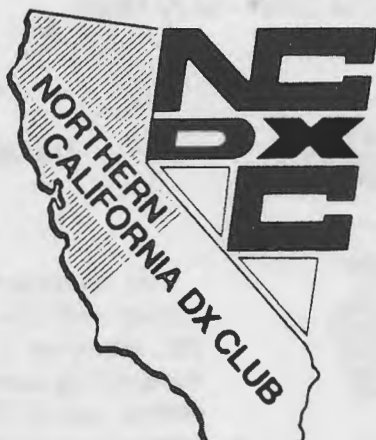


THE



DXer

MAY 1988

VOL XLI - NUMBER 5

CALENDAR

- May 8 Mother's Day.
- May 13 NCDXC May meeting.
- May 14 ☞ Electronic flea market, Foothill College.
- May 14 ☞ Antique radio swap meet, Foothill College, Electronic Museum parking lot.
- May 14-15 USSR CQ-M Contest.
- May 14-15 County Hunters SSB Contest.
- May 15 Bay to Breakers Race.
- May 21 Armed Forces Day.
- May 25 Deadline for inputs to June DXer.
- May 28-29 CQWW WPX CW Contest.
- June 10 NCDXC June meeting.

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NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, MAY 13 W6JOV ON HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES

The May meeting of the NCDXC will be at Harry's Hofbrau, Embarcadero Road East, Palo Alto, on May 13, 1988. The main speaker for the evening will be Ray Allustiarti, W6JOV. Ray works for PG&E, and is a specialist in the design and operation of the PG&E portion of the 500 kV Pacific Northwest-Southwest Intertie system. Ray's presentation will be of great interest to those who are interested in really high power power supplies and should be of interest to all, as he is an expert in high voltage transmission and their implications for the user. Being a long time ham, he has the sensitivity to recognize the many demands that we make upon our utility services and can respond to almost all questions related to them, including questions related to power line noise. Cocktails at 6:00 P.M., dinner at 7:00, meeting at 8:00.

FROM THE PREZ

The Visalia bash and banquet ended with this participant leaving for home feeling much satisfaction in having attended. It was a pleasure to see the large group of overseas hams and to enjoy reliving the pile-up victories (and losses) against our brothers in the SCDXC. The SPIRIT OF AMATEUR RADIO is what we all shared and it is always great to experience that feeling!



Ted, KA6W

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to Eric, W6DU, for receiving The DXer Of The Year Award and to John, W6ISQ, for being elected to the CQ Magazine DX Hall of Fame. We all join in wishing you both the very best and know that you justly deserve the honors!

"Hey Ted...What's happening with our repeater?" That question surfaced several times while I was quietly trying to enjoy a drink during the l'ntl DX Convention. Well, look further in this issue and you will catch an update from Lou, K6TMB. Changes are coming and there will be a period of fine tuning that may test all of our patience. Please consider that the short term inconveniences will be rewarded with new repeater conveniences. Those of you in the outer reaches of repeater coverage should be considering how you and your neighbors will interface with the proposed expansion system.

Another year has slipped by and the time to consider who will be your next NCDXC officers is near. Consider how you might be able to help the club by serving as an officer or committee member. Two of our members have already volunteered to work on the DX convention we will host in 1989. Like the Marines...we're looking for a few good people (not just men).

Vy 73 es GUD DX,
Ted, KA6W

P.S. The badges are coming, the badges are coming! They are, they are! Aren't they?

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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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	Lou Beaudet	K6TMB

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	Bob Dorsey	K4UVT
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.		

GUEST EDITORIAL

DX WITH TRAINING WHEELS

by Lyle Meek, WW6F

As members of the NCDXC we are somewhat blessed with the repeater service used for announcing DX. However, it seems to me we carry the announcing/spotting business too far. Here's a rundown of a normal day of DXing when a DXpedition is operating somewhere on the bands:

DXer: Is the ZA on now?

ANS: Yes, 20 CW.

DXer: What's his frequency?

ANS: 14010.3

DXer: Where's he listening?

ANS: Up 5.

DXer: I can't hear him!!!! Is he still on 20 CW?????

ANS: Yes (re-transmission of DX signal.)

Some time later...

DXer: Can anyone confirm my contact?!?!?!?!?

ANS: Sorry, wasn't listening.

DXer: OK. What was his call sign???

ANS: ZA1AA.

DXer: Are you sure???

ANS: According to the DX Sheet it's ZA1AA.

Another DXer: I worked him 10 minutes ago and it was ZN1AA?#*&

1st DXer: Oh well.....What's his QSL information?

ANS: AZ1AN.

At this point it appears to be over, but I'm wondering why the DXer doesn't ask someone to handle his QSLing - he's had his hand held this far!!!!

Where's the challenge? Where's the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat??

Many times I have heard these same DXers expound for hours on the shameful DX practice of working a list or net operation and how they would never work DX that way. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE???

Fishing at a trout farm is still fishing at a trout farm....DX with Training Wheels!!!

How's this for a challenge: "DX Announcement ... 20 meter CW. ZA1AA ... Good luck.

You could really be proud then to have your fellow DXer say, "Nice contact --- Congratulations."

TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL 1-30, 1988

Checking account activity

Mar. check balance	\$2981.19
Deposits from dues	0.00
Other receipts	0.00
Subtotal	\$2981.19
Accounts payable	(517.92)
Current balance	\$2463.27

Bank of America Savings \$11899.38

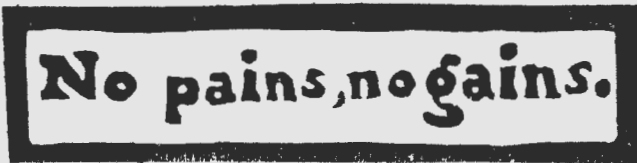
Reserve Fund/Savings Account

Dues Life Members 86-87	\$ 624.00
Dues Life Members 87-88	624.00
QSL Cards	500.00
Subtotal	\$1748.00
At depletion of reserve fund-	
Savings balance	\$10151.38

Certificate of Deposit American S&L
1 yr 7.411% annual yield \$6106.03

Frank H. Holst, W6ZKM
Treasurer

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JACK BROLLIER, K6ERV, SILENT KEY

Jack Brollier, K6ERV, became a Silent Key on Wednesday, March 30, in his Santa Rosa home, after a long illness.

Jack joined the NCDXC in December, 1961, and was president in 1965. He built a first class station in an exotic location high above the bay on Skyline Blvd. in Woodside. During the mid to late 1960s, Jack's station was the scene of a great many club, division, and west coast high scores in the major DX and domestic contests. Jim Neiger, N6TJ, was a frequent operator and source of many of the winning scores, in friendly competition with Rich, K6OHJ, whose station was a few miles away, down the hill.

Jack was employed by the California state Department of Banking for 33 years, and was with Sumitomo Bank for four years.

Tnx W6VG

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MIKE YOUNG, K6MBV, SILENT KEY

Mike Young, K6MBV, became a Silent Key on April 13, 1988, at the age of 46 as a result of cancer which had been diagnosed only two weeks earlier. Mike loved DXing, CW, contesting and experimenting with antennas.

Ham radio had played a particularly important part in Mike's life a few years ago while he was recovering from a prolonged illness; chasing DX was about the only activity which could take his mind off his pain and it gave him the will to get back on his feet.

Mike joined the NCDXC in February 1987 after completing his DXCC. His pride in his DXCC and his sense of humor were both illustrated when he told me he had cancer: he waited a minute for what he had said to sink in and then quipped, "Oh, well, at least I earned DXCC."

Mike was first licensed in 1958 as KN6MBV. He had been a communications technician at Pacific Bell since 1964. He held an extra class license and was a life member of the ARRL. He was also a member of the Northern California Contest Club and the East Bay Amateur Radio Club.

Bob Fabry, N6EK

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REPORT FROM LLOYD AND IRIS

Jakarta, Indonesia
30 March 1988

Dear Friends,

We have been trying to stay in California each year from April until October and travel in various countries of the world from October to April. This last 6 months, we were in Mexico (XE2GKG), Nepal (9N5QL), Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Sri Lanka (W6KG/4S7), and Omdpmesoa (YB0AQL). We stayed for several weeks in each of these countries, and operated ham radio in each country that would permit it. We tried everything that we could think of to obtain licenses in Bangladesh (S2), Bhutan (A5), and Burma (XZ). We were unable to obtain licenses in these three countries. We did our best to leave these countries with a favorable impression of ourselves and amateur radio. The best thing that we can report is that all three countries did not come right out and refuse us licenses. They all said that maybe, at some future date, they would comply with our request. We will try to keep after them and perhaps we can return some day and operate.

Our most recent operation was from Indonesia, as YB0AQL. We were astonished to discover that Indonesia is the fifth largest country in the world, and that the Capital city, Jakarta, has a population of nearly eight million people! We stayed at the QTH of "Wan", YB0SY. He is a leading DXer and has large mono-band beams for all bands. We used his antennas but our own equipment. As YB0AQL we made nearly 8,000 QSOs including radio amateurs in 133 countries. These figures include our participation in the CQ WW WPX Contest in March 1988.

We are on the programs in April '88 at the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio and the Joint Meeting in Visalia, CA, of the Northern and Southern DX Clubs.

We hope to meet all of you in person.

73 es 88
Lloyd Colvin Iris Colvin
W6KG W6QL

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ZANZIBAR NOW QRV

JE1MAS is on Zanzibar for a year, and is on the air as 5H1HK. *DX-NL* raises the interesting point that perhaps both Zanzibar and Tanganyika should have been deleted from the DXCC list in 1974 and replaced with a new entry from that date, i.e. Tanzania.

INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED

When I asked Hon. Editor to print a little announcement about the "W6ERS Antenna Defense Fund" he pointed out that not everyone knew what was going on and suggested a note bringing matters up to date.

Nearly a year ago I went through the procedure for obtaining permission to erect a 51 foot ham tower in Burlingame - building permit, planning commission, and finally, when 3 neighbors wrote in objections, the city council, where my application was turned down in a regular "kangaroo court" proceeding, well documented in the report in the San Mateo Times of Sept. 9, 1987. It turns out that once such a denial is passed it is set in concrete, something to do with the California Municipal Code. Currently my antenna is at 25 feet, where, as you can imagine, I feel its deficiencies every time I get on the air.

Suit has been filed in Federal Court and legal maneuvering has been going on since last September. It turns out that this sort of thing is not inexpensive. After receiving some unsolicited but much appreciated help I have decided to set up a support fund like that of WM4T, who, by the way, was still in the hole when last heard from. Like his, this one is tax-deductible. In the event that all or part of my legal costs are returned, refunds will be made accordingly. As my stock broker friends would say, this for information, not a solicitation.

Hope is for a summary judgment in Federal Court on June 3, 1988. Pray for me - and for PRB-1!

Uncle Vern Howard
733 Plymouth Way
Burlingame, CA 94010
(415) 347-5620

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WA6GFJ NEW OSCAR PREXY

Congratulation to Ross Forbes, WB6GFJ, for his recent election to the office of President of Project Oscar!

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SPECIAL CALLS IN KOREA DURING OLYMPIC GAMES

Special callsigns will be in use in South Korea during the summer Olympic Games. HL8A, HL8N and HL8V will be special stations on from the Olympic village and hall. HL8N will also use 6K88SOG; HL8V, 6K88KOG; and HL8A, 6K88A actually during the games. Other Korean amateurs may use 88 in their prefixes.

G3FKM in *Radio Communication*

DX CALENDAR

Thanks to *QRZ DX* and *The DX Bulletin* for the following.

Faroe Islands DK9FE is making plans for a May 8-27 operation from the Faroe Islands -- DK9FE/OY. This will be a CW-only operation. Suggested frequencies: 15 kHz up from bottom of each HF band.

Glorioso/Juan de Nova Jean, FR5ES, will be on Juan de Nova Island for a month beginning April 28. Then he will spend the month of June on Glorioso Island.

Mount Athos *INSIDE DX* reports that Greek operators are making plans for a September 1988 operation from Mount Athos. This will be celebration of the 59th anniversary of the Northern Greece DX Club. Also, there are rumors of one of the monks awaiting his own callsign.

Palmaria Island IP1ARI will be active from Palmaria Island May 20-22, including the ARI International test. All bands, CW and SSB. QSL to I2CZ.

Sao Tome - S9 Erik, SM0AGD, and Thor, LA7XB, will be active /S9 May 3-18. 160-10 meters, with special effort on CW and low bands. NCDXF and Fritzel (a European antenna manufacturer) are sponsoring the trip. QSL LA7XB/S9 to Box 440, 3700 Skein, Norway, and SM0AGD/S9 to Ormbergsv. 17, 197300 Sigtuna, Sweden.

St. Pierre - FP the senior staff of *73 Magazine* will operate from St. Pierre May 26-29, including the WPX CW contest. Look for FP/W2NSD, FP/NA5E, and FP/KA1HY. Larry, NA5E, will concentrate of CW, 38 kHz up. The other two will favor the Extra class portion of 20 meters, and RTTY. QSL all three to W3GXX.

Tierra del Fuego Another good catch for island hunters. LU6XPA is a resident. Try 7003 kHz at 0600Z.

Western Samoa Bing, VK2BCH, will be active from Western Samoa beginning May 8. He will then operate from the Tokelau Islands (ZK3) and both North and South Cook Islands. This will be a 6 month trip.

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A sharp young DXer named Lee
Had just won his DXCC.

The very next day
He worked a JA,
Which gave him one hundred and three.

Tucker D. Ott

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**ERIC EDBERG, W6DU
NCDXC DXER OF THE YEAR**



Congratulations to Eric, W6DU, NCDXC DXer of the Year! The award was announced in Visalia at the main banquet by committee chairman Rubin, WA6AHF. Again, congratulations to Eric for a job well done!

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**YEMEN OPERATION ANNOUNCED BY THE
LYNX DX GROUP**

As a fitting sequel to their very successful operation as S0RASD, The Lynx DX Group has just announced their plans for a DXpedition to the Yemen Arabic Republic late in June or early July! The announcement was made by Juan, EA9IE, at the Visalia DX Convention on April 24. Further details will appear here and in the various DX bulletins as the DXpedition date becomes firm. Yemen appears high on all most wanted lists and is guaranteed to result in a new one for many DXers. QRX!

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**CW OPERATION FROM THE VATICAN DURING
CQ WW WPX**

Brook, K4TKM, and brother Ken, K4TEA, will guest operate at HV3SJ with Pino, I0DUD, during the upcoming CQ WW WPX contest. The Vatican is not very active on phone and is even less active on CW, so here's your chance to put a good one in the log! All bands from 10 thru 160 will be operated, usually 25 kHz up from the low end, 35 up on 160. All QSLs go to I0DUD. The CW WW WPX contest will run over the May 28-29 weekend.

K4TKM via W6CF

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**JOHN G. TROSTER, W6ISQ
ELECTED TO CQ DX HALL OF FAME**



Congratulations also to Jack, W6ISQ, for his election to the *CQ Magazine* DX Hall of Fame. The presentation was made at the Visalia Convention by John Attaway, K4IIF, who spoke of W6ISQ's many years of devoted service to DX, and of his pioneering work that led to the NCDXF's world-wide beacon network.

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THE DXNS USSR OBLAST GUIDE

This guide is published by Geoff Watts, editor of the popular *DX News Sheet* from 1962 to 1982. Contents of the guide includes outline maps of all 184 oblasts; list of oblasts (numerical); list of oblasts (prefix order); oblasts of 3-letter-suffix calls; oblasts of 2-letter-suffix calls; oblasts of 1-letter-suffix calls; oblasts of active pre-1970 calls; pre-1970 club-station oblast list; pre-1984 club-station oblast list; "Victory-40" stations and their oblasts; R-100-0 Worked-100 oblasts Award; deleted oblasts that still count; future new USSR prefixes; USSR "CQ-M" annual contest rules; R-150-S USSR Countries List; "CQ" and ITU Zone List. The list, which runs to 13 pages, costs \$3.00 or 6 IRCs for airmail delivery. Orders go to Geoff Watts, 62 Belmore Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0PU, England.

DX News Sheet, via W6ISQ

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KB6BW TAKES OVER ROSTER DUTIES

Dave Hillman, N6AUS, has decided to give up the job of maintaining the master membership roster for the NCDXC. Dave has served the club well in this capacity since the early 1980s. Martin Oppenheimer, KB6BW, has agreed to take on the job starting immediately. Thanks Martin, and thanks to Dave for a job well done!

Ted, KA6W

WANT TO OPERATE FROM THE USSR?

Thanks to *QRZ DX* for this interesting info.

Would you like to operate from the Soviet Union? Yes? Then read what Valery, UA0KK, is proposing.

Valery, UA0KK (formerly UA0KAV and R0K), is organizing an expedition to Ayon Island -- in the Soviet Arctic. For Islands- On-The-Air enthusiasts and oblast hunters, this is IOTA AS38 and oblast 139. The expedition will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Chelyuskin icebreaker rescue, which was crushed by ice on its polar journey in 1934. For assisting the rescue efforts two Americans were then awarded the Soviet Order of Lenin, one of the highest honors in the USSR.

Valery extends an invitation to American clubs and individuals to participate in what he hopes will be the first Soviet-American DXpedition. He now needs some backing by Americans to take his idea to the Central Radio Club of the USSR and other Soviet authorities. Due to the current internal Soviet political situation, the time just might be right for this sort of an expedition. Since the expedition is proposed by the Soviets, there is a good chance that operating permission will be issued to visiting U.S. hams. In the future this may conceivably lead to reciprocal licensing between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The expedition will take place in February of 1989, so there is enough time to make arrangements. If you or your club is interested, write to Valery Schinevsky, PO Box 44, Pevek, Magadanskaya Oblast 686610, USSR. Also, send a letter to the Central Radio Club of the USSR, PO Box 88, Moscow, USSR, and let the Central Radio Club know your intentions.

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DARLEY RADIO CLUB ANNOUNCES W.A.D. AWARD

The WAD AWARD is an activity award sponsored by the DARLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (DARC), Darley, North Yorkshire, England, to encourage HAM RADIO Communications between DARC members and other hams. The WAD is awarded in recognition of having established two-way radio communications with a minimum number of DARCies in any mode (CW, SSB, FM, ATV, PACKET, AMTOR, etc...). The successful participants will be awarded the WAD CERTIFICATE (FREE OF CHARGE) to signify their successful fulfillment of the requirements listed below.

Award Level Requirements

NOVICE Contact any 5 members of DARC plus a contact with the DARC Club Station G0FOS.

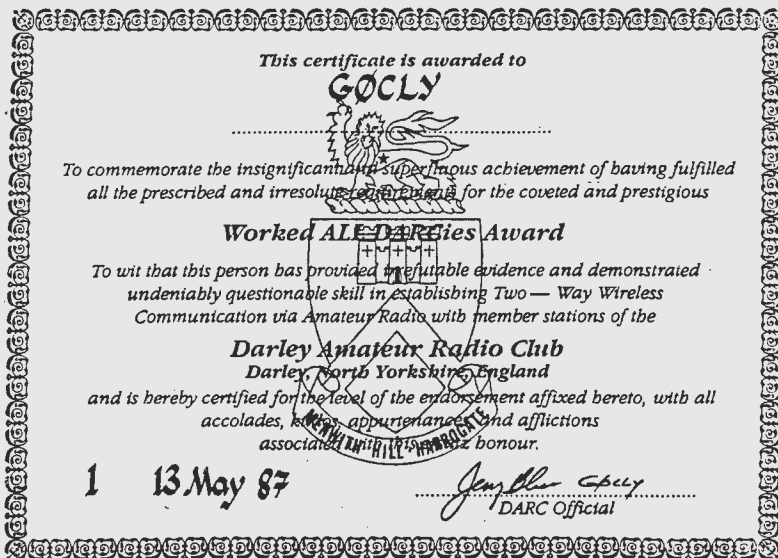
GENERAL Earn the Novice level plus 3 additional DARC members and the U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY Special Event Call GB4JUL.

DXer (VHF/UHF) Contact 5 members from a distance greater than 50 miles on VHF/UHF bands, only.

SPECIAL Contact 5 DARC special event call signs.

Those seeking the WAD award should send a list of call signs and log entry data for the qualifying level along with their own CALL SIGN and return address to the DARC Awards Chairman,

Jerry Bliss, G0CLY
PO Box 219 MHS
Harrogate, North Yorks. HG3 2RF
England



Worked All DARCies Award

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1988 NORTHWEST DX CONVENTION

The 1988 Northwest DX Convention will be held in Richmond, BC, Canada, July 22-24. The host will be the British Columbia DX Club. The convention will be held at the Richmond Inn, 7551 Westminister Highway, Richmond, BC, Canada, phone (604) 273-7878. Pre-registration (banquet and breakfast included) will be \$38 US. After July 1, the price goes up \$2.00. Contact Ken Thompson, PO Box 30-48 Blaine, WA 98230. Checks payable to the BC DX Club.

Tnx *QRZ DX*

REPEATER COMMITTEE NEWS

The implementation of the expansion plan approved by the Board of Directors is in the planning and evaluation phase. The evaluation of the additional controller requirements necessitated by the 420 MHz linking plan will be completed by mid-May, with construction and installation planned to start in early June. Members wishing to volunteer labor, equipment, or information are encouraged



Lou, K6TMB

to contact me or John Cronin, K6LLK. The Repeater Technical Committee will publish the specification for interfacing to the 420 MHz port in the June *DXer*. A formal request has been made to NARC for a pair of 420 MHz linking frequencies for use in linking to the 147.36/96 repeater on Black Mountain.

It is with regret that I have accepted the resignation of Rod Deacon, NR7E, from the Repeater Technical Committee because of business and personal reasons. Rod has been a member of the Repeater Technical Committee for over ten years and he played a significant part in the designing in of the high quality and reliability of the present repeater system. Rod, our sincere thanks for the work you have done in the past. You will be missed.

Joe Turek, WB6DFX, has agreed to fill the vacancy created by Rod's resignation. Joe brings to the Committee extensive experience in land mobile and commercial repeater maintenance and is a welcome addition to the Committee. The present Committee now consists of WB6DFX, W6JZU, K6LLK, WB6OOL, and K6TMB.

Lou Beaudet, K6TMB
Chairman,
Repeater Technical Committee.

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BOOK REVIEW FOR THE DXER WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Having difficulty finding an appropriate gift for that DXer wife, husband, or friend who seems to have everything? Well, the National Capitol DX Association has an usual offering that may fit the bill. After all, eating and drinking generally run a close second in popularity among DXers. It is, so help me, the NCDXA Official Cookbook *What's Cookin' in the QTH?* The book is the brainchild of Hope Smith, WB3ANE, yf of Don Search, W3AZD, of DXCC Desk fame. No recipe appears from Don (probably too busy checking cards

to eat), but there are plenty of goodies to make up for that omission. How about Scarlett's Parfait by Vic Clark, W4KFC, or a DXer's Whiskey Cake by Linda, KA1ZD, XYL of Dave Sumner, K1ZZ?

Anyway, it's fun reading about fun eating. Slip a \$7.00 check into an envelope and rush it off to Hope Smith, WB3ANE, 218 Normandy Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20901.

Jim, W6CF

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NEW 8JK BOOK PUBLISHED

Antenna buffs will be interested to know that John Kraus, W8JK, has just published a revised, enlarged 2nd edition of his book *Antennas*, the antenna designer's bible. It is a bit expensive, but well worth the cost: \$51.95 plus \$1.85 per book for shipping and handling within the U.S. Orders go to Cygnus-Quasar Books, PO Box 85, Powell, OH 43065, telephone (614) 548-7895.

Ted, KA6W

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W6OAT & WA6VEF HIGH IN SWEEPSTAKES TEST

According to May *QST*, just out, two NCDXC members took the Pacific Division in last November's Sweepstakes Contest. Rusty, W6OAT, took first place in Pacific Division, and 4th place nationwide on CW. Gary, WA6VEF, who operated at N6BT, was high in the Pacific Division and 5th high nationally. Gary also took 9th place nationally on CW, while Jay, W6GO, won Sacramento Valley handily on phone, and took 7th place nationally. Congratulations to all!

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POSTAL RATES UP

Our recent postal increase brings to mind the USPS limerick written by Martin Wellborn at the time of the last increase. It is just as timely today, perhaps even more so.

Said the Postmaster General, "Hooray!
I have something important to say -
The letter you send
From here to South Bend
Costs less than a penny a day."

ON TOWER HEIGHT

by Dave Barton, AF6S

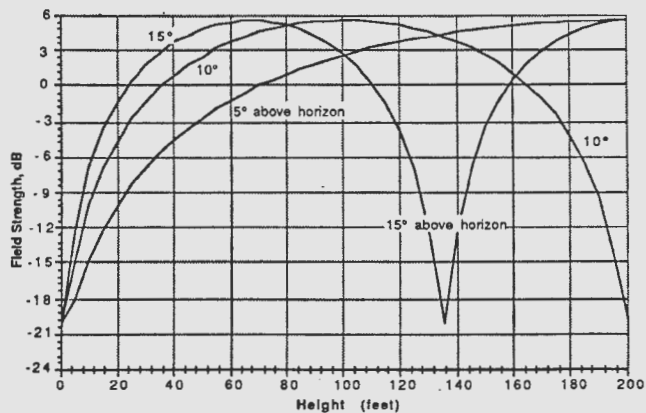
The talk at the March NCDXC meeting by AA6G on propagation inspired me to think about radiation angle more seriously than I had before. Of particular interest was his information that many DX paths are characterized by takeoff angles as low as 5 degrees.

Every (flatland) DXer knows that, generally, the higher the antenna the better. Of course, it's also obvious that the greater the antenna gain the better. However, the tradeoff between height and gain is not so obvious. For example, if you asked "what would be better, 8 dBd gain at 90 feet or 11 dBd at 60 feet?" one might have difficulty deciding. Yet, when choosing a tower, one must make some kind of judgment along these lines, since high gain antennas generally have greater areas, requiring greater wind load capability in the tower, than lower gain antennas.

Although many sources, including the ARRL Antenna Handbook, show vertical plane radiation patterns for various heights, the information is not exactly what's wanted, since perfectly conducting ground is usually assumed and since the plots are linear, rather than in dB, making the smaller values difficult to read and making direct comparisons to antenna gains difficult.

I decided to put together a computer spreadsheet, in which signal strength was calculated, in dB, directly against height, for a range of takeoff angles. The equations used were based on simple vector summation of the direct and ground-reflected signals. I had the computer calculate the numbers for 14 MHz at takeoff angles of 5, 10 and 15 degrees, using a ground reflection coefficient of 0.9 (typical earth), for heights from zero to 200 feet. I next made the computer graph the numbers in the spreadsheet columns. The result, below, shows that at both 5 and 10 degrees the answer to the original question is arbitrary; the two systems are roughly equal. It also shows that antennas at 140 feet have about 6 dB advantage (at 5 degrees) over those at 60 feet. This shouldn't surprise anyone! Also, the deep null in the 15 degree radiation for heights around 140 feet is the reason contesters sometimes put some of their transmit power into a 60 foot high antenna aimed at Texas (those who don't might want to reconsider, hi).

For self-supporting towers, price/performance ratio favors the 60 to 70-foot height range. This is so, because the tower cost dominates all other considerations, and tower cost tends to increase as the square of height, but only linearly with antenna area. Aesthetic considerations may lead to the same conclusion.



Field Strength vs. Height
(14 MHz, gnd refl. coeff. = 0.9)

For those with the space for a guyed tower, the trade-off is different, since tower cost is only directly proportional to height.

If any club member is interested in more detail on the equations used, the spreadsheet setup, etc., please feel welcome to call, using the number listed in the roster.

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DXAC AND CAC MEMBERS FOR 1988 ANNOUNCED

QST has just announced the makeup of the DX Advisory Committee and the Contest Advisory Committee for 1988. Bob Thompson, K6SSJ, has retired as DXAC member from the Pacific Division after over 5 years of faithful service. His replacement is NCDXC/NCCC member Jim Maxwell, W6CF. NCDXC/NCCC member Gary Caldwell, WA6VEF, continues as Pacific Division member on the Contest Advisory Committee.

Following is the full makeup of the two committees:

DX Advisory Committee

Atlantic Division - N2SS
 Central Division - W9NUF
 Dakota Division - W0SFU
 Delta Division - K5UR
 Great Lakes Division - K8NA
 Hudson Division - W2QM
 Midwest Division - W0SR
 New England Division - K1MM
 Northwestern Division - K7ZR
 Pacific Division - W6CF
 Roanoke Division - W4FRU (Chairman)
 Rocky Mountain Division - N0RR
 Southeastern Division - W4VQ
 Southwestern Division - N6RJ

West Gulf Division - K5NW
 CRRL - VE3EJ
 Board Liaison - W7RM
 Staff Liaison - W1XX
 Administrative Liaison - Lisa Clark

Contest Advisory Committee

Atlantic Division - K2ZJ
 Central Division - K9BG
 Dakota Division - N0AT
 Delta Division - K4CX
 Great Lakes Division - W8FN
 Hudson Division - K2NJ
 Midwest Division - KB0U
 New England Division - K1DG
 Northwestern Division - K5MM/7
 Pacific Division - WA6VEF
 Roanoke Division - K3ZJ
 Rocky Mountain Division - W0CP
 Southeastern Division - NE4L
 Southwestern Division - N6VI (Chairman)
 West Gulf Division - K5RX
 CRRL - VE3KZ
 Board Liaison - N4MM
 Staff Liaison - K1XA
 Administrative Liaison - Lisa Clark

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**EXPANDED FREE ACCESS TO BAY AREA
 EMERGENCY AUTODIAL NUMBERS**

SPARK and SARS announce the expanded availability of emergency autodial numbers to any licensed amateur radio operator in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. These numbers include Police, Fire/Paramedics in 42 Bay Area cities, 15 agencies including the California Highway Patrol, AAA and Allstate Emergency Road Services, County sheriffs, plus seven college campus security services.

With this information, radio amateurs with two-meter touch-tone equipment can call in highway emergencies, report fires, obtain road service, or report problems to campus security via W6APZ/R operating on 144.63/145.23. Most cities from San Francisco and Berkeley south to San Jose are included on both sides of the bay. The repeater is located in the Palo Alto foothills and covers from Gilroy through San Francisco, including the East Bay out to the Livermore Valley.

The ten emergency numbers that have been available for the last several years are included in the expanded service, but new agency access numbers have been assigned. These new numbers correspond to those in use on W6ASH repeater on 145.27-, the WB6ADZ repeater on 146.115+, and N6ITW on

440.10+. While each repeater retains its own Autodial On Code, the coordination among these repeaters better serves the ham community by minimizing the different agency codes one needs to remember.

The original ten agency codes will cease to exist after July 4, 1988. This overlap will permit a smooth transition to the new emergency numbers.

This free public service is provided by the South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK) and the SRI Amateur Radio Society (SARS). To obtain the expanded list of autodial codes, send a photocopy of your amateur radio license and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the repeater trustee:

W6APZ/R, 840 Talisman Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4435.

Ham clubs or families with several hams may send one request and photocopies of many licenses with one SASE. One copy of the autodial information will be returned for each license received. Even if you have sent in a copy of your license before, a new photocopy of your ticket is required to obtain the expanded list.

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ROSTER CHANGES

Please make the following changes to the November 1987 NCDXC membership roster.

- KA6BIM Change address to 3877 Woodward, Manteca, CA 95336.
- KG6GF Change phone numbers to (408) 636-1575 (H), (408) 224-3200 (W).
- W6LVY Change address to 13160 Uvas Rd., Morgan Hill, CA 95037.
- WA6O Change address to 1299 San Tomas Aquino Rd., #120, San Jose, CA 95117. (408) 247-1482 (H).
- N65T Change address to 13707 Skyline Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95030. Phones: (408) 741-1203 (H), (415) 694-2617 (W).
- AK6T Change phone number to (415) 8367-3478 (H)
- W6VQD Change address to 15875 Nesika Bay Rd., Poulsbo, WA 98370.

+ = + = +

A big-gun DXer named Platter
 Was known on the band for his splatter.
 His tiny, slow brain
 Said turn down the gain --
 He worked stuff, so what did it matter?

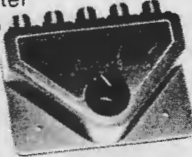
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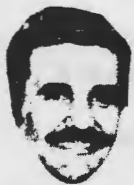


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