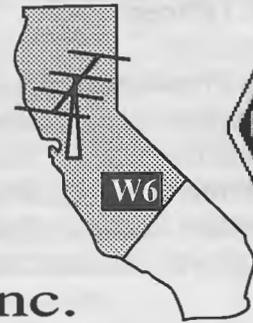


DXer



Northern California DX Club, Inc.

North Korea to be DXCC Country! - see page 3

Prez Sez

Good news abounds this month. Romeo Stepanenko, 3W3RR, gave a fine presentation on YAØRR at the July meeting and many happy campers went home with YAØRR cards. Romeo is travelling with his wife, Aloyna, and business partner Yuri. Eric, W6DU, who hosted the travelers, is fund-raising for Romeo's upcoming XZ operation. Bill Heim, AA6TT, drove Romeo, Aloyna and Yuri, up from Southern California.

Bill Sattler of DX Engineering donated a stacked array phase-box, to be raffled at the August NCDXC meeting. His company also contributed generously to the upcoming XZ expedition.

Eric, W6DU, was elected NCDXF president. Congrats, Eric!

Dave Barton, AF6S, volunteered to take over the DXer from Doug Beck, K6ZX (see story, page 3). Most have read Dave's technical articles and know how pleased we are to have him as the DXer's new editor. I would like to thank Doug for the fine work he did for us during his period as editor and also wish him well at his new QTH.

I'd also like to thank retiring NCDXC board members Morris, N6DJM, and Larry, KG6GF, who "done good".

I was very pleased to be able to award the Presidential Plaque to Ron, NG6X, at the July meeting, for his tenure as president. He will serve as a director this year.

I'm anticipating a positive experience in my term as president; hopefully for all of you, too.

SK de W6TEX

Inside

Club Information	page 2
Meeting Minutes.....	page 2
News	page 3
Dear Ed.	page 7
Features	
DX Cross-word Puzzle.....	page 4
Callsign Trivia (K3ZO).....	page 6
Club Statics	page 7

Next Meeting

At the August meeting, at Harry's Hoffbrau in Palo Alto, Hillar, N6HR, will show slides from his recent OY adventure. Also, K6LLK will discuss plans for "Charlie's" growth and development. Mellowing begins at 6; the meeting at 7:30.

Editorial

The scribe who wrote those news-letters Julius Caesar kept sending back to Rome might have said "An editor travels on his in-basket." And, when his in-basket got as low as the DXer's, he'd have gone AWOL! The thought passed my mind, too.

From your point of view, if you've never tried writing, now's the best shot you're gonna get.

Later, after the DXer has become *the place in which to be seen*, rejection slips are all you can expect. In fact, if your last name isn't Troster (well, maybe Mitchener), forget it; *then*, the DXer will disdain unknowns!

Seriously, we'd like DX-related material such as DX news, DX humor or even serious stories. Or how about a cartoon or DX brain-teaser? Something technical would be fine, too. Don't worry about length; if it's too long, we'll serialize.

de AF6S

Club Info



NCDXC Officers:

President:Bill Fontes, W6TEX
Vice President:Bob Artigo, KN6J
Secretary:Stan Kuhl, K6MA
Treasurer:Bob Wilson, NQ6X
Director:Ron Rasmussen, NG6X
Director:Eric Edberg, W6DU
Director:George Allan, WA6O

DXer Editor:Dave Barton, AF6S

14842 Nelson Way
San Jose, CA 95124
(or via DX Packet Spotting Network)

DX Ladder:Larry Bloom, KD6XY

2520 Heather Lane
San Bruno, CA 94066
(or via DXPSN)

DXer Production:Ron Panton, W6VG

Member Data Base:John Cronin Jr., K6LLK

NCDXC Repeater, W6TI/R, (147.36+)

Trustee:Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Rptr. Comm. Chrmn:Ralph Hunt, AG6Q

Suggested club simplex: 147.54

Thursday Net time: 8:00 PM local time.

Net Manager:Knock Knochenhauer,
K6ITL

DX News:Dave Pugatch, KI6WF

Propagation:Al Lotze, W6RQ

Contest News:Rich Hudgins, WX6M

Westlink:Craig Smith, N6ITW

Swap Shop:Ben Deovlet, W6FDU

933 Robin Lane

Campbell, CA, 95008

408/374-0372

QSL Information:Mac McHenry, W6BSY

W6TI DX 20- and 40-meter Bulletins:

Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 18:00z Sundays on 14.002 MHz and at 02:00z Mondays on 7.016.

The DXer is mailed to all NCDXC members. Unless otherwise noted, NCDXC permits use of any portion of this publication, provided source credit is given.

Club address: Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94026

NCDXC Meetings



B.O.D. Meeting, July 2

NQ6X, W6DU, KN6J, WA6O, W6TEX, K6MA and W6OAT attended the meeting at the home of Eric, W6DU.

Romeo's (UB5ITT, 3W3RR) visit and the possibility of his attending the July general meeting were discussed. The board authorized a donation to Romeo's upcoming XZ DXpedition of up to \$500.

NG6X and W6TEX agreed to finalize NCDXC Procedures Manual changes and give them to W6VG, for the upcoming edition.

A possible club picnic and/or Christmas party were discussed, and all agreed interest in either has been minimal lately. The board resolved to vote on both at the next meeting.

General Meeting, July 12

Before a full house at Harry's Hoffbrau (Palo Alto), Ron, NG6X, presented the Presidential Gavel to Bill, W6TEX. Bill then introduced the other new officers (listed to the left).

Next, Bill presented the club's Presidential Plaque to Ron, in appreciation for his services in the 1990-91 term.

Steve, W6MKM, reviewed results of the 1990 DX Convention (he was its chairman). Steve said attendance was 650 (508 pre-registered) and that 211 attended the Friday Evening Barbecue. He estimated net proceeds were \$6000 and promised a financial report before the August B.O.D. meeting.

Membership applicants Bob Smithson, W6HIB, and Ron Luttringer, K6XC, both had first readings. There were no second readings.

K6ZX announced he must relinquish editorship of the DXer (story: page 3).

John, K6LLK, gave a short explanation of "Charlie", the synthesized voice on W6TI/R, which relays DX announcements from the DX Packet Spotting Network, and various proposed improvements he's considering. Club members will vote, at the August meeting, whether or not to help John replace the equipment "Charlie" has absorbed.

The meeting's featured speakers were Romeo, UB5ITT and 3W3RR, and Aloyna, UB5IDA, with Yuri, AA6TT, translating. Romeo discussed his operation at YAØRR and his upcoming XZ expedition.

News

North Korea in DXCC Soon

The ARRL Awards Committee has accepted the findings of the DXAC, that North Korea meets point 1 of the ARRL Countries List criteria, so North Korea will become a DXCC Country after the first accredited operation. South Korea will then be listed as *South Korea*. Rusty, W6OAT, filed the petition on behalf of NCDXC.

from ARRL Bulletin 31, July 16

K6ZX Plans New QTH

Doug Beck, retiring from SRI, has announced plans to QSY to a ten-acre parcel bought many years ago near Merlin, Oregon. His hill has a good shot in every direction except short-path to Europe; he doesn't need anything in that direction, anyway! His departure date is still uncertain, since he plans to sell his Los Altos home first.



British Hams QRO on CW

As of April 5, 1991, British hams are allowed 400 Watts peak RF output, regardless of mode, between 3.5 and 29.7 MHz, a 6-dB increase over their former 100-Watt CW limit. However, G's are still limited to just 32 Watts on 1.8 MHz.

Morsum Magnificat, Summer 1991 issue

CW Speed Pills

The Westlake Amateur Radio Club offers pills which are said to enhance CW receiving speed "tremendously". Claimed safe, when taken as directed, the club offers the "nice tasting" pills for 25 and 50c (Australian, postpaid).

Canadian Amateur Radio, April 1991

JARL Ham Fair

To be held again at the Tokyo International Trade Center's New Hall, in Harumi, the fair runs August 23 through August 25. Attracting 59,000 visitors last year, the fair has spectacular equipment exhibits, a huge flea market and operation of commemorative station 8J1HAM.

The JARL News, Feb. 1991

Reno Hamfest

Sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society (SNARS), the August 3rd soiree will be held at the Stead Facility, about 10 miles north of Reno (Air Races site).

There will be new equipment exhibits, swapables, a flea market and VE exams (at noon). Reno has a popular three-day vintage car exhibition, Hot August Nites, the same weekend, so lodging reservations might be a good idea.

Hamfest hours are 8:30 to 3 pm and the entrance fee (\$3) includes one free beer.

To reserve a swap table area, send \$10 (which includes admission of one person) to "Curly" Silva, K7HRW, 3780 Hummingbird Drive, Reno, NV 89506. Include your name, call, address and whether you need AC power. Curly's home phone is 702/972-3933. Bring your own tables and chairs.

Directions: From Interstate 80, go north 10 miles on U.S. 395, exit Stead Blvd., turn left on Babcock and left on Mt. Anderson. Enter the airport gate at the end of the road and follow the signs to the parking lot on your left.

Repeater Needs Replacement

WB6ADZ/R (146.115+), the Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System (SVECS) repeater is getting old. It's tired, unreliable and badly needs to be replaced. Since SVECS, an affiliate of both ARES and RACES, has no membership dues, the repeater is financed entirely by tax-deductible contributions.

To help support this essential provider of emergency communications, please send a check, payable to SVECS, to Le Henderson, KB6MXH, 857 Tamarack Lane, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Le will gladly provide a receipt for your tax records.

SVECS plans to keep the old repeater as a backup. For info on SVECS membership, phone Le at 408/241-7081. (SVECS' fine bulletin contains lots of useful local info, such as the car RFI story - ed.)

July '91 'SVECS Repeater

Member's Zip Zapped in Roster

WA6AUE's correct zip is 96162-8820.

News continues on page 4

DXers to Crash Contest Club Bash

NCDXC members will be welcomed with open circuits at the Contest Club's annual picnic, happening August 24 at Coyote Park (Burlingame), featuring a southern style barbecue and other tempting goodies. Contest Club President Louese, KA6ING, might be willing to supply details via W6TI/R or DXPSN.



Kudos

- Len, K6ANP (now in W2) made Honor Roll.
- The FCC recently awarded Bruce, W6OSP; Tom, KA6EUD; and Dick, WB6OTB, with Extra Class licenses.

Honeymoon DXpedition

Bob Schenck, N2OO and his new bride Beth, KF2BQ, plan a trip to V85, 9M6, 9M8, 9V, VS6 and XX9. They'll start operations August 5 from V85, hamming from all but 9V and XX9, where they don't have licenses. QSL Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087.



South Jersey DX Association bulletin

New Car RFI Problems, by KB6CYS

My 5-Watt 2m HT interferes with some cars I have rented. The susceptible models: 1990 Taurus, 1990 Mercury Capri, 1990 Ford pickup, 1989 Thunderbird and 1991 Chevy Blazer. Ranging from unwanted acceleration to loss of power or cruise control, RFI problems occurred only with the rubber ducky, inside the car, with an external mag-mount antenna. I also tried a 1990 Toyota Celica, a 1991 Mitsubishi 4WD and a 1987 Nissan 300ZX and no JA car had such problems.

KB6CYS, July '91 'SVECS Repeater'

Oregon CW Enthusiasts Form Club

Concerned about no-code licensing, a group of Oregon hams have formed QNC!, whose focus is elmering, home-brew and QRP. Annual (\$7.75) membership benefits include the club quarterly. Contact Scott Laughlin, N7NET, 85000 Laughlin Road, Eugene, OR 97405.

Morsum Magnificat, Summer 1991

New QRP Contest

QNC! (see above) will sponsor the QRP Autumn Alphabet Challenge, beginning 00:01z on the first day of Autumn. Rules: (1) 5W max out, (2) all letters of the alphabet must be represented on no more than 15 submitted QSL cards (from anywhere), and (3) duration of counted QSOs must exceed 20 minutes. For details, contact N7NET.

Morsum Magnificat, Summer 1991

DX Cross-Word Puzzle

by Dave Barton, AF6S

Dead band DXing, that's what it's for, and it's a whole new way to lose sleep! First to solve it correctly gets an old Tek 7504 scope - sorry, no plug-ins; what d'ya want for nothin', anyway?

Across

- 1D Azerbaijan S.S.R. prefix
1G superhet has it, TRF doesn't
1M "Ya gotta make _____ to get results"
1T Irkutskaya prefix
2A antenna with open wire feeders
2F "keep it low and things won't blow"
2J common type of eclipse
3A popular low-band antenna (abbrev.)
3J Spanish prefix
3T Polish prefix
4A Hewlett's and Packard's professor
4O bane of LIDS (is T.O.M. dead?)
5G American radio pioneer
5S Northern Ireland prefix
6A had first successful GUI
6O variable resistor (control)
6T common wire insulation
7D Well-known Geneva callsign
7K UA9Y, famous mountains
7V 3-30 MHz
8A branch of Buddaism
8I rare and dangerous DX QTH
8Q ARRL HQ station
8V Silicon Valley product
9G one who's firs trig used Ø1As and variometers
9P possible Oman callsign
9T in a pileup, the more the better (abbr.)
10B necessary part of any radio station (abbr.)
10G venerable modulation type
10I WWII aeronautical radio type
10N world's largest (and oldest) lake
11E city by the bay, now nr. 2 in size (abbr.)
11H popular ham gear model number prefix
11M Turkish String Quartet (clue: local DXer)
11T (presumably) unhappy type of fish
12N European radio pioneer
12V prefix, French North American possession
13A CW for "I'm shutting down my station"
13D high-power microwave tube
13R best to keep all the RF inside
14B Lunatics do it at very high frequency
14L male ham (abbr.)
14P never a shortage on the air (abbr.)
14U enlightened abbrev. for wife

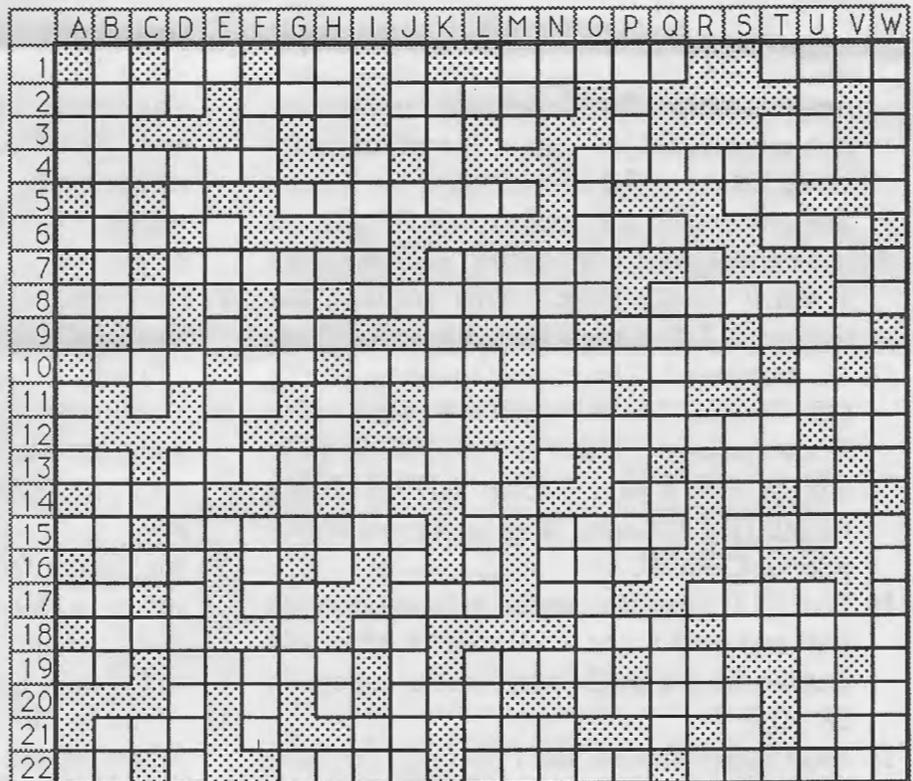
- 15A 60% of good solder (standard abbrev.)
- 15D American maker of quality ham gear (R.I.P.)
- 15N compact antenna, designed for speed
- 15S Saddam's main objective (probably)
- 16B JFK: "___ bin ein Berliner"
- 16N contester objective
- 17A most common solid state junction
- 17F common Asian prefix
- 17J arrogant company attitude (seeds of downfall?)
- 17N home of soft-shell crabs (standard state abbrev.)
- 17R Banaba Bob
- 18B JA1NUT
- 18I CW for "and"
- 18O to coat with solder
- 18S linear device with very high-gain (abbr.)
- 19A CW for "end of contact"
- 19D first ham transceiver to break \$6000?
- 19L club's resident Swede
- 19Q British ham hypocorism (abbr.)

- 20J Latin test modulation (SSB)
- 20O QRS _____ sending
- 20U Latin-based word prefix for bad
- 21B Co-inventor of parasitic dipole array
- 21I program that revolutionized contesting (abbr.)
- 21L often finely chewed
- 21U U.S. government agency
- 22A roller coil plating material (std. abbr.)
- 22G Apple cofounder, father of Macintosh
- 22L 3000-year old Egyptian
- 22R one who flies unpowered

Down

- A2 pimple
- A8 most-needed European DX
- A11 coax connector type
- B1 Rx for low bands
- B13 formerly Tyuratam (U.S.S.R.)
- B21 Armenian S.S.R. prefix
- C8 DXpeditioner from Wyoming
- D1 frequently heard on DX's QRG
- D4 unit of electrical current (abbr.)
- D13 Collins filters
- E6 breeze-battered bamboo beam
- E11 RF connector (small)
- F2 all need it, hams more so
- F10 audio
- F15 the *other* operator in a pileup

- F19 parting comment by F15 type
- G1 low frequency (archaic, abbrev.)
- G7 Japanese radio maker
- G13 nothing
- G17 Tadjik S.S.R. prefix
- H1 raw mineral
- H11 some Soviet hams camped on
- H15 "DX ___"
- H19 dangerous DX QTH
- I4 W8JK
- I10 mains power
- I13 tops, rated a ___
- I21 good buddy
- J1 English beverage
- J15 accompanies enhanced solar flux
- K2 Buryatskaya
- K7 world's largest dish



- L7 home of SCDXC.
- L13 SP bearing, SF to 3B8
- L19 strat-___
- M1 loves "people tuna"
- M7 Chad
- M21 plating on best contacts (standard abbrev.)
- N1 CW for "end of CQ"
- N7 banjo-on-knee state
- N15 Bad News Bearers of Boulder (lately)
- N21 "good morning" in finger-talk
- O4 West Valley Radio Club repeater callsign
- O10 of and for medical doctors

continued on page 7

Useful Callsign Trivia

by K3ZO

As I've said in comments before, it helps me immensely in DX contests to know which callsign combinations are likely to be correct and which are not. Of course, such things change continually, so it helps to be active on the bands.

Here, by first letter, are the rules of thumb I use when operating contests. I don't have a little sheet with the rules on it, they're just filed "upstairs". I've omitted infrequently encountered first letters. My rules, for HF only:

- B: Only BT, BV, BY and BZ prefixes are possible
- D: DA, DF, DJ and DK usually have two-letter suffixes. Exceptions are DJØ and DKØ, which frequently have three-letter suffixes. Another exception is DF1IAF. DH calls are found only on 28 MHz and 3.5 MHz CW.
- F: Stations located in France, with F, FB, FD, FE and FF don't use 4 or 7 in their calls. Regions 1 and 6 usually have 3-letter suffixes, but regions 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 have 2-letter suffixes.
- G: The numbers 1, 7 and 9 aren't used on HF. G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU and GW stations with a Ø always have 3-letter suffixes, while those with 5, 6 or 8 have 2-letter suffixes. Don't forget: GM-Shetland is an additional multiplier in CQWW.
- H: The HJ (Colombia) prefix is found only on CW and on 3.5 and 7 MHz SSB. Most HG stations have a single-letter suffix, except on 28 MHz.
- I: Most Italian stations use I, IK or IO prefixes. Exceptions: IN3 and IV3. IK stations have 3-letter suffixes and IT9 is a separate CQWW mult.
- J: JB and JC aren't used. In a call district, the JA prefix issues first, followed by JH, JR and then JE. Then the alphabet is followed. Thus, low-population districts don't have prefixes far up the alphabet except for JR. JS is exceptional, designating recent Okinawa issues. I'm not aware of assignments of the following: JN-JS2, JQ3, JS3, JJ-JQ4, JF5, JI-JQ5, JS5, JK-JQ6, JJ-JQ7, JS7, JI-JQ8, JS8, JE-JI9, JJ-JQ9,

JS9, JFØ, JI-JQØ or JSØ. Incidentally, in a JA pileup so bad you can't copy anyone, just say "JA5 (or JA9) go ahead". JA discipline will prune the pileup to just a few callers.

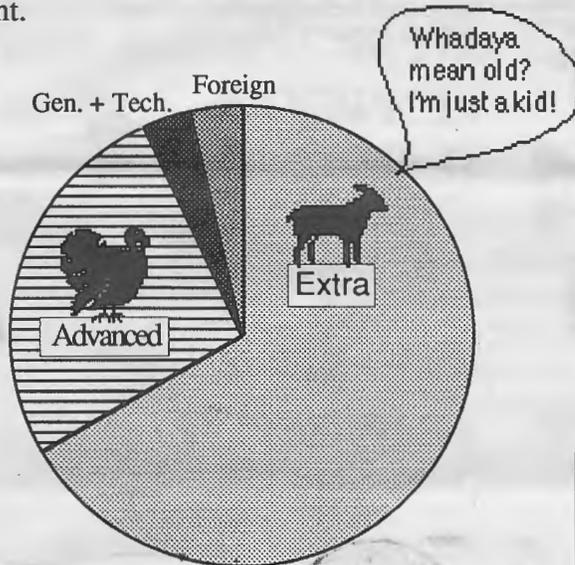
- L: All LA 3-letter suffixes end with A. Only LX1 and LX2 prefixes exist, except for special stations with 2-letter suffixes. The same applies to LZ, except suffixes beginning with K usually have three letters. LZ5A, LZ7A and LZ9A break the (callsign) rules.
- O: All OH 3-letter suffixes begin with M or N except OH2 where most begin with B. OF substitutes for OH in contests. Only OK1, -2 and -3 are common, but OK5 club stations exist. OK6DX, OK7AA and OK7MM are special stations. The OL prefix is common on 1.8 MHz, but sometimes elsewhere with a single-letter suffix. No ON1, -2 or -Ø calls exist. All ON5, -6, -7 and -8 calls have 2-letter suffixes, while only ON4 suffixes beginning with A or K have three letters. ON9CDX is the only ON9.
- P: Only PA2, -3 and -Ø are assigned. All PA2 and -3 calls have 3-letter suffixes. PB prefixes (-Ø only) are found only on 28 MHz.
- R: The Soviets are using more call groups all the time, but the following are still missing or very rare: RA5, RA7, RE, RK, RN, RS and RK.
- S: No SM8 or -9 calls exist. Also, every Swedish suffix is unique, regardless of district. The Poles use the same system, except that SP8 and -9 calls are issued. SPØ is rare.
- U: As under "R", new issues confound us. The following aren't known to exist except in rare expeditions: UA5, UA7, UE, US and UX. Remember: UA9S and UA9W are in CQ Zone 16.
- X: Only XE1, -2 and -3 (and XF4, of course -ed.) exist.
- Y: Only First Class Indonesian hams, with YB and YE suffixes, are allowed on 20 meters, so YC and YC prefixes aren't found on 20. YOØ isn't normally assigned. YU9 or YUØ don't exist. All East German (Y##) calls seem to end in O.

excerpted from PRVC Bulletin, Oct. '89

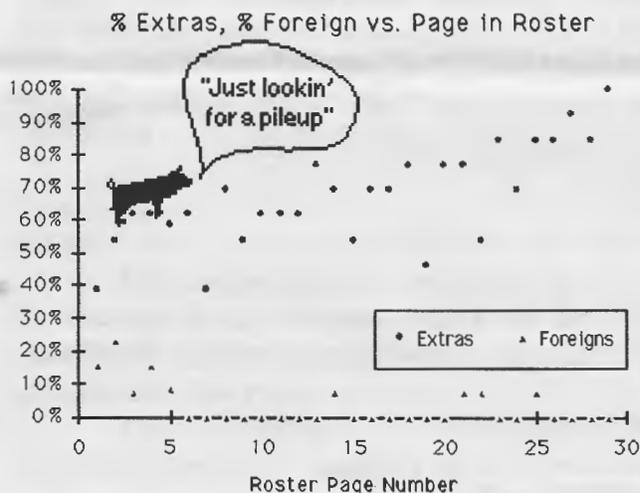
Club Statistics Noted

by AF6S

Curious about the distribution of license types among NCDXC members, I entered data from the November 1990 roster in an Excel spreadsheet and then asked it to find the percentages and make a pie-chart (below). 67 percent are Extras, 26 percent have Advanced Class licenses, about 3 percent are either Generals or Technicians, we currently have no novices and foreign DXers account for over 3 percent.



As I entered the data, the number of extras per page seemed to increase, while foreign membership seemed to decline. As the graph below shows, it's true. Our extras tend to have high-in-alphabet suffixes and the opposite is true of our foreign members. Is that a head-scratcher, or what?



Standing Order:

Ideas for future club programs. Provide topic, contact name and telephone number. Forward to any club officer. Thank you *de* W6TEX

Dear Ed.



Editor DXer:

Thanks, NG6X, for the kudos (July DXer) regarding the Sacramento NCDXC meeting in February. Your well chosen words were rewarding to those who put in so many hours.

Major credit is due those featured in the program, W6GO and W6QEU and, for a terrific job, these committee members deserve honorable mention: George, K6SG; Bob, K3EST; Pete, K6EDV; Ed, KF6EN; Norm, K6FO; Bill, NS6D; Marion, W6NKR; Van, K6NM; and Paul, W6RLP.

I'll miss DXing when I move to a retirement community with antenna restrictions in 1992.

73, Tony, K6DR (ex W6EOU)

DX Cross-Word Puzzle

from page 5

- O15 pause, temporary stoppage
- P1 group or company symbol, name typestyle
- P9 long predicted, slow arriving computer idea
- P12 2-meter home companion
- Q8 Fine DXer, contester, ARRL pres., now SK
- Q14 usual 20m evening propagation, N.A. to EU
- Q18 time of highest expected D-layer absorption
- R7 developer of CT
- R12 British ham term of endearment
- S4 Guadeloupe
- S12 _____-Karabakh (surrounded by UD)
- S20 standard designator, bay-area airport
- T3 here, a vertical radiates equally *well* in all directions
- T8 you and I
- T11 official American snoopers
- T17 half a shilling
- U1 Finnish first name, American dog food
- U9 David Sarnoff's company
- U13 obsolete ham term for wife
- U17 lives under a rock
- V6 small, very refined, usually silicon
- V11 DXers both put out and capture all they can
- V20 large primate
- W1 Birds need a variety of 'em
- W7 Corsica
- W10 Ramblin' Rusty's surname
- W15 remaining DX paths after a flare, if any



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President/Owner

Jim Rafferty N6RJ
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