of the board of directors of the Electronics Museum at Foothill College in Los Altos, and a trustee of the New England Museum of Wireless and Steam, to which he bequeathed his lifetime collection of radio equipment.

A memorial service its to be held in Los Gatos at 3 PM Sept. 13 at the Los Gatos Christian Church.

Jim, W6CF

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REPORT ON WESTERN SAHARA DXPEDITION

The following letter to the NCDXC arrived from Baldur, DJ6SI, in mid-August, dated August 4, 1987. The POLISARIO referred to in the letter is, according to Baldur, the national party of the Saharan Arabic Democratic Republic.

"After a personal invitation from Hakim Brahim, the Minister for Information and Culture of the

Saharan Arabic Democratic Republic, DL8CM, DK9KX and DJ6SI set out on July 18, 1987, to Algiers. From there we intended to fly to Tindouf, the most distant desert village reachable by airplane. A representative of the POLISARIO awaited us in Algiers. We had been told that we only needed to provide a list of our imported equipment to Algerian customs. But that wasn't correct. Our equipment was seized (and receipted) because of a customs violation, in spite of intervention by the POLISARIO. The embassy of the Saharan Arabic Republic in Algiers tried for five days to release the equipment for its flight on to Tindouf - without success. Finally, the embassy representative received a binding order not allowing the equipment to be shipped to Tindouf, a military exclusion zone. The POLISARIO offered the use of their army equipment in their territory, but for various reasons we did not wish to do so. And so we spent five nice days in Algiers under the care of the POLISARIO, but boarded the return flight earlier than planned. The equipment was returned to us without problem. We thank the POLISARIO for the hotel reservations, for automobile trips, and for help at our departure at the Algiers airport. According to conversations with representatives of the SAIR government, they will try to get the callsign series S40-S49 or S50-S59 from the ITU Geneva."

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SPECIAL RAFFLE IN OCTOBER

Start emptying your piggy banks - the Board has authorized a special raffle to take place at the October NCDXC meeting, the 41st anniversary meeting of the club. The luck winner will be able to have his or her choice of any one of the following handhelds:

- Kenwood TH215A - 144MHz
- Kenwood TH315A - 220 MHz
- Kenwood TH415A - 440 MHz

The rigs will be available for inspection at the October meeting to help in making the final choice. Tickets will be \$2.00 each, or \$5.00 for three. It will not be necessary to be present to win. Tickets will also be available at the September meeting for any who feel they will be unable to attend in October. For those who will not be present, the selection of the rig must be made at the time the ticket is purchased.

Thanks to Bob, W6RJ, and Ham Radio Outlet for making the winning rig available to the NCDXC at a very special price.

Steve, W6MKM

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K4UVT APPOINTED CONTEST CHAIRMAN

Ted, KA6W, has just announced the appointment of Bob, K4UVT, as Contest Chairman for the next twelve months. Bob will be replacing Steve, WC6I, who has served the club well for the past year. Thanks Steve, and welcome Bob!

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W7SW OFF TO ANTARCTICA

Scotty, W7SW, has just passed along the info that he will be spending mid October thru next February in McMurdo Sound, courtesy of ITT Antarctic Services and the National Science Foundation. His call is not known at this time, but it may be W7SW/KC4. Further information will be published as it becomes available.

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NCDXC 40 YEAR AWARD UPDATE

NCDXC Awards Manager Phil, K6ZM, has announced that a total of seven 40 Year Awards have been issued thus far, to the following lucky stations.

Number "ONE"	JH3DPB, Yutaka Tanaka
Number "TWO"	7J1ACH, Richard Henry
Number "THREE"	G4SDJ, Rod Freeman
Number "4"	DA2ER, Bob Eslaire
Number "5"	PA0RLF, Rudi Timmermans
Number "6"	W6BSY/VE6, Chas McHenry
Number "7"	VP5/WW6F, Lyle Meek

The first station in each continent has been sent a laminated certificate to recognize the special achievement of being first.



ARRL ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The League has just announced the release of the 1986 annual report. This report, a slick, well-illustrated production, contains a detailed summary of League operations for 1986, including annual reports from each of the Division Directors. It's a must for League members who want to keep up on the goings-on in Newington, and a bargain at only \$1.00, post-paid. Send your buck to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

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DXER NEW EDITOR OF 73 MAGAZINE

It has just been announced that Larry Ledlow, G0CQW/NA5E, has been selected to serve as editor-in-chief of *73 Magazine* in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The date on which Ledlow assumes his duties was not reported. Ledlow, an excellent writer, is also a top-notch CW operator. It will be fascinating to see how he balances his personal love for CW against Wayne Green's well-know apathy toward the mode. Almost worth subscribing to *73* just to see how it works out! Thanks to Jerry, K6SMH/G0CLY for the info.

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IARU REGION 1 CONFERENCE

A conference was held by IARU Region 1 conference of 12-17 April 1987. The U.S., a member of IARU Region 2, did not appear as a participant, although League President W4RA did attend as an observer. *Radio Communications*, the journal of the Radio Society of Great Britain, carried an interesting summary of the convention in its July 1987 issue. Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, an occasional visitor to Visalia, prepared a report on HF matters, some items of which should be of interest to DXers. Following are some excerpts.

"There was some discussion about the possibility of automating QSL bureaux, and the German society DARC will be investigating the feasibility of automatic callsign recognition and QSL sorting. In the meantime, anyone ordering a lifetime's supply of cards would do well to leave a lower margin of at least 15mm on the front or back to enable callsigns to be encoded in machine-readable characters.

"Conference reaffirmed the principle that Morse code should be retained as a requirement for operation below 30 MHz. The USSR announced that its own "no-code" HF licences were being withdrawn,

with existing holders being given one year to learn the code.

"There was a strong move towards the simplification of the awards-issuing process, with a recommendation that QSL cards should be checked as far as possible by national societies rather than having to be sent round the world. It was also recommended that, where QSLs are not required, a simple statement from the applicant that the conditions of the award have been satisfied should suffice.

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GORBACHEV AND THE WOODPECKER

What's happening with the Russian Woodpecker? Well, here's an interesting update that appeared in the May 1987 issue of *Electron*, the monthly journal of VERON, the Dutch national amateur radio society. Thanks to Jim Ruys, N6ZX, for uncovering the article and supplying us with a translation.



Mikhail Gorbachev

"In December '86, Henk Orie, PA3DSM, wrote a letter to Mr. Gorbasjov [Dutch spelling], Secretary General of the USSR, and asked him if something could not be done about the tremendous amount of QRM that is created by the 'woodpecker,' their over-the-horizon radar.

On 10 March, 1987, Henk received a letter from a Mr. N. Krazansky, Vice-President of the RSF, the Radio Sport Federation of the USSR. The letter was written in Russian, but accompanied by an English translation which I write here verbatim:



Russian Woodpecker

'With a view toward further study of wave propagation, there are carried out in our country relevant investigations by means of radio installations used on various bands, which are likely to result in occasional short time interference. The same investigations seem to be carried out also in some other countries, because Soviet amateurs also have some problems making contacts.'

The article continued with the suggestion that Mr. Krazansky's reply was not exactly a promise that they are planning to stop the activities of the "woodpecker."

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JY1 DROPS IN FOR TEA

On Saturday 18 April, King Hussein of Jordan paid an impromptu visit to Ed Benou, G0BBD, in Stanmore, Middlesex. Ed, a Brazilian national with a French mother, speaks fluent Arabic (as well as a number of other languages). During a recent QSO with JY1, the king remarked on the outstanding signal that Ed puts into the Middle East, and added that, as we would be in the UK in a few weeks, he would like to see what sort of antenna and what kind of equipment could produce such a remarkable signal. The two amateurs had met in person some years ago during the king's last official visit to the members of the Radio Society of Harrow, of which he is an honorary life member because of his connection with Harrow, having attended Harrow school as a boy.

On 18 April, JY1 telephoned and said he would go to Stanmore that afternoon. Naturally, at such short notice some frantic shack tidying-up ensued, and in this Ed was assisted by G3FNJ, who met JY1 in January 1971 when he and some officials of the Radio Society of Harrow had gone to the Dorchester Hotel and presented the king with his certificate of honorary life membership.



JORDAN

JY 1

TRANSMITTER T.4. - XB WITH
 DRAKE L.4.B LINEAR
 AMPLIFIER.
 RECEIVER R.4.B.
 HYGAIN ANTENNA.

OP : HUSSEIN 1
 Q.T.H. : NEAR AMMAN
 POSTAL ADDRESS : P. O. B. 1055
 AMMAN
 JORDAN

JY1 QSL Card

King Hussein arrived at Stanmore accompanied by his young son, Prince Hamza, and his adjutant, Major Chukry, JY3AK. He stayed for over an hour-and-a-half chatting, having tea and operating Ed's station with his own UK callsign G0DEY/JY1/G0BBD, making a number of contacts on the 14MHz band, mainly with stations in Israel. In this connection, an item broadcast in the English language transmission of the external service of the Voice of Israel "Kol Israel" on Sunday 26 April was of particular relevance:

"Hullo, and welcome to the dx corner. Once again, the amateur radio short wave bands have been used in a most striking fashion to display international goodwill. For the first time in the history of amateur radio, the King of Jordan has appeared on the ama-

teur radio bands to greet Israeli amateur radio operators.

"King Hussein, an enthusiastic amateur radio operator for nearly 20 years, who operates under the callsign JY1, was on a private visit to England eight days ago, when he visited the home of a well-known London radio amateur Edy Benou, G0BBD. At that time Edy happened to be in contact with a number of radio friends in Israel. Without the slightest hesitation the Jordanian Monarch took over the microphone and exchanged greetings with several of the Israeli hams on frequency at the time.

"Except for Egypt, there are no amateur radio exchanges allowed between Israel and the surrounding countries in the Middle East. Normally, therefore, King Hussein does not speak to Israeli hams from Jordan. In this case, however, he was transmitting from England with his UK callsign of G0DEY, consequently the Israeli hams speaking to him were not violating any rules."

RSGB Radio Communication, July 1987

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NCDXC 9-BAND DXCC AWARD

Included with this issue of the *DXer* is a form for keeping track of countries for the new NCDXC 9-Band DXCC Award. Additional copies can be obtained for an SASE sent to the NCDXC PO Box. Thanks to Chuck, AA6G, for the excellent job in preparing the form!

Remember - - Oct. 10 is the kick-off date for this new club award!



Louese, KA6ING, Larry, KD6XY, and Russ, K6KLY, gloating over a rare QSL card at a recent NCDXC meeting.

DX POSTAL SERVICE

Having trouble extracting a special QSL? When all else fails, some have hit paydirt with a self-addressed envelope with return postage affixed. The DXers Postage Service sells current unused postage stamps from over 150 foreign countries, enough for airmail return postage. For a price list, send a SASE to DXers Postal Service, PO Box 8851, Trenton, NJ 08650-0851. Tnx K6HHD for this info.

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LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

de W8MEP - I'm pleased to be one of the "Big Three" of the Dot Word Contest! But, alas, I wonder about Jack's (W6ISQ) answer(?). The word HEIS means hot in German, and perhaps that describes the temperature of the air emanating from or through his vocal cords? The functional ahalf of my brain (?) cannot find a geographical feature on the moon by that name! Reference please?

I'll give him 1/2 of my Cat Claw points if he can convince me! If not, I'll accept his! Or maybe he can help my low country total by going on an extra-terrestrial DXpedition to that rare of the rarest QTHs and picking my peanut whistle out of the pileup for a contact?

73/DX.

Jerry, W8MEP

de W6DU - In Militant Defense of NW6P...From

Webster's Third New International Dictionary 1963 page 2094: "shies pres 3rd sing of shy, pl of shy." Give him his 5 IRCs!! Also - 14 Cat Claw points for having the effontry to come up with a word to stump Catperson.

73.

Eric, W6DU

[Editor's note: A similar impassioned response was received from NW6P himself. No word yet from Catperson, who is still basking in the smog at Malibu.]

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