

N O R T H E R N
 C A L I F O R N I A
 D X C L U B



The Editor's Keyboard

Spreading the Word

With the recent vote on Associate Membership now past, the Board of Directors has rolled up its sleeves and tackled the implementation of its program to attract new adherents to DXing and new members to the NCDXC. Central to the missionary effort is development of a short, effective presentation on DXing which can be delivered by members to general interest radio clubs and other audiences.

The trick is to create a show that will communicate the excitement and challenge of DXing to those amateurs—new and old—who either have not a clue what DXing is about, or who mistakenly think DXing is an antiquated pastime obsoleted by the Internet Age. Tom Jones, K6TS—who himself has generated a slide presentation that he shared at a recent club meeting—has agreed to serve on this committee.

Tom's volunteer effort was a big first step, but additional members are encouraged to join him and contribute their ideas and efforts. What kind of materials and props will maximize the impact of the presentation? QSL's and awards? Photos and maps?

Most important, we need one member to step forward as committee chairman, charged with soliciting and refining the committee's ideas into an effective, finished presentation. Experience with computer-generated presentations and/or advertising/marketing would be a real plus here. Interested? Contact Al, W4RIM.

A Talking DXer?

For many of us, the passing years impose a toll on our physical senses and abilities. For a DXer, hearing loss is the most bitter pill—most DXing is, after all, an aural endeavor. Neuromuscular ailments may impair our coordination and timing. But failing sight is no picnic either, especially if it affects the ability to log, operate our equipment—or read manuals, radio magazines, or *The DXer*.

One senior NCDXC member has already told me he no longer reads *The DXer*—because he cannot. The type is just too small, he says, but if we go to a 12-point typeface—we use 10 point Times Roman—*The DXer* gets bigger and therefore more expensive to publish and mail.

Lloyd Cabral, AA6T—our current Secretary—has a plan. Lloyd is willing to record each issue of *The DXer* on audio cassette, a copy of which would be sent monthly to sight-impaired members, at no cost to them—except perhaps to return the cassettes, if they wish to. It's a great idea—but a lot of work for Lloyd if only one or two members show interest.

Our sight-impaired members probably will not read this item, so it is up to their friends to tell them about it and determine whether they are interested in a talking *DXer*. Please do so ASAP and let either Lloyd or *The DXer* know what they think.

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KK6EK at Dunfey

Bob Schmieder, KK6EK—scientist, explorer, DXpeditioner—will speak at the January meeting of the NCDXC on Friday, January 12 at 8 PM. Bob will discuss the innovations—including Internet reporting and QSLing via satellite link—used in the recent Easter Island/Salas y Gomez DXpedition. These techniques were to have been employed in the recent and ill-fated Heard Island DXpedition. Bob is the newly designated Team Leader for the reorganized Heard Island group.

The meeting will be at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. Socializing and/or dinner commences at 6:30. Contrary to earlier announcements, the meeting will *not* be in Petaluma—the joint meeting with the REDXA will occur later this year.

The February speaker will be Don Melcher, N6IPE, the “architect and builder” of the remote-control station at KD6UO, featured in the January QST. Station owner Roger Strauch, KD6UO will also attend—if he is in town.

The Dunfey is located on the northwest side of the junction of Freeways 92 and 101 in San Mateo. Take the Delaware St.



N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C L U B

Club Officers:

President: Al Burnham, W4RIM
 Vice President: Glenn Vinson, W6OTC
 Secretary: Lloyd Cabral, AA6T
 Treasurer: Stan Goldstein, N6ULU
 Director: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ
 Director: Rich Chatelain, AB6ZV
 Director: Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL

The DXer:

Editor: Garry Shapiro, NI6T
 20941 Nez Perce Trail
 Los Gatos, CA 95030
 (408) 353-1118
 (408) 353-1119 (FAX)
 ni6t@ix.netcom.com

Printing, Mailing: Ron Panton, W6VG

DX Ladder: Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ
 Contest Manager: Ed Schuller, WA6CTA
 9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC
 California Award: Ruben Hughes, WA6AHF
 Historian/archivist: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Records Manager: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Publications Mgr: Ron Panton, W6VG

Club Repeater, W6TI/R

Frequency/offset: 147.36 MHz, +
 Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
 Comm. Chairman: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ
 Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)
 Thurs. Net QTR: 8 pm local time.
 Net Manager: Randy Wright, WB6CUA
 DX News: Dave Pugatch, KI6WF
 Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ
 Westlink: Craig Smith, N6ITW
 Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
 QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

W6TI DX Bulletins:

W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

Club address: Box 608
 Menlo Park, CA
 94026-0608

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RIMshots

A New Year's Resolution

Hams, especially DXers, are really into communi-cating; that's fine—it's our passion. And in the electronic age, we have found new ways to communicate in addition to the customary HF modes: we do it digitally (RTTY, PACTOR, packet), via the internet (DX Reflector, Contest Reflector, etc), and via satellite; and the list keeps growing.

What I find distressing is how much negativity is contained in some of our communications. For example, many DXpeditioners draw criticism from our ranks for a long list of offenses, which I need not reiterate. The point is that DXpeditioners usually pay their own way and sometimes risk their lives—all to provide "the Deserving" a contact and possibly a New One. And, yet, they are faulted for one thing or another.

Ditto folks who volunteer to serve as QSL managers. A recent thread on the Internet finds Jim Smith, VK9NS, being skewered for his QSL practices. Hey, this is volunteer work! And what about all the intentional interference that inevitably appears when that rare DXpedition fires up! You get my point. There's really no answer here: all this stuff happens, and it will continue.

But each of us can strive to be a more positive force and to be a part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. Sounds like a good New Year's resolution to me.

Looking Ahead

As 1996 begins, I hope to begin expanding not only our membership, but also our club activities and level of participation. And, while our attendance has generally been improving, we can do much better. We may also experiment with our meeting place, because there is one very serious drawback to the Dunfey: our normal dinner arrangement (the buffet) is not conducive to socializing. Also, we may—at least temporarily—change the meeting day from Friday. Nothing has been decided yet, but don't be surprised if we try something new and different. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

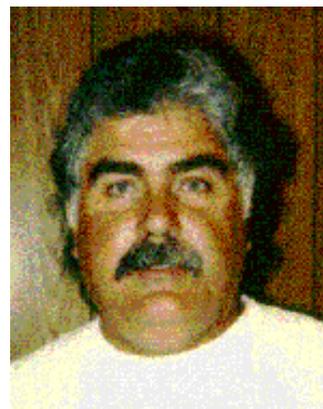
—Al Burnham, W4RIM, President



General Meeting

The December Holiday Banquet meeting was held on Friday December 15, 1995 at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo and called to order at 7:10 PM by President Al Burnham, W4RIM. Many members' spouses were present for this holiday gathering.

- The brief business portion of the meeting included approval of the Minutes and Budget Report as printed in the November *DXer*.
- N6RO and AA6MC were reinstated.
- Rusty, W6OAT gave a brief report on the upcoming WRTC competition to be held in the Bay Area in July, 1996.
- Bill, W6TEX shared with attendees a book written by longtime-member Merle Parten, K6DC.



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Point and Counterpoint

This is the place to debate ideas and opinions about DX and DXing. Comment on a DX issue of the day; respond to an editorial—or write one of your own.

Poppycock!

Editor:

In the December editorial, concerning the staggering financial loss of the recently-aborted Heard Island DXpedition, you commented that DXpeditioners are “entitled” to our financial support simply for having “made the commitment and the sacrifices, for having made their plans and committed to their execution—in short for having dared to go.”

Poppycock! There is no such “entitlement” for support from DXers. The financial loss was sadly, but rightly, assumed by those who signed up for the DXpedition. To use your own words: “Great deeds imply great risks—but the risk of failure is what sweetens the wine of victory.”

Are we being asked to supply a “safety net” for our DXpeditioner brethren so that they need not fear financial setback or failure? DXpeditioners know—or rather *should* know, and be prepared for—all the risks, both physical and financial. It is *not* up to the DXing community to make financial “guarantees.” Weren’t such requests (demands) for unquestioned financial support one of the things that soured many DXers on certain DXpeditioners in the past?

I also take great issue with the comment that “DXpeditions and DXpeditioners are the ‘heart and soul of DXing.’” Again—poppycock! This may be true if you need only a few countries to reach Number 1 on the Honor Roll—but it is definitely not the case for DXing among the Deserving. DXers themselves are the true heart and soul of DXing.

I believe that the “essence” of DXing is the camaraderie of DXers around the world; the desire to improve operating skills, antenna and station design; an affinity for competition in the hunt for DX; and an earnest desire to encourage an increase in DXing around the world. The ZA1A effort by Martti Lane and Co. was a case in point.

Bottom line: DXpeditions have been, are and will be supported by individuals, groups and occasionally corporate sponsors. Such support is earned or rewarded rather than merely given as an “entitlement” as the editorial would have us believe.

—Sandy Slayton, WA6BXH17

The Editor replies

Sandy:

Thank you for your thoughtful rebuttal to my editorial. Allow me to address several of your comments.

I concede your short list of attributes of the DXing “essence” to be the “meat and potatoes” of DXing—the inarguable fundamentals of the activity. But if this is so, then DXpeditioning is *indeed* the heart and soul of our sport. In saying this, I mean to project a certain meaning of the word “DXpedition.” The word has been used to describe virtually any outing—including those to nearby offshore islands reachable by car ferry—where an altered or different callsign can be used. And that is fine with me. But my remarks embraced those DXpeditions involving extraordinary resources, planning and commitment—and therefore risk.

These are typically trips to places without resort hotels, to say the least. I said “DXpeditions to places like Heard Island are not vacation trips.” That is a model of understatement! I did not advocate *formal* support or “guarantees” from the “DX community”—whatever that is and however that could be managed. And it is unfortunate that, in this era, the words “entitled” and “entitlement” are easily confused.

What I hoped to project—but failed to do in your eyes—was the idea that such extraordinary endeavors deserve more than casual support. They deserve from the ultimate beneficiaries at least a symbolic measure of what the benefactors are risking. Could or *would* the “DX community” come up with \$100,000 to replace what was lost in Australia? Hardly. But—against this—what is the \$5 or \$25 donated up front (or after a trip) by a small percentage of the Deserving? Or, for that matter, the larger—but rarely astronomical—sums normally provided by DX groups and foundations? It is that very commitment—a commitment of the heart made by reaching into the pocket—that appears to be lacking in many of our more cynical DXing brethren.

DXpeditions to exotic and difficult places do *not* appeal just to those within striking distance of a #1 Honor Roll plaque. These trips fire the will and the commitment of neophyte DXers, as well—perhaps even more so. Had you been privy to the E-mail that awaited me when I returned home from Conway Reef—from little pistols and big guns alike—you would know that is so!

—Garry Shapiro, NI6T

who claim for themselves will be scorned.”

And that was it, the whole story. And the more we thought of it, the more we came to the belief that the ancient labeling of “The Perfect DXer” had been an incomplete act. DXing is more than working countries. Definitely. There are other important factors. Perfect DXers—you know who they are in your estimation. And if someone confides in you that he himself is indeed the Perfect DXer, be convinced that he is not. Perfect DXers do it naturally: they need not blow their own horns—stirring though the notes might be. When you think, you will know. And that is the way it has always been.

someone was named.

“This DXer actually is someone in the club and I’m sure that you would recognize his name. But that was the end of it: the magazine gave its accolade just once and I do not recall a second perfect DXer ever being named. It is possible that it might be remembered only by real old-timers and not by those with less than a quarter-century in the club. It also might be remembered by those who wondered why they themselves were not hailed as a Perfect DXer—something that they obviously were.”

The QRPer thought for a bit. “You mean, maybe, like someone who got the DXer of the Year Award?” We shook our head. “Read the valued qualities listed in the criteria for the DXer of the Year,” we suggested, “and you might realize that was not how the Perfect DXer was found. It was someone then in a land far, far away—actually beyond the utmost purple rim. Beyond the night and across the day. We do not go there anymore.” We remembered the name but we did not wish to tell. This one had been hailed as the Perfect DXer because he worked 100 DXCC countries, gotten his DXCC certificate and then, as it was claimed, never worked any more DX. He did it and he was perfect—the eternal DXer role model.

About that time the Old Timer came down the hill, still walking briskly, his stride long and his footsteps silent, his pace rapid. This was one who will never grow old. We told him of our discussion about the Perfect DXer and asked if he remembered the nominee. He did. Did he agree? Not especially. And he had a few words to say on the subject. “I have known a lot of DXers over the years,” he said, unnecessarily laying out his credentials, “and I have also long realized that there are a number of DXers that I know or have

known whom I would honor and respect on any day and all day long. There are a number of these, but not a great number. Not a great number at all.” We joined the QRPer in silently thinking this one out. The old know, but they don’t know. We ourselves were sort of caught in between. We knew but we did not know. For certain, the QRPer was grasping. He finally said “you are going to have to tell me more. I suspect that you are right but I just do not understand. Who are those of whom you speak?”

It did not take the Old Timer long to step right into the matter. “I have long believed that one’s DXCC total indicates neither superior ability nor superior operating. As Gus Browning one said: ‘these days, most anyone can work a hundred countries on a weekend.’ I really don’t believe that either, but things have changed. We all know that. DX and DXing is a moveable feast and what is common today can be extremely rare on the morrow. DXing changes, but perfect DXers do not.”

By this time we were in cadence with the QRPer, squirming in our chair. But the Old Timer took his time, pausing to think and then speaking again. We listened: we had to.

“There are fellows in the club and also in other lands whom I think are wonderful DXers, ones whom you could readily consider to be perfect DXers. They have a good total of countries worked; usually they are on the Honor Roll. But they did not get there by pushing aside everyone else on the air. I am convinced in my own mind that these always observe the stipulated operating rules, especially with regard to their transmitting power. They do not resort to clever trickery such as tail-ending, breaking in on a going QSO, shouting interruptions, making anonymous comments or asking repeatedly when the

DX station is going to work the sixes, or when is he going to move to forty meters, what the QSL route is and ‘I have no callbook’ and things which have irritated DXers since Marconi’s time.” They will work a rare station once, sometimes twice but no more during most rare DX operations and absolutely not when a new one from a difficult exotic spot shows. They do not pose their right to work anything as many times as they wish.

“The Perfect DXer will work the station and stand aside. He does not try to work all five bands with a single QSO, asking—even insisting—that the DX station move to another band to work him. He will help other DXers work the rare and needed ones. He will supply information, directions and frequencies. Where help or information is needed, he is to be found. He is never heard criticizing other DXers nor does he try to insert himself into an operation as an unasked and unneeded controller. He is friendly to new DXers and will always be ready to introduce himself to a new club member. He is gracious and friendly to the neophytes. “And not in the memory of any DXer has he been known to call ‘CQ DX’ on the DX frequencies. Never!”

The Old Timer was hardly getting started but definitely both we and the QRPer had seen the light. “Wait,” the QRPer almost shouted, “I know who you mean. It’s Jack...” The Old Timer cut him off quickly. “Please,” he said. “no names. You will recognize most of them in your own mind. That should suffice. Whether it is Jack or Jim or the twins Flynn, you are the one to make the decision without trying to attach a label. We have around some that I have long considered ‘Perfect DXers.’ Those who seek them will find, those who ask will be disappointed, those

continued next page

should be.”

We paused and then had to ask, “haven’t you ever thought that many do think that their own undoubted claims to the title of Perfect DXer should be acknowledged?” The QRPer had not. “I’m new in the ranks,” he advised. “I do not think automatically—not yet. As a new DXer, I have to work at DX thinking. So I have to think these things out. But hasn’t anyone ever defined a Perfect DXer and pointed your attention in that direction? Someone with a name, maybe?”

This took a bit of thinking. Eventually, one finds that he can recall WW2, or something of similar minor importance, as though it happened yesterday—but may have difficulty remembering five years back. Then we remembered. “About a quarter-century back,” we said, coming back on line, “there was an article in one of the national magazines about the Perfect DXer. They even told how perfection was to be attained. But if we were to tell you about it, you might slip from perfection and mar your own evident near-perfection by possibly voicing a dissent. It was done:

light usually means that questions are on the way, and let there be no doubt: QRPers are thinkers as well as questioners.

This one came with a question possibly heard before. “What is a perfect DXer?” this one asked, and we turned the metaphysical key—the abstruse one. We easily fielded this one, for we had been there before. “Everyone believes in his own mortality,” we gravely intoned, “and, if you could plumb the thinking of just about every DXer that comes down the pike, you would generally find that each will think that he alone is perfect—all the other DXers have some faults or imperfections. Always! And the more countries he has confirmed, the more perfect he is.” And others in the DX groups may just not yet be perfect.

In fact, in the minds of many who consider themselves perfect, it is hard to see others as perfect—or even close. Not in comparison, for sure! In their own minds, they believe that they are the ego ideal and they find it hard to think otherwise. They themselves understand and know (and undoubtedly are) what perfection is and

The Perfect DXer

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

About this time of the year things seem to go at a slower pace. One can relax and forget the never-ending list of uncompleted tasks—perhaps even forget one’s personal goal of working everything in the top-200 needed countries list.

Maybe it is due to the season of holidays—the early sunset and the late dawn. Perhaps it is even Venus, Jupiter and Mars clustered on the western horizon just after sunset. It does seem to be a different beat, even in DXing.

And there we were, luxuriating by doing nothing at all, when the local QRPer showed, coming down the road and up the hill and working the switchbacks where William T. Coleman had once tested his twenty-mule-team borax wagons a century and more ago. A QRPer showing in day-



in the NCDXC membership roster. To maintain your listing, you must submit an update at least once every 5 years. The next set of DX and WAZ Ladders will appear in the March *DXer*; the deadline for updates is February 13th.

his standards of accuracy and reliability.

Many of you may not know me—raising teenaged boys and a software company doesn’t leave many evenings free for club meetings. I was first licensed around the last sunspot peak—not long after the Bouvet operation. A chance encounter with K6LLK’s PacketCluster node, an evening with *The Complete DXer*, a 10m pileup on 3DA0BJ, and I was hooked! During the ensuing years, I’ve been encouraged and enlightened by many club members—K7YNO, K6LLK, W6DU, NI6T, N6ULU, and a host of PacketCluster users. Now it’s my turn to do something for the membership (besides spotting Africans on 15).

Submissions for the DX and WAZ Ladders will be solicited in *The DXer* and on the PacketCluster. Please submit totals for

confirmed countries only. For the DX Ladder, your submission should include your current total countries by mode—mixed, phone, CW, and RTTY, and by band—160m to 6m, including the WARC bands. Include deleted countries in these totals.

Also list *confirmed* current Honor Roll country totals by mode—mixed, phone, and CW. For the WAZ Ladder, your submission should include: total zones by mode—mixed, phone and CW; 5BWAZ—your totals on 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m; WARC zones—your totals on 30m, 17m, and 12m; 160m zones; 6m zones.

You can submit your update via a PacketCluster mail message to AA6YQ, an Internet E-mail message to dhb@rational.com, or by sending a letter to my callbook address, which you can also find

The DX Ladder: the Guard Changes

Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ

For the past seven years, Larry Bloom, KD6XY, has managed the club’s DX and WAZ Ladders. This semi-annual ranking of the membership’s cross-the-bands chase for countries and zones lets us chart the progress of our preoccupation. Thanks to Larry, listings of each member’s confirmed conquests—by mode and by band—have appeared in *The DXer* for all to see. Now he is handing this well-carried baton to me; I will endeavor to maintain

The Magic of 160 Meters

Chris R. Burger ZS6EZ (ex ZS6BCR, 3DAØ/ZS6BCR, V51Z, ZS3Z, ZS9Z, ZS9Z/ZS1, ZSØZ; op at 7P8EN)

A recent thread on the Internet Topband Reflector discussed what made 160 meters special to its adherents. Noted South African lowbander and DXpeditioner ZS6EZ offers his view of Top Band.

I've been itching to add my penny's worth on the magic of 160. Dunno if I can do it justice, but I'm pinching a few minutes to give it a try.

Does it turn you on to exchange names, QTH and weather with Giovanni in Milano or Toshi in Tokyo? I'm sure that's faded a little for most of us. If you're on this Reflector, you've probably seen 10m come and go a few times as Old Sol goes through his bouts of acne. You probably still have the boxes that your (and your wife's) last 20 pairs of shoes came in, filled with an assortment of QSLs that would fill the most apathetic newcomer with glee. So there's very little thrill left in tuning 20m and talking to a complete stranger at the other end of the world, who doesn't share a common language with you and who couldn't care less what your weather is. There's even less thrill in making pretend-contacts with pretend-DX while Saint Snooky or one of his cohorts stands by to pronounce that the contact has been "good."

What do you do? You find a band where most contacts are still a challenge; where WAZ is not a given in a contest season; where most everyone uses simple antennas with unity gain (or less); where other people who've been through the mill congregate. You marvel as that DXpedition comes up out of the noise as your DX Edge intersects his QTH; you marvel as you catch your call coming back on weak CW through the pig farmer net's splatter; you marvel as you outwit the hordes by cottoning on to that rare station's operating pattern faster than anyone else, and make it in between the superstations. You relive all the excitement of your first DX!

And if you're one of the crazy bunch that goes out to put rare and out-of-the-way places on 160, you'll savour the bunch

of cards from the top few on the 160m DXCC list, thanking you for a New One. You'll look at the annual DXCC list with the excitement of a schoolboy, and see what a difference your recent expeditions have made.

For me, personally, I can only agree that most of my really memorable war stories have been on 160. How I sat at ZS9Z, battling the static for 5 days with a total of a dozen contacts, and how the last morning produced a massive run that my host could hear through my headset; about how I came up as 3DAØ/ZS6BCR in 1988 and had the most stunning DXpedition experience of my life; about how my first W6 came up out of the noise, peaked at S9+20 dB, exchanged reports, and disappeared into the noise, all within 30 seconds. Where else could this happen?

The Swaziland story must stand out as the highlight. I had a Butternut HF2V set up in the middle of the tin roof of the shed I was operating in; 30 x 40 m of continuous metal. The vertical was extremely efficient, with an estimated ground loss of no more than 4 Ω (judging by the SWR). I had an SB-220 amplifier then (no 160 coverage), and had to bring a separate amp to cover 160. When dawn came on the first day, I told everyone on 80 I was going down to 160. I rapidly disconnected my amp, wired in the new one and tried to tune up. Seconds would count, as openings are typically only loud for about 5 minutes.

I couldn't get the amp to tune! It turned out later that there was a problem with the bandswitch, so there really was no way to make it load. The exciter cut back to about 30 watts, due to the 3:1 SWR. I was very annoyed, but decided to call CQ anyway. Maybe a local would be interested. I called CQ, specifying "UP 5." When the receiver came back on, the whole 2.4 kHz filter

was filled with stations. I picked out a few calls, assuming that they were calling someone else. Just in case, I went back to one of them.

I almost had a cardiac arrest when he answered me! I ended up working about 18 stations that morning. Not bad, considering that not one of them was closer to me than 10,000 km. 30 W and a vertical!

I read later that WØZV thought that was one of his most memorable contacts, too. Some years later, I read an interview with Bill in the *Lowband Monitor*. Bill was asked what his most memorable contact was. He mentioned a contact with one of the major island expeditions (maybe 3Y0PI or 3Y5X). Obviously, my moment of immense excitement had faded into oblivion. A bit like wetting your dark suit—the warm feeling was still there, but no one noticed!

Would this happen on 20? The place where you need a kW and a Big Sticker to be heard? The place where people call first, and ask questions later? The place where you can hardly find an open spot between the DX brothels? I doubt it. My work and study schedule hasn't given me the chance to play 160 much over the past few years, but I can assure you that it would be my first choice if I had the time.

And there's always the question in my background processor: where do we go next? Inevitably, that yearning will eventually triumph over common sense, and we'll all have the chance to renew old acquaintances on 160 yet again. It'll be down in the muck, and you'll probably battle with the local Cumulo Nimbus and the East Coasters to make it. But it'll be worth it. See you then!



Repeater Etiquette

Our club repeater, W6TI/R has long been our common meeting-place, wherein members have exchanged greetings and shared DX spots and other DX information. It is also the venue for the Thursday evening on-the-air meeting. Recently, Rich Chatelaine, AB6ZV was contacted by a local ham—a “new” DXer—who reported that he had dropped in on W6TI to obtain information about NCDXC—and had been challenged and essentially driven off by person or persons unspecified.

This rude—and unjustifiable—behavior is the exact antithesis of what we all need to do to perpetuate and reinvigorate our Club.

W6TI is listed in *The ARRL Repeater Directory* as “c”—a closed, private system. This is unfortunate, for, in fact, W6TI is neither closed, nor private: it is, more accurately, a *specialized* repeater, dealing specifically with DXing. We in no way wish to encourage casual use by outsiders, but to run off someone seeking information about our club is absurd!

Any radio amateur with an interest in DXing, with DX information to share, or who wishes to contact a member of our club, is welcome on W6TI—and should expect the same courtesy extended to any other participant.

Over the years, there has been some disagreement over the role of W6TI between those who believe that only DX spots and DX information are to be exchanged, and those who feel that general socializing is both appropriate and desirable. On those rare occasions when W6TI is unusually busy—e.g. major DXpeditions, contests, real-time member spotting for a rare DX station—common sense dictates that the business of W6TI be *business*, and that socializing be curtailed. The rest of the time—and that is *most* of the time—W6TI is pretty much unused, and there is no reason why general socializing should be discouraged. Quite the contrary: the best way to lose our frequency to the RF delinquents prowling two meters is not to use it.

—NI6T

several hundred articles through the late ‘20’s and the ‘30’s. It was not unusual for him to have four articles published in a single issue—under his own name and several pen names. He was part owner of and a major force behind the *Radio Handbook* in 1935—it was even renamed the Jones Radio Handbook in 1937. He was also closely associated with more than a half-dozen

Frank Jones, W6AJF, SK

Frank C. Jones, W6AJF, a radio pioneer and a major figure in amateur radio in the 1930’s, died in November at age 91.

Born in Ohio, Jones moved to the West Coast and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1925 with a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering. He was married that year; his wife Edith and several children survive him.

Frank Jones was licensed as W6AJF in 1921. He had begun writing for *Radio*

while in college and wished to continue writing while working for Pacific Telephone as a transmission engineer. Finding it tedious and time-consuming to obtain releases from his employer, he adopted pen names instead—a practice he continued throughout his career.

Quitting the telephone company in 1928, Jones spent three years in graduate school at Berkeley, while consulting part-time and writing articles. He became a full-time consultant in 1931. His consulting clients included many of the major companies in the radio industry and his career would cross the paths of David Sarnoff, Edwin Armstrong and Lee De Forest.

Jones was a prolific writer, publishing

Roster Changes

Correction

Peter Gerba, KN6BI holds an Extra Class license.

Upgrade

Glenn Vinson, W6OTC, has earned his Extra Class license.

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General Meeting

- The evening’s program was a fine presentation by our own *DXer* Editor, NI6T on his Conway Reef DXpedition. Garry’s presentation gave detailed insight to his already well-publicized DXpedition and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58PM.
—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T, Secretary



other handbooks.

During WWII, Jones was a civilian consultant, and was heavily involved both in communications and in early sonar work for the Armed Forces. He received the Exceptional Civilian Service Award from the Secretary of War.

Frank Jones retired to Sonoma after the war, while still in his forties, and lived off his royalties and investments for the rest of his long life.

—NI6T,
from materials supplied by Chuck, W6JOX



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FIRST CLASS

