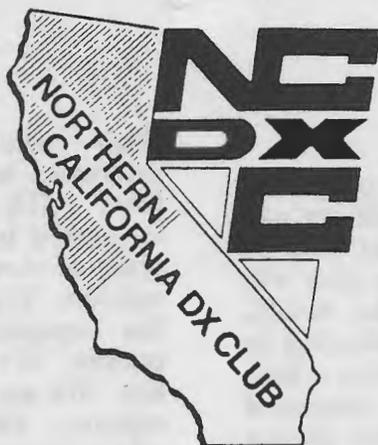


# THE



# DXer

SEPT,

~~AUGUST~~ 1988

VOL XLI - NUMBER 9

## Calendar of Events

Remember the club meeting is the Picnic this month. The Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 25th, at Coyote Point Park in San Mateo.

September events:

- Sep 9 - See Sep 25.
- Sep. 10 - Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College.
- Sep. 9-11 - ARRL National Convention, Portland, OR.
- Sep. 17 - Electronic Flea Market, Santa Rosa.
- Sep. 25 - NCDXC Picnic at Coyote Point.
- Oct. 1-2 - California QSO Party.
- Oct. 8-9 - DXPO '88 Falls Church, VA. Info: contact Stu Meyer, W2GHK.
- Oct. 14-16 - ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Jose.

## California QSO Party

The Northern California Contest Club would like to invite you to participate in the 1988 California QSO Party. The event begins at 1600 UTC October 1, 1988 and ends at 2200 UTC October 2, 1988. More information available on 147.24 or from Gary, WA6VEF.

## ROSTER UPDATES

Two new members:

WA6HAN, Dean Bailey, of Santa Rosa, and  
N6OSF, Gene Jellison, of Milpitas.

WELCOME TO THE NCDXC.

Two roster corrections:

W6YWH, Wes Johnston, change zip to: 95338  
WA0QII, Rod Roderique, 'phone changes:  
Home: 408 254-8420  
Shack: 408 353-4794  
Work: 408 737-2000, Ext. 7242

## SEBASTAPOL FLEA MKT IN SANTA ROSA

Saturday, September 17, 1988 8 AM to 2 PM, the 6th annual SCRA Amateur Radio Flea Market is at the National Guard Armory just off the freeway in Santa Rosa. Plenty of free parking is available in the adjacent Santa Rosa Junior College Parking lot. The Armory is at Highway 101, Steele Lane exit East.

## DX CONVENTION

The next International DX Convention will be held in Visalia at the Grosvenor Holiday Inn of Visalia California. The convention will run from 21 through 23 April 1989. Hotel room reservations may be made by calling (during normal working hours) the Holiday Inn at 209/651-5000.

There is a design contest to create the Convention Badge. Send your drawing(s) to Bill Zachman, W6TPH, 37191 Panton Terrace Apt #2014, Fremont CA 94536. There will be a nice prize for the winning entry.

**THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB, INC. PO 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: Jerry Griffin, W8MEP  
Vice President:  
Secretary: Tom Jones, K6TS  
Treasurer: Stan Kuhl, K6MA  
Director: Ted Algren, KA6W  
Director: Hal Godfrey, N6AN  
Director: Chuck Patterson, K6RK

### DXER STAFF

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DX Ladder: Jim Hicks, KK6X  
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1063 Summerwood Court  
San Jose, CA 95132

Send DX ladder reports to:

Jim Hicks  
737 Vista Pacifica Circle  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

### NCDXC REPEATER W6TI/R

Input 147.36 Mhz; Output 147.96 Mhz; Simplex 147.45 Mhz  
Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Repeater Committee Chairman: Lou Beaudet, K6TMB

### NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

On W6TI/R Thursday at 8:00 PM local time.  
Operations Manager: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q

DX News: Phil Garrahan, W6LQC

Propogation: Al Lotze, W6RQ

Contest News: Bob Dorse, K4UVT

Westlink: Dave Bottom, KD6AZ

Swap Shop: Steve Munro, KZ6Z

QSL Information: 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 0200 UTC) on 7.015 Mhz and 14.002 Mhz.

## The Doctor Cometh

When I took this august office a couple of months ago, I thought, no problem—things will be whipped into shape in no time, and we'll all be working DX like we want to, the club will be on auto pilot, and things will be A-OK. Well, since then, we've become embroiled in several problems that had been brewing a long time, and I inherited them! We improved repeater expansion last year, set aside money for it, but to date no one has applied to connect on. We have had a letter to tell us they can't afford it, and they would rather just listen and no input to "our" repeater system is free (!), but they can still listen(!) ..... We have become involved in a "Packet DX Announcement Explosion," which is perceived as a problem, and may be, but perhaps it is not. We are involved in seriously tracking down jammer(s) and those who would try to curtail and edit our member's opinions and announcements on the repeater..... When, what challenges(!)! My vice president resigned to become editor of the DXer--what next?

It has been said that this club needed not only a physician, but an ER Doc to cure it. (?) (Cat Person, go suck an egg—I know who you are—I have figured you out!!!!!!) ..... I think this club needs a nurse, and perhaps a bandaid, but definitely no emergency surgery! Let's define the problem solving process: There must be a problem, or at least something perceived as a problem, and it must be recognized as such. There must be an active process to define the problem to seek solutions actively to take care of the problem, and there must be what is believed as resolution to the problem.

We have in this organization what is generally believed by the members and the rest of the DX world as one of the finest DX organizations on the face of this weird earth. We have an organization that is dedicated to the principles of DXing and its pursuit. We have many members who are big guns, many little pistols, old-timers who are part of the life-blood of us, newcomers, and many others who join simply because they want to be a part of us. We also have many honorary members, great ones, big names in our affliction, and affiliate members who moved away, who still care but live outside of the boundaries. We have a 'Club within a Club'—The Northern California Contest

Club-- who represents those of us that are interested in only contesting, but also perhaps from a DX site. Suffice it to say we are all interested in DXing, perhaps from a different point of view. We are all entitled to voice our opinion. We are all entitled to call out DX on the repeater. We are all entitled to use packet. We are all entitled to voice our opinion. We are all entitled to call out DX on the repeater, we are all entitled to use packet. I said it twice because it bears repeating! (No pun intended....) What comes from all of this? We are a very diverse club with many members who have diverse interest, and express ourselves in many ways! Let's take away the personal views, the egos, the grinding axes, and leave only standing the "Club", as a single entity. What we find or see is an organization dedicated to what we all fantasize as the ideal organization dedicated to DX and the DXer! Do we really need to add our personal brand of DXing or perceived points of view, and let them become a destructive force in this group of DXers? I think not! Let us keep in mind what we are all about, that it is the great fellowship of DXing and amateur radio we come to praise and appreciate at our fellowship ceremony at Harry's every month, and on the repeater! We form many bonds and friendships in our organization, but let us not destroy the organization in the process! We must nurture, we must appreciate, we must allow every member to breathe this nectar, this air of dedication of DXing and its pursuit, and we must share our knowledge and expertise! If we don't do this, we may as well become a band of wildcat workers of DX, and continue to live for our selfish purposes.....

The problem solving process applied so far has dealt with the identification of the perceived problem (repeater use down, packet DX call-out up). AE6H tells us that only about twenty or so stations use packet to call out DX consistently, and some also call it out on the repeater for the multitude. Where are the rest of the members? Were there only twenty DXers calling out DX? Egads—I can't believe that! Have you all been intimidated? Where are you? Let's hear you! Where are all the old-timers of the club who have been members for eons, but not heard on the repeater? I ask you to become active and viable members

again! We crave your experience and ability! Come, be a part of us--we need you to help nurture our generation of DXers! Help us, guide us, give us your input! And if anybody is disrespectful or attempts to jam or censor you, I want to know, so I can beat them across the forehead with a two by four! (Seems to be the only way to treat this behavior--this comes from my days of wearing crossed rifles on my collar, not medical corps!) This organization is a perfect forum for you, and we need you!

Change is constant, and we can't stop progress--packet is a desired progress! We need to accept it, we need to incorporate it in our way of DX announcing, and perhaps that may be a solution? I can't help but feel that because of the emotional response to the perceived 'threat' of packet DX announcements that this is good for our club! To have so many people who care so much, who want to so much to maintain one of the life-bloods of our club, is a good sign! It is a sign of health! We are not sick, we are well! The club is the same--there are only some changes, and because we care so much, only good can come from this! I invite you all to be a part of the solution, and not the perceived problem! Be proud--we have great strength, we have the best in the world in our club! Our bonds are strong, we have a healthy, viable club! Help me take it to new heights! This is not a divisive problem, it is a healthy and strengthening process--growth is painful! (Remember.....?) If all of you who have cared enough to have written me take the time to allay your fears, to make announcements, to be active, there would be no problem! I know you care--care enough to make announcements! And you packeteers--make hourly summaries on the repeater! There must be at least several sight impaired or handicapped members who need your call-outs--they are members, they need you!

We are also working on a packet to voice translating system--be patient!

I repeat--my invitation is to be a part of the solution, not the perceived problem--jump in, the water is fine! I have an open door, my/our directors are open to you. This is your club! Guide us!

Our meeting for September is our annual picnic! I hope to see you all there. There

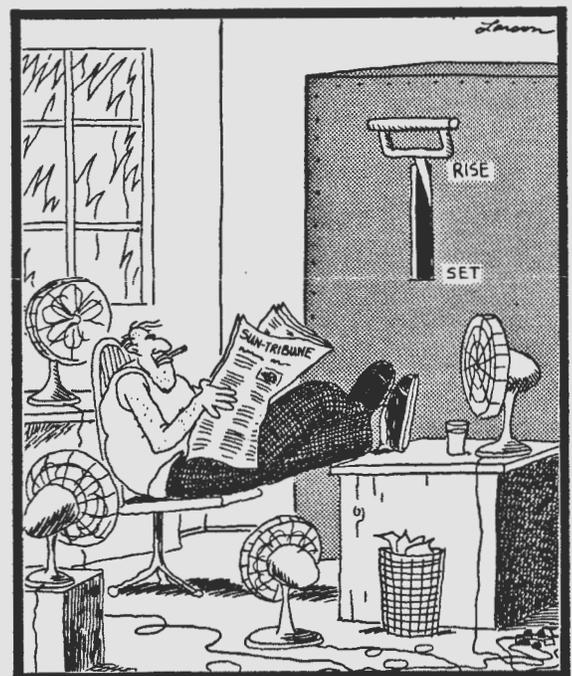
must be many who have not been to recent meetings. I would love to meet you and see you there!

Does anybody know how to get FD1MXQ/TT approved by the DXCC desk? I would love some advice.....

If any of you smokers want to quit, I will be happy to write you a prescription (FREE!!!!) for Nicorette Gum to get you away from the nicotine habit! Just think, if you quit smoking, you could breathe better, have more endurance, and have more time to work DX and call out DX on the repeater!!!!!!

**73/GUD DX, JERRY, W8MEP/6**

What nobody ever told Al, W6RQ.



inside the sun

## Editorial

Lots of things have been said about the *DXER* and most of them have been good. But without a doubt the best *DXERs* I have seen since I joined the NCDXC, are the ones put out by Jim Maxwell, W6CF. I really understand his efforts now and I hope all of you join me in thanking Jim for a job more than well done. **Thank you, Jim Maxwell.**

Well I had my doubts at first, but here it is: the September *DXER*. This issue is a little thin at the moment. However, I hope to add more features and art as time passes and I become familiar with the production process. As this *DXER* goes to press, I was not sure until the last minute how much writing it took to fill it up. I feel more comfortable now with the process and could use more material. Remember, I am the editor not the all the reporters and editorial staff. The *DXER* and I need your inputs to make a good news letter. A note from you, a note clipped from someplace else, cartoons, a clip of art, how to do it, or how not to do it all of these are easy to do and nice to share. Those of you who have contributed, thank you and please continue to do so. And, if you haven't written, give it a try. Let me know how I am doing and where you can get additional material for the *DXER*. *We can all benefit.*

Best regards and good DX. Dave, KE8ZE

## Letters to the Editor

Facts, what facts? These are opinions expressed here. Any clod can have the facts, it is an art to have an opinion.

Herb Cain, with some liberties taken.

## WHITHER GOEST W6TI/R? PART III

Writing these notes for the DX'er has really been a lot of fun. Even the expressions of negative opinions have been rewarding. Thanks to all who wrote and called. A special thanks to those of you who chanced being recognized talking to me at the last meeting; very brave indeed. Activity is up and the voice announcements are more frequent and timely. That's really terrific and very much appreciated. The repeater sounds more like a DX repeater--keep it up.

The NCDXC has many different things to offer each of its members to meet individual needs. Announcements, meetings, newsletters, contests and conventions all are part of what the club is about. We are a collective force

possessing awesome power and capable of tremendous potential. But there is a glue that holds all of us together. We are bound to the club and to each other by a force that must be inherent in any organization regardless of its type or speciality. It has different names all conveying the same basic theme. Call it camaraderie or fellowship or esprit de corps. It all means that special sense of belonging to something special.

Every member needs to feel they are a part of the whole. Conveying that feeling is the first responsibility of any organization that wants to continue its existence. Our club is not doing a very good job of this. Sure, there are nets, meetings, picnics and the convention. But how many times have you heard a station come on the repeater asking for help or information only to receive endless silence? Or, how many members have been rudely chastised for some supposed transgression on or off the air?

What makes this behavior and attitude a problem that overshadows all the other positive aspects of club activities is that the repeater is everyone's first and most consistent club contact. Visitors meet the NCDXC by checking the repeater. Members and non-members alike are exposed most often to the club through the repeater. Judgements are made about the club and all of its members based solely on what transpires over the repeater. It's true the club is not the repeater but the repeater is the club. It's a reflection or an image of everything and everyone associated with the NCDXC.

That's why this feeling of camaraderie is so important. Each member, rookie or veteran, young or old, should feel comfortable and confident when contacting the club through the repeater. Jamming, the silent treatment, rude noises or challenges do not shine a very glorious light on any of us. It's each member's responsibility, or duty if you like, to treat each other with courtesy and respect. It's also each members right to expect no less from the club. Membership in this club is first and foremost based on the desire to belong to a group that shares our same passion for DX'ing. That's what keeps the club going; not just the repeater or meetings but the spirit and fellowship available through the repeater or at the

meetings.

Our club's strength is based on the strength and diversity of all the members. To continue as the beacon for international DX associations we must insure each member has a sense of worth in the club and that the organization is meeting the needs for which we joined in the first place. The basic needs of camaraderie and fellowship are of primary importance. That's what attracts new members and also what keeps existing members. And that's what will keep the club strong and proud. It's not only the DX announcements. They are free.

**Paul Hansen, AE6H**

## **DXAC NEWS**

The DXCC country status of Malyj Vysotskij Island is still a hot item within the DXAC. As most of you probably know by now, Malyj Vystoskij Island was activated in early July by a group of three Finnish and three Russian hams consisting of OH2BH, OH5NZ, OH2RF, UR2AR, UZ3AU, and UW3AX. The group has claimed DXCC country status for M-V based on a Nov. 1970 letter of approval by the ARRL. Copies of the letter and other relevant documents have now been received by the DXAC and are being studied. Copies of other documents are on their way. Seppo Sisatto, OH2BA, the president of SRAL, the Finnish Amateur Radio League, and Martti Laine, OH2BH, are on the program at the ARRL National Convention in Portland early next month. Their presentation will probably be the highlight of the convention for DXers!

Time is running out for those who wish to comment on two proposals scheduled for vote in September by the DXAC. One is related to DXCC endorsement levels and an Honor Roll for RTTYers, while the other is a vote for DXCC country status for Okino Tori- Shima. Details of these two questions were given in last month's DXer.

That's it for this month. If you'd like to express your opinions on anything related to the ARRL's DX program, please write!

**Jim, W6CF**

## **Minutes of the August 1988 General Meeting**

The August meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto, on August 12, 1988. The President, Jerry, W8MEP, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Jerry welcomed our DX guests VK3WK, Bill from Australia, KG6SL, Bert from Saipan, and 4X4JU and his family from Israel.

Jerry announced the passing of S79WHW and asked for a moment's silence.

W6CF gave a brief rundown on DX Country status for 4J1FS--rationale--keep hoping for those who have worked this station. Our Contest Chairman, K4UVT, Bob, gave a rundown on upcoming contests and with a special note that the NCDXC Annual Marathon will be over on August 31st, so hurry and work those stations and get your report into him by October 1st. The Club raffle, run by Steve, W6MKM, continues to be successful. The first price, an ICOMAH-7000, Wide Band Omni Directional Antenna, was won by Kip, W6SZN, and the second price, a Bencher YA-1 Low Pass Filter, was won by Ou, K6TMB. So far this past year, the Club shows over \$300.00 profit from the raffle efforts. Congratulations, Steve, on your great efforts for the Club!

The Club President, Jerry, gave a briefing on the W6TI repeater interference problem which has surfaced again.

This item was discussed at length during the Board Meeting. The Board resolved to solve this problem and will supply administrative, legal, and financial resources to eliminate this deliberate and selective jamming of NCDXC W6TI Club member repeater users.

**A reminder to all Club members.** The 1988/89 dues are due now. Avoid the rush--pay now, enjoy later.

Jerry announced the resignation of our Vice President, Dave Engle. Dave has taken over the position of DXer Editor. Therefore, the position of Vice President is open and the Board is reviewing possible candidates. When a selection is made, the candidate will be brought to the Club membership for ratification.

The Club Treasurer, Stan, K6MA, has assumed the position of active Treasurer. A financial report will be given at the next regular meeting.

Jerry asked the members to give consideration to having a Club Christmas Party. Give it some thought and at our next meeting, a poll will be taken.

Jay, W6GO, reported that Norm Brooks, K6FO, underwent heart by-pass surgery and is recovering at Sutter Memorial Hospital, 52nd and "F" Street, Sacramento, CA 95819. The Club has sent a get well card to Norm. Drop him a card, too.

**The NCDXC Club Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 25th, at Coyote Point Park in San Mateo. This is our September meeting!** The park has reduced parking fees for Seniors and the Club will furnish beer, soft drinks and charcoal. See you and your families there!

Second readings were held for WA6HAN, Dean Bailey, and N6OSF, Gene Jellison. The membership voted unanimously for acceptance into the NDXC. Welcome Dean and Gene.

First readings were held for K6YT, Fred Canham, WB6OHH, Bob Murphy, and KI6EZ, Alex Rabinovich. Their second readings will be given at the next regular Club meeting held on October 14, 1988.

The evening program "A Trip to Ascension Island" (ZD8 Land) was given by Hillar, N6HR. Hillar's photographic display of the Island features and living conditions along with his briefing were excellent. How many of the NCDXC members would travel to Ascension Island now for a DXpedition? Hillar--thank you for such a nice presentation.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, /s/ Thomas F. Jones,  
NCDXC Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 1988

### Checking Account Activity

July Check Balance	\$1,918.93
Deposits From Dues	1,860.00
Other Receipts	211.50

Sub-Total	\$3,990.43
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Accounts Payable	-\$1,024.18
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Current Balance	\$2,966.25
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Bank of America Savings	\$10,841.71
Includes Reserve for QSL	
Purchase \$500.00	

Please note: In last month's DXer, transfer of life dues was \$1,248 from savings account, *not* \$1,986.87 as indicated!!

Certificate of Deposit	\$7,481.51
American S&L matures 7/18/89	
Rate 7.35% Yield 7.626%	

Stan Kuhl, K6MA, Treasurer

## Minutes of NCDXC Board of Directors Meeting, August 1988

The President, Jerry, W8MEP, called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. on Aug 12, 1988, at the home of W6VG. Present were club officers K6RK, N6AN, K6MA, KA6W, W6VG, K6TS, and KE6ZE. Also present were W6TPH, K6TMB, and AG6Q. The Board of Directors reviewed the following action items.

*International DX Convention Status:* W6TPH, Bill, briefed the Board on the DX Convention Committee's meetings and areas of progress. It appears that the Committee is underway with another meeting planned this month. Bill requested either the use of the present Club Treasurer or assignment of a Special Treasurer to handle the convention business/account. The Board agreed that a separate Convention Treasurer was warranted and a separate bank account should be arranged. A volunteer for his position is needed.

Bill outlined some ideas for the Convention such as Ladies Program, shuttle bus between hotels, Patch Contest, and a sign-up for table seating arrangements which has been as past Conventions.

Convention feed money was discussed and a change from 250.00 to 500.00 dollars was made. The Board members have agreed with the requested increase and changed the Procedures Manual to accommodate increased financial requirements.

Bill hopes that the next meeting of his Committee will establish their budget and identify cost of attendance tickets. Bill will attend BOD meetings and report progress as it occurs.

*W6TI Repeater Program Progress:* To date, the newly constructed Repeater Controller has not been installed. Delays have occurred in delivery of parts for the installation. Additionally, Ted, KA6W, reported that the Napa Valley NCDXC members will hold off making a request for a 420 MHz link-up as their 17 members did not feel it would be cost effective at this time. They may request a link at a later time.

*Packet Radio DX Announcements:* Lou, K6TMB, is still looking into the possibility of transferring Packet announcements via the W6TI Repeater when such Packet DX announcements are made.

Our President, Jerry, offered to fund the cost of the computer data-to-voice chip if the system is feasible.

More detail of this capability will be reported when available.

*Other business:*

KE6ZE, Dave, has resigned as NCDXC Vice President and has taken over as the Editor of the DXer. The Board is presently looking for a replacement for Dave's position. When a candidate has been selected, he or she will be presented to the Club membership for ratification.

The BOD also discussed the Repeater Expansion Program which was approved last year. It was decided to adopt a "wait and see" posture to see who wants to link up with us. The BOD encourages outlying linkage and also

outlying DXers to make DX announcements and be active repeater user!

The publication costs for the DXer were also addressed. Our past Editor had many assets that cost little or nothing for the Club. Now that a new Editor has taken over, the same assets are not available. Therefore, costs for publication may increase but the Board does not consider this increased cost to be a problem at the present time.

Ron, W6VG, and Hal, N6AN, are looking into the NCDXC archives to determine if an error occurred when determining the NCDXC geographical boundaries. One document quotes 35 degrees North, and another quotes 36 degrees North as the boundary. This investigation is being conducted to determine the status of a Club member who lives at the southern boundary area.

*Special Board Agenda Item*

The NCDXC, President, Secretary, and the Editor of the DXer received a letter of complaint from a Club member concerning incessant jamming and censoring of the Club member's transmissions over the W6TI Repeater.

The Board members discussed this problem at great length and concur that the jamming and censorship of any Club member's transmission is unacceptable.

The NCDXC Board of Directors' position is as follows: Be it resolved that direction finding methods and other methods of investigation be used to determine who or what radio station is causing the deliberate and selective jamming of DX Club Repeater members.

Additionally, the Board recommends full administrative, legal, and financial courses of action.

Further progress will be reported when information is available.

*Membership Renewal:* The Club Treasurer, K6MA reported that approximately 140 Club members have renewed their membership. Hurry people--PAY YOUR DUES.

*Adjournment:* The Board deferred review of the NCDXC By-Laws and Procedures Manual until more time is available. The Board meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M. and all members

reassembled at Harry's Hofbrau for the regular August Club Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, /s/ Thomas F. Jones,  
NCDXC Secretary

## 220-222 MHz ALLOCATED TO LAND MOBILE!

"...the public interest would be best served by providing dedicated spectrum for the development of narrow-band spectrum efficient land mobile technologies, if such technologies are to have a reasonable opportunity for acceptance in the market place." [FCC Commissioners, 8/4/88]

"I take some solace in the fact that the amateur community has been on notice for quite some time of the possibility of the reallocation of this [220-222 MHz] spectrum." [FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick]

"It appears that there is ample space to accommodate current users of the 220-225 MHz segment in the 222-225 MHz segment. Further, numerous other amateur bands are available, and the loss of the 2 MHz represents less than a 2% reduction in amateur spectrum." [Julius Knapp, FCC Chief Frequency Allocations Branch]

"We still feel that the band is lightly used, and that the current uses of that band can be accommodated in the 3 MHz above 222." [Tom Stanley, FCC Chief Engineer]

"We're shocked and disappointed in the Commission's action. ...We've lost the battle, but not the war. The League will continue to pursue every available administrative, judicial, and legislative remedy to ensure that radio amateurs have access to the spectrum they need to serve the public." [ARRL President Larry Price, W4RA]

### *Background:*

The fight to save all five megahertz of the amateur 220 MHz band has been going on for nearly ten years now. The issue came to a head, however, when the FCC proposed reallocating the top two megahertz (220-222) of the 220-225 MHz amateur band to business use on February 2, 1987. Prior to the 1979

World Administrative Radio Conference, the 220-225 MHz band was primarily allocated to the government Radiolocation Service...amateurs were allowed access to the band on a secondary basis.

WARC-79 provided for the phasing out of radiolocation operation in this band and 220-225 MHz became a prime candidate for reallocation. The FCC and NTIA (which gets involved in government frequency matters) said that they would allow the amateur service to use the 220-225 MHz band on a temporary basis until a decision could be made regarding permanent allocations.

The handwriting was on the wall when a joint FCC/NTIA planning group recommended that a portion of the 216-225 MHz band be designated for narrowband land mobile operations on a shared basis between government and nongovernment users.

The FCC received three petitions from industry requesting that these recommendations be implemented. Aided by skilled professional legislative lobbyists, the ARRL mounted a fierce campaign to retain the band for amateur use.

### *FCC Reallocates the 220-MHz Band*

We were at the Thursday morning (August 4th) Commissioners meeting when the FCC ruled on the permanent frequency allocation of the 220 MHz VHF band. While the Amateur Service is naturally primarily concerned with the 220-225 MHz portion to which they had long temporary access, the portion of the spectrum ruled on by the FCC extended from 216 to 225 MHz.

The bottom line is that the FCC followed through on their original proposal (NPRM, General Docket No. 87-14, February 2, 1987) and divided up the band three ways. The Commission:

1. maintained the Maritime Mobile allocation in the 216-220 MHz band,
2. allocated the 220-222 MHz band to the Private Land Mobile Service; and
3. allocated the 222-225 MHz band to the Amateur Radio Service for exclusive use.

### *The August 4th Meeting*

The matter was presented to the Commissioners by Julius Knapp, Chief of the Frequency Allocations Branch of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. The following is the text of Knapp's presentation to the FCC...

"Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. The item before you is a Report and Order bringing to resolution a very difficult and long standing allocation issue in the 220-225 MHz band. The 1979 WARC allocated this band internationally to Fixed Mobile Radiolocation and Amateur Services on a co-primary basis. The Radiolocation Service will become secondary on January 1, 1990, and no new stations may be authorized. The 220-225 MHz band had previously been allocated in the United States to the federal government on a primary basis for radiolocation and to the amateur service on a secondary basis.

"In 1984, the Commission was conformed the United States allocation of this band to the international allocation. However, implementation of the fixed and mobile services was deferred until a further proceeding could be initiated to determine precisely how the band would be shared among the various services and between federal government and public users.

"The proposal in this proceeding was initiated to resolve these sharing issues. The proposal intended to balance a number of factors. The Commission had received petitions seeking to implement narrowband land mobile systems in C+K region of the spectrum. Petitions argued that existing provisions for narrowband land mobile systems are severely restricted due to the need to protect against interference to existing systems. The petitioners maintained that a dedicated band of frequencies was necessary for this technology to have a reasonable opportunity to gain acceptance in the marketplace.

"The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) also stated that the federal government had requirements for narrowband land mobile systems in this band. At the same time, the Commission was concerned about minimizing the impact on amateurs. The proposal noted that amateur use of this band is considerably lower than other amateur bands, and that most such use was congregated above 222 MHz. Taking

these factors into account, the Commission proposed to allocate the 220-222 MHz band for narrowband land mobile service, and the 222-225 [portion] exclusively to the amateur service. No allocation was proposed for the fixed service, because existing allocations elsewhere in the spectrum appeared adequate.

"In general, the land mobile community supported the proposal. For example, UPS [United Parcel System] indicated that it will seek to develop a state of the art [package] delivery system using narrowband equipment in the 220 MHz band. The land mobile community generally agreed that dedicated spectrum is required initially for this technology. On the other hand, amateurs strongly opposed the proposal. They raised a number of concerns including the impact on existing users, the impact on emergency communications, and the need to provide for the future growth of the amateur service.

"Upon careful review of all of the information that has been submitted, the staff believes that the proposed allocations are in the public interest. It appears that there is ample space to reaccommodate current users of the 220-225 MHz segment in the 222-225 MHz segment. Further, numerous other amateur bands are available, and the loss of the 2 MHz represents less than a 2% reduction in amateur spectrum.

"With regard to emergency communications, several hundred channels will remain available in the most useful part of the spectrum. This should meet the local area communication requirements of any emergency or natural disaster. The item seeks to assure the amateur community that the Commission continues to strongly support the amateur service. Amateurs have a long and outstanding record of service to the public, and have on countless occasions, provided communications in emergencies.

"We are hopeful that by adopting an exclusive, private allocation of 2 MHz for the amateur service, we will remove the cloud that has hung over this band for many years. This should lead to increased use of the band by amateurs. This proceeding addresses only the allocation of spectrum. Subsequent proceedings will address the necessary service rules for the new land mobile allocation, and modifications to the amateur rules. In light of

these considerations, the staff recommends adoption of this Report and Order."

FCC Commissioner James Quello: "It's a tough item. I've been a long time supporter of the amateur service. We recognize that they have an outstanding record. It's a well-disciplined service, and I hope that they have enough spectrum. I hope that we are allocating spectrum to a service and not to a technology. Do you have any comments on that?"

FCC Chief Engineer Tom Stanley: "The 220-222 MHz band is being allocated to the Private Land Mobile Radio Services in Part 90. Narrowband technology is to be applied, but the allocation is to a service and not to a technology."

FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick: "I agree with Commissioner Quello that this is a tough item, a difficult decision in many ways. We've studied the various arguments and concerns that were expressed on both sides of the question for quite a number of months. I take some solace in the fact that the amateur community has been on notice for quite some time of the possibility of the reallocation of this spectrum. The amateur community will now have the exclusive use of the 3 MHz here that is being divided, and this represents less than 2% of the spectrum available to amateurs.

"All that being said, it's still a tough decision, ...as spectrum allocation decisions always are. The amateurs continue to provide very valuable services to the American people in emergency situations, and with respect to training radio operators. But we also have continuing critical and pressing needs in the land mobile area, and we want to promote spectrum efficiency. We make some strides forward in that regard in this decision. So, all in all, I'm confident that this is the correct decision, ...though not an easy decision."

#### *After Meeting Press Conference...*

A press conference was held after the Commissioner's meeting and a press release issued. The Commission said a variety of factors were considered in making the allocations, including the need to provide for narrowband land mobile operations, the impact on amateur use of the 220-225 MHz band, and the potential interference to TV broadcasting, ...as well

as the actions taken in the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC). It was also pointed out that as a result of the 1979 WARC, amateurs received several new frequency allocations.

The FCC said they felt "the public interest would be best served by providing dedicated spectrum for the development of narrowband spectrum efficient land mobile technologies, if such technologies are to have a reasonable opportunity for acceptance in the marketplace. As compared to conventional land mobile technology, narrowband technology may provide a three to four fold increase in the number of channels that can be made available in the given amount of spectrum." The Commission noted that "promoting narrowband technology for the land mobile service is consistent with the directive of the Communications Act to encourage the provision of new technologies and services to the public."

In considering an allocation for narrowband land mobile service in the 220-MHz region, the Commission noted two constraints that precluded operation in the 216-220 MHz band. "The first constraint is that land mobile operation in the 216-220 MHz band would be impractical due to the need to provide adequate protection to TV channel 13 broadcast operation located in adjacent spectrum at 210-216 MHz. The second is the Commission's decision not to restrain the development of Automated Maritime Telecommunications Systems (AMTS) being developed in the Maritime Mobile Service in the 216-220 MHz band. Consequently, after careful consideration of a variety of alternatives, the Commission found that reallocation of this band to the Land Mobile Service to be shared by government and non-government users is supported by the NTIA.

With respect to amateurs, the Commission believes that "they will benefit from an exclusive allocation of the 222-225 MHz band." The Commission noted that "several other frequency bands are available for amateur service. In particular, amateur bands at 28-29.7 MHz, 50-54 MHz, 144-148 MHz, 222-225 MHz, 420-450 MHz, 902-928 MHz and 1240-1300 MHz support amateur operations similar to the 220-222 MHz band."

"Several hundred channels will remain available for amateurs to use for emergency communications, which should meet the local area communication requirements of any emergency or natural disaster." Taking these factors, along with others into consideration, the Commission found reallocation of the 220-222 MHz band to be in the public interest.

The Commission reiterated its continued support for the amateur service. The FCC said it recognizes that "amateurs have a long history of public service and of providing assistance in emergencies, including national and international disasters. Further, amateurs are a vital resource of persons knowledgeable in the radio art and have had a long history of contributions to the advancement of radio science. The three megahertz allocated to amateurs on an exclusive basis in this proceeding, together with the many other amateur bands, should continue to provide adequately for this service."

The FCC said that amateur use of the 220-225 MHz band could continue pending "a new proceeding that would be initiated to develop procedural and technical rules for licensing Private Land Mobile operations in the 220-222 MHz band."

"However, since the 220-222 MHz band is to be shared between government and non-government users, the development of coordination procedures is needed," the Commission stated. "Consequently, neither government nor non-government users will be allowed access to the 220-225 MHz band until the Commission has adopted final service rules.

No effective date for amateur operation to end in the 220-222 MHz segment has been decided upon, but January 1, 1990, appears logical since it was the date mentioned in the NPRM. "Amateurs are advised to begin an orderly transition of on-going operations in the 220-222 MHz band to other amateur service frequency bands in order to avoid an abrupt termination of such activities."

The W5YI Rreport 08/15/88

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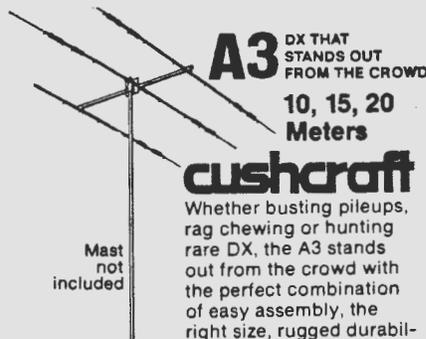
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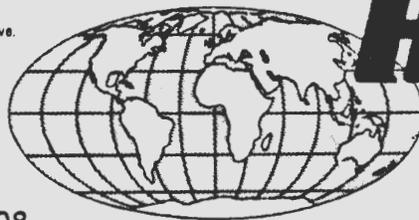
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