

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



Special WRTC Section In-

KA6W Slate Elected!

story on page 4

The Editor's Keyboard

Thanks, Al!

The July meeting signals the transition from the old Officers and Directors to the new. So it is an appropriate opportunity to congratulate the new Board and to thank Al Burnham, W4RIM and his crew for their service to the Northern California DX Club this past year. Those who take on responsibilities in an organization like NCDXC know that such service—time-consuming and sometimes frustrating—ultimately brings a feeling of personal satisfaction for having put something back into the hobby we all love. In thanking Al and his Board, we also thank his committee chairmen and committee members.

This has been a watershed year. The acceptance of Associate Membership, the use of mail ballots, and a commitment to growing our membership and involving that membership in the affairs of the Club are among the Board's accomplishments—to be continued and expanded by Ted Algren, KA6W and his crew.

Looking forward, Ted has a lot on his plate. We celebrate our 50th Anniversary this fall—it will be a busy time for Chuck, AA6G and his troops. We move the DX Convention to Fresno in April, '97—a big, big job for convention co-chairmen AB6ZV and WB6UDS.

Those members who have found it comfortable just to be spectators over the years need to step up and become participants and contributors to club activities. Joe Alioto, the former mayor of San Francisco, used to have an acronym prominently displayed in his office—GOYA. It meant "Get off your __" and the last word was not "amplifier." This year is the year to do just that.

The '97 Convention

The siting of the 1997 International DX Convention has generated a great deal of discussion and heat in recent months, culminating in the recent Club elections. Most members are aware that our Board had, last fall, created a committee to investigate alternative sites for the '97 convention, that the committee eventually presented a candidate hotel in the Bay Area, and that SCDXC Board opposition to *any* change—despite

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Joint 4X/JY Operation at July Meeting

The recent first-ever joint DX operation by Israeli and Jordanian hams is the presentation subject for the July meeting. The video will provide an in-depth look at an historic occasion—in which most of us never had a chance to participate, due to poor propagation.

The new Board takes office at the conclusion of the meeting.

The meeting will be at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. Socializing and/or dinner commences at 6:30. The meeting is at 8 PM.

The Dunfey is located on the northwest side of the junction of Freeways 92 and 101 in San Mateo. Take the Delaware St. exit from 92. Monitor W6TI/R on 147.36 for routing assistance.

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

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 W6VG
 Records Manager: Ron Pantan, W6VG
 Publications Mgr: Ron Pantan, 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.

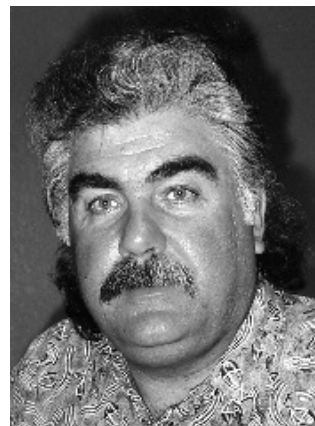
Club address: Box 608
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 94026-0608

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Board of Directors Meeting

The June Board meeting was held on the 4th at the Brothers Deli in Burlingame. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President W4RIM. Those present were W4RIM, W6OTC, AB6ZV, NI6T and AA6T.

- The Minutes were approved as printed in *The DXer*.
- A letter from KO6WO was read, withdrawing his application for membership. Another letter from WA6KAH requested information about the Club and a membership application.
- W6OTC volunteered to print the new Bylaws and Procedures Manual. Manuals will be prepared for a three-ring binder; some will be distributed at the June meeting and the remainder mailed.
- The Convention '97 report was presented by AB6ZV and NW6P. The search for a Convention site has narrowed to Fresno. KA6W, AB6ZV and NW6P plan to visit and evaluate the downtown Holiday Inn.



—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T, Secretary

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

General Meeting

The June meeting was held on the 14th at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo and was called to order by President Al Burnham, W4RIM at 8:11 pm. Guests included Joe, N6IWI, Terry, WA6KAH and Dick, a good friend of WA6IME.

- Reinstatement applications by WØYK and W6NV were approved.
- New applicants for full membership this month were Bill Alsup, N6XMW and Bob Pratt, AC6NF. Both applicants were elected by the membership and welcomed into the Club.
- The 1996 Pacific NW DX Convention was announced. It will be held in Portland, Oregon on July 19-21. Reservation forms were available at the meeting.
- The evening's primary event was the election of new Club officers. For the first time in recent memory, two opposing slates of candidates presented themselves to the membership. An open Question and Answer period preceded the vote. The KA6W slate emerged victorious—see the sidebar for detailed results. The new slate takes office *after* the July meeting.
- At the conclusion of voting, our President congratulated the new officers and thanked *all* candidates for offering to serve the NCDXC. Al exhorted the membership to set its differences aside and work together to make this the “Best DX Club in the World.”
- The scheduled speaker from Yaesu did not appear.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.

—Lloyd Cabral, AA6T, Secretary



RIMshots

The Final RIMshot

Looking Back. My, how time flies when you are having fun! And it has been an honor and my pleasure to have served the NCDXC during this past year. When I embarked upon the journey, I was extremely concerned about the Club's course. It was no longer the vibrant, exciting organization that I fondly remembered from the early 1960s when I was a teen-aged whippersnapper. Without the help and encouragement of NCDXCers of that era — many of whom are still members — my DXing path likely would have been quite different.

It was those fond memories that caused me to decide that I owed a debt to the NCDXC that I could repay only by giving something back to the club. And so I accepted the challenge of serving as an officer. I am particularly gratified by the outcome of the June election; in my mind, it clearly demonstrates that the membership is committed to continuing the course embarked upon a year ago.

Thanks, Board Members and Volunteers! The success of the NCDXC is dependent upon the quality and dedication of its leadership and members. And, oh boy, are we fortunate in that department! First, let me thank the officers and directors: W6OTC, AA6T, N6ULU, WA6HHQ, AB6ZV and K6ITL. You made my job easy, and for that I am grateful. And, of course, I warmly thank our venerable Editor, NI6T. And kudos also to the committee chairmen: KO6GI, KD6XY, AA6YQ, WA6CTA, K6WC, WA6AHF, W6VG, W6RGG, WA6HHQ, WB6CUA, KI6WF, W6RQ, N6ITW, W6FDU, W6RGG, N6VAW, WB6UDS, AB6ZV, K6ANP, AA6G, W6OTC, NI6T and W6BSY. Special thanks to NW6P for evaluating prospective venues for the 1997 convention. Thanks also to W6RJ for his perennial support of the Convention. I hope I haven't omitted anyone. As you can see, it takes a lot of folks to keep the NCDXC up and running.

Looking Ahead. Exciting times are ahead! Under the able leadership of Ted, KA6W, we shall continue to expand the membership with quality new members and update our procedures to enable our far-flung voting membership to vote on important issues, further improve the Convention, make the Board more accessible to members, and present quality programs at the monthly meetings. In October, we shall celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NCDXC. Like the sunspots, the NCDXC is on the rise!

—Al Burnham, W4RIM



Summer Events

- World Radiosport Team Championship, July 10-14, Bay Area; complete coverage in this issue.
- **Pacific NW DX Convention**, July 19-21, Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, OR; sponsored by Willamette Valley DX Club. Full ticket \$50. Contact Ron Hylton, AD7L, (503) 538-7554, Email ad7l@aol.com
- **WIMU '96**, August 2-4, Olympia Park Hotel, Park City, UT. Contact Duane Anderson, KJ7HO, (801) 288-1859. Email usnret@concentric.net
- **New Orleans International DX Convention**, August 30-31, Royal Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Contact Wondy Wondergem, K5KR at (504) 837-1485.
- **W9DXCC DX Convention**, Sept. 7, Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL; sponsored by Northern Illinois DX Assn. Contact Phil Camera, KB9CRY, (708) 343-1696, Email lphil@aol.com.
- **Pacificon '96**, October 18-20, Concord Hilton, Concord, CA. Contact Pacificon Hotline, (510) 932-6125.

Field Day Quote

"It [Field Day] is a contest of sorts," said John Bolduc, a member of the Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association. He added: "most of the transmitters don't use electricity."

Roster Changes

New Full Members

Robert (Bob) Platt, AC6NF (E)
19920 Viewridge Dr.
Saratoga, CA 95070
H (408) 973-1844

William (Bill) Alsop, N6XMW (E)
1120 Ashmount Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
H (510) 451-3507
W (415) 677-7206

Reinstatements

Oliver Sweningsen, W6NV (E)
88 Redwood Terrace
Orinda, CA 94563
H (510) 254-2282

Ed Muns, WØYK (E)
P.O. Box 1877
Los Gatos, CA 95031
H (408) 353-1853
W (415) 857-7400

Applicants for Full Membership

Terry Holcomb, WA6KAH
Walnut Creek, CA

Mark Gang, AB6WD
Saratoga, CA

Applicant for Associate Membership

Joe Talaich, N6IWJ
Saratoga, CA

KA6W Slate Elected!

The Board-nominated slate headed by Ted Algren, KA6W swept the annual election held at the June meeting. Elected with Ted were: Doug Westover, W6JD, Vice President; Peter Gerba, KN6BI, Secretary; Gordon Girton, W6NLG, Treasurer; Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ and Lloyd Cabral, AA6T, Directors. Turnout was fair, with 70 ballots cast.

The election followed a Q&A session in which most candidates took the opportunity to address the membership. Speaking first, Ted, KA6W reiterated his support for the accomplishments of the outgoing Board and then addressed the Convention venue issue. Ted said that considerable discussion both within and without the Club had persuaded him to remain in the Central Valley, and that he intended to hold the 1997 DX Convention in Fresno, instead of either Visalia or the Bay Area.

His opponent, George Allan, WA6O observed that the primary motivation for opposing the Board slate had been the apparent intention to unilaterally move the 1997 DX Convention from Visalia to the Bay Area. The shift to Fresno had blunted this issue, he said. Both men are former presidents of NCDXC.

The vice-presidential candidates took radically different tacks. Opposition candidate Dick Letrich, WB6WKM, offered his uncompromising view of the Club's choices and direction, concluding by requesting all-or-nothing support of his slate. In contrast, Doug Westover, W6JD declined to speak; his subsequent victory appeared to confirm the wisdom of silence.

W6JD's declination to speak was mirrored by several other candidates.

The ballot for the Presidency was held first. Following the count, it was decided among the local parliamentarians that the remainder of the balloting could be held *en masse* if there were to be no further nominations from the floor. With none forthcoming, this was accomplished.

The new slate takes office at the conclusion of the July meeting. Outgoing President Al Burnham, W4RIM continues on the Board as Immediate Past President.

—NI6T



Dues due!

It's time to write a check...

The Club's membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, so your annual dues of \$24 are now due and payable.

Checks should be made out to NCDXC and sent to our treasurer-elect—Gordon Girton, W6NLG at PO Box 60031, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0031. Be sure to write your call sign on the check!

Do this right now! If you do not renew by August 31, you will be dropped from membership and excluded from the new Roster. Reinstatement requires an application, a fee, the vote of the membership and announcements in *The DXer*—so grab your checkbook and avoid the hassle and expense.



In a rare appearance, Life Member Bill Stevens, W6ZM casts his ballot.

The Ballot Count

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------|----|--------|----|
| President | KA6W* | 49 | WA6O | 21 |
| Vice-President | W6JD* | 49 | WB6WKM | 18 |
| Secretary | KN6BI* | 46 | K6TS | 21 |
| Treasurer | W6NLG* | 52 | KN6K | 14 |
| Directors (2) | AA6T* | 49 | K6RK | 20 |
| | WA6HHQ* | 47 | KB6GV | 17 |

*Elected

NCDXC 1996-97 Officers & Directors

President—KA6W

Ted Algren, KA6W was first licensed in 1953 at age 13 as WNØQYE in St. Paul, MN. By 1958 he had upgraded to Extra Class. He received a BSEE from the University of Minnesota and moved to California to work in aerospace. He received the callsign W6JPD in 1963 and also earned an MSEE at Santa Clara University. He is now a principal in a manufacturer's rep firm in Los Altos.

Ted was bitten by the DX bug in 1957 and had six elements on 20 m as a teenager. He now shares a stunning mountaintop QTH in Los Gatos with his wife, Kim—and six elements on 20m. He also enjoys good beer, outdoor sports and fast cars. Ted joined NCDXC in 1980 and has previously served as President. He is credited with originating the comment "Good grief, another reef!"

Vice President—W6JD

Doug Westover, W6JD was first licensed in 1952 as KN2CHN and later held WØQFD, W7UYE and K6TZX. He earned his Extra class license in 1955. In the course of job-related travel, he has operated from England, Puerto Rico and Labrador.

He received a BS in Mathematics from Stanford in 1960, and has worked as a programmer and software engineer; he has 26 years in with SRI. He and YF Myrna have two grown children.

Doug joined NCDXC in 1963; this is his first elected office. He reports that it required 30 years to make Honor Roll using various verticals and low power from his small lot. His current ambition is to be able to hear signals weaker than S9 on 80m

Secretary—KN6BI

Peter Gerba, KN6BI is from Oakland, and attended Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. He has worked as a photographer for many years and has had his own school photography business for the past seven years.

He has "been fooling around with electronics since I was a kid," became a ham in 1991 as a tech plus, and earned his Extra class in 1995. A bachelor, he is an avid CW operator, and competes with simple antennas from his San Francisco South-of-Market QTH. A member of NCDXC since 1993, this is his first Club office.

Treasurer—W6NLG

Gordon Girton, W6NLG was first licensed in Oregon in 1957 as K7AUV and has held a succession of domestic and DX callsigns. He lives with his wife, Karen, in Sunnyvale. He was involved with the W6 QSL Bureau in the '70's. He is President and Treasurer of the Sunnyvale VEC. Formerly a software manager, Gordon has been a retired since 1980—the year he joined NCDXC. This is his first elected office in the Club.

Director—AA6T

Lloyd Cabral, AA6T grew up in Niles, and, as a teenage ham, built much of his early gear. Now 45, Lloyd has worked for what is now Pacific Bell in Santa Cruz for 24 years. He has been active on HF—mostly CW—for most of that time. He enjoys restoring and using old tube gear.

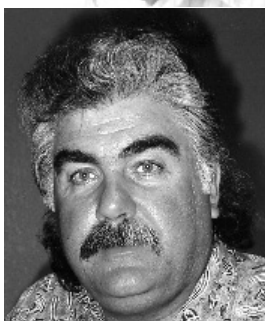
He and his YF, Karen, NS6G live in the hills above Watsonville with a "menage of critters and beasts." Lloyd is rebuilding his antenna farm with new towers and monster antennas. A member of NCDXC since 1982, Lloyd moves from Secretary to Director this year.

Director—WA6HHQ

Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ grew up in the East Bay and was first licensed at age 14 as WN6HHQ. He upgraded that same year (1971). Eric reports that he spent a substantial portion of his high school years in his hamshack, "chasing DX, building radios and repeaters, and nearly getting killed by HV supplies." Eric is absorbed in his own start-up company, Verisys, Inc., which makes engineering tools for the computer design and support industry. He still finds time for DXing and a myriad of other radio and computer-control interests, including QRP. A member since 1993, this is Eric's second year as a Director.



a photo of KN6BI was unavailable.



The World Radiosport Team Championships

Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Fifty-two teams of top Amateur Radio contest operators from thirty countries will be in the San Francisco area in July to compete in the 1996 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC-96).

Selected for the competition by national Amateur Radio organizations, leading contest clubs, and an international panel of judges, the teams count within their ranks the holders of world records in nearly all major HF contests.

The WRTC-96 is a "sub-competition" within the larger IARU HF World Championship contest scheduled for the weekend of July 13 and 14, 1996. WRTC competitors will enter the IARU contest. Each of the teams will operate one of 52 two-person, single-transmitter stations on flat terrain near San Francisco Bay, to minimize propagation differences, and all will run exactly 100 watts output into

The WRTC "subcontest" runs from 1200 UTC, July 13, until 0600 UTC, July 14, on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. You can work them once on CW and once on SSB on each of four bands, so your maximum possible number of WRTC QSOs is 4 bands, times 2 modes, times 52 stations, or 416. You'll have no trouble identifying WRTC stations. Each will sign one of the 52 special "1x1" callsigns the FCC approved just for the WRTC-96 competition: W6A through W6Z, and K6A through K6Z.

For more info, you can e-mail Rusty Epps, W6OAT at: epps@netcom.com

nearly identical antennas.

By eliminating station and propagation variables normally associated with radio contesting, the WRTC strives to present a meaningful, fair competition, in which the winners can claim to be "the best of the best." WRTC stations will compete only with each other, but they can work any station operating in the IARU contest.

Tickets to WRTC Events

Last month, Bruce Sawyer, AA6KX posted on the Internet ticketing information about the many WRTC events—including banquets and tours. Those events are imminent, as you read this, and those with limited capacity are already sold out. The following two events are *not* capacity-limited and you can purchase tickets on-site as you enter.

Icom Picnic at Coyote Point Park. 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10. This informal get-together will include salads, hamburgers, hot dogs, beer, and soft drinks. Competitors, Judges, Station Hosts, WRTC Sponsors, and WRTC Committee receive free admission; all others need to purchase a ticket. Cost per person: \$15. Coyote Point Park is on the Bay at the Peninsula Avenue exit from the Bayshore Freeway.

U.S. Tower/Tied House Poolside Beer Bust. From 12 noon until 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 14 at the pool area of the WRTC Motel (Motel 6 in Belmont, CA). Relax and unwind after the contest with beer, soft drinks, and pizza. Competitors, Judges, WRTC Sponsors, WRTC Committee, Station Hosts, and Referees receive free admission; all others will need to purchase a ticket. Cost: \$10. Take the Ralston Avenue

WRTC Roots

by Rusty Epps, W6OAT

WRTC-96 traces its roots to the Goodwill Games, an Olympic-size competition mostly between athletes from the USA and the USSR, held in Seattle in 1990. A group of area hams realized that the goal of the Goodwill Games—to promote friendship and understanding through athletic competition—applied to Amateur Radio competitions too.

Sparked by this ideal, they organized the first WRTC by inviting four two-person teams of the best Soviet radiosport "athletes" to come to Seattle and compete against four American teams.

Word spread quickly, and the event expanded to 22 teams from 15 nations. Everyone who attended WRTC-90—whether as a competitor, a judge, an organizer, a sponsor, or just to have fun—sensed that something special happened.

Much more than a radio contest, it became a consummate demonstration of Amateur Radio's ability to transcend political, ideological, racial, and gender boundaries. Individuals forged permanent bonds of friendship, even as their governments engaged in a cold war. The event made us proud to be Amateur Radio operators.

Because of the huge success of WRTC-90, those who participated vowed not to

allow it become one of a kind. Less than 24 hours after the competition ended, the competitors were making plans for another, in the USSR in 1994. But it was not to be; the political upheaval that broke up the Soviet Union dashed those hopes.

At the 1994 International DX Convention (Visalia, Calif.) several of us who had participated in WRTC-90 questioned what we could do to breathe life back into this unique event. And we determined that if there were to be another WRTC, it would have to be in the USA. We asked the Potomac Valley Radio Club to host the event. And thanks to PVRC's president, K3NA, that club began planning a Washington, D.C. WRTC-95. But the plans fell through. In the fall of 1995, PVRC passed the baton to the Northern California Contest Club.

You Can Win WRTC-96 Awards!

by Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Although the WRTC stations will compete only with each other, they can work any other station operating in the IARU contest. The WRTC stations will be on the air from 1200 UTC July 13 until 0600 UTC July 14—on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. You can work them once on CW and once on SSB on each of these bands, so your maximum possible number of WRTC QSOs is 4 bands times 2 modes times 52 stations, or 416.

You'll have no difficulty identifying WRTC stations. Each will sign one of 52 distinctive "1x1" callsigns that the Federal Communications Commission has approved just for the competition: W6A through W6Z, and K6A through K6Z.

The Northern California Contest Club is hosting the event, and sponsors range from individuals to corporations.

There are incentives to encourage everyone to work as many WRTC teams as they can. You can earn a WRTC letter opener endorsed for 10, 25, 50, 75, or 100 QSOs on any combination of bands and modes. If you achieve a "grand slam"—working all 52 WRTC stations—you'll garner a commemorative deck of WRTC-96 playing cards. And if you place among the 300 stations who make the most QSOs with WRTC teams, you'll win a beautiful WRTC-96 tee shirt.

Numerous radio clubs and individuals have donated plaques to be awarded to Amateurs in specific geographical areas who make the most QSOs with WRTC stations. These areas are: Worldwide (excluding the SF Bay Area*); Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America; Canada; ITU Zone 6 (excluding the SF Bay Area), Zone 6 (SF Bay Area), Zone 7, Zone 8, Zone 11, Zone 18, Zone 27, Zone 28, Zone 29, Zone 37 and Zone 45. Each WRTC team will have a unique QSL card, displaying its 1x1 callsign. If you work them all, you'll collect the entire set.

WRTC stations will QSL 100 percent via the bureau. In fact, you won't need to send your logs or your QSL card. The organizers will process the 52 WRTC station logs to generate QSL labels, and to determine award eligibility. The only



drawback of this system is that there will be no chance to correct your callsign after the contest. So if you have doubts whether a WRTC station got your call right, be sure to work it again.

The WRTC Committee will publish the list of stations qualifying for awards on the Internet's contest and DX reflectors, and in various ham publications. If you make the list and want to receive your award(s), send an adhesive mailing label (not an SASE), containing your name, callsign, and address to WRTC-96, Inc., c/o Rusty Epps, W6OAT, 651 Handley Trail, Redwood City, CA 94062, USA.

For the letter opener or the playing cards, include \$2.00 or 4 IRCs, to cover postage and handling; \$5.00 or 10 IRCs for the tee shirt (and be sure to include a note specifying shirt size: S, M, L, XL or XXL). Please submit your request before December 31, 1996.

*The "SF Bay Area" comprises the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

WRTC Plaques

| Region | donated by |
|---------------|--|
| Worldwide | Radio Amateurs of/du Canada, Inc. (no SF) |
| Africa | Andy Faber, AE6Y |
| Asia | Morioka Contest and DX Association |
| Oceania | Carl Cook, AI6V |
| South America | Radio Club Quilmes in memory of Jorge H. Bozzo, LU8DQ |
| Canada | Northern California Contest Club |
| ITU Zone 6 | WRTC-90 (Seattle) Organizing Committee (no SF) |
| ITU Zone 6 | Dick Dievendorff, AA6MC (SF) |
| ITU Zone 7 | Bill Hider, N3RR |
| ITU Zone 8 | Frankford Radio Club |
| ITU Zone 11 | Dennis Motschenbacher, AA7VB |
| ITU Zone 18 | Nokia Corporation |
| ITU Zone 27 | Steve Thomas, N6ST |
| ITU Zone 28 | A.R.I. - Italy |
| ITU Zone 29 | Southern California Contest Club |
| ITU Zone 37 | Lew Sayre, N7AVK |
| ITU Zone 45 | Western Washington DX Club |

from page 1

The Editor's Keyboard

efforts to establish a dialogue—manifested itself in several unpleasant incidents at Visalia.

Rather than squelching those here who desired change, that attitude stiffened our resolve to move forward. First, it was necessary to determine the level of support for a unilateral move to the Bay Area, among both our membership and those potential attendees living outside the core California constituency. Our membership was asked in a simple phone survey whether it would attend such a Convention—it would—and how many rooms it would account for—about a third of those to be filled. Via Internet, DXers outside the membership area were asked to provide input, and some 85 responded: most were positive and enthusiastic; some, particularly from Southern California, were not.

Discussions were also being held with California DXers who—while acknowledging the problems in the current venue—were concerned about the effect of a radical move on the North-South nature

of the annual gathering. I thank W6CF, N6EK, K6WR and others in our Club, and N6IC, WA6BNM, KJ6HO, W9NQ and KN6DV of the SCDXC for listening and for respectfully exchanging views without sinking into the pit of dogmatism and intransigence. I also thank Jim Neiger, N6TJ, who communicated his views at great length and with great passion to me at Dayton and to KA6W thereafter.

In the end, we—I, most of the current Board, the '97 co-chairmen and many prominent members—accepted that the North-South meeting aspect remains a key facet of the DX Convention to many attendees. We agreed that—at least in 1997—the best resolution would be to move the Convention out of the Visalia Holiday Inn, but to keep it in Central California.

That decided, it was necessary to quickly identify alternatives to the Visalia Holiday Inn. Tom, NW6P took on this task, and identified and negotiated successfully with the Fresno Centre Plaza Holiday Inn. The hotel was visited by our convention

co-chairmen—Rich, AB6ZV and Rich, WB6UDS—and presidential candidate Ted, KA6W, who enthusiastically approved the choice.

Ted then declared his intention to move the Convention to Fresno as part of his slate's platform. He views the margin of his slate's election victory as a mandate to proceed, and expects approval of the move to be the first order of business upon taking the gavel.

We think this is a good solution—a win-win solution. For those driving, it will be 30 miles more, or 30 miles less. Costs will be slightly higher. But we are confident that the hotel's size, facilities and ambiance—and the attitude of its management—will add greatly to each attendee's enjoyment of this great event. So mark your calendars—the 1997 International DX Convention will be held on April 4-6—and we hope to see all of you there.

—N16T

Letter to The DXer

Editor:

A few years ago I ran a membership survey, with very poor response, that asked the membership if moving the meeting to another night, such as Tuesday or Thursday, would generate larger attendance at the meetings. There were many “no preference” responses and many others that indicated another night would be preferable.

I personally strongly prefer some night other than Friday. There would be financial advantages to the club and membership—many meeting places are available at no charge, and/or have no minimum number of dinners to cover the room costs.

I wonder how many others like myself would be a lot more active in the meetings if they were held on another night.

—Al Koblinski, W7XA

Field Reps Appointed

Two NCDXC members from Salinas have been appointed Pacific Division DXCC Field Representatives by ARRL President Rodney Stafford, KB6ZV. John Knight, K6CXT and Walt Del Conte, WD6EKR were notified of their appointments by Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, DXCC Manager. They join almost 30 other NCDXC members serving the Pacific Division in this capacity.

The Field Checking Program allows many—but not all—cards to be checked by two Field Representatives in lieu of submission to ARRL. See Section V of the DXCC Rules.

The Dipole Factory



photo by W6NLG

Dave Leeson, W6QHS (foreground) and Bob Wilson, N6TV (obscured by drill press) crank out 40m dipoles, to be installed at WRTC station sites to help provide a “level playing field” for the 52 international teams.



The Kenwood Letter

Editor's note: On June 10, 1996, Paul Middleton, KD6NUH, National Sales Manager for the Kenwood Amateur Radio Products Group, posted the following message in answer to widespread negative responses to Kenwood's announcement that it would "extend (its) marketing program" by selling HF radios in — among other places—truck stops. I have only minimally edited this missive, (removing only gross spelling and grammar errors) so that the reader can obtain the full impact of Mr. Middleton's logic and argument.

The DXer welcomes your comments.

An Open Letter to the Amateur Radio Community

On May 21, Kenwood announced plans to extend our marketing program with increased distribution.

Much research, thought and consideration went into this decision. It was clear to us that some might question the distribution of ham radios outside the traditional Amateur dealer network. When we looked at where Amateur radio is today, and where it is going to be in ten years at the present rate of decline, the future looks bleak.

At our biggest hamfests in the country, there are always fewer people in attendance. We are surrounded by many new and exciting communication products. On one side we have cellular phone and the other side we have internet phone. In the middle we have a well known radio electronics specialty chain selling all types of communication products including Amateur radios. New modes of communicating continue to enter into the world. Soon we will see GMRS products (no license required) introduced to the masses. It is also obvious that the rate of no-code licensees is slowing down with fewer and fewer people upgrading.

Amateur radio dealers should be more interested in attracting new people to our hobby. Every current Amateur operator who wants this hobby to continue should be promoting ham radio to non-hams. The current direction will only mean fewer hams, fewer radios, fewer manufacturers, and, most importantly to everyone, fewer frequencies allocated to Amateur service by the FCC. In reality, well over 50% of all current ham operators started out with some type of simple mode radio. Even more ironic, many current Amateur radio dealers started their businesses with and are still currently selling other types of radio communications.

Many frequencies are currently unused. These bands, in light of the recent frequency auctions, (1.2 GHz, 220 and 440 MHz) are worth millions of dollars on the open market for the FCC. Consider this and then read the current proposal for LEOS to use the 2 meter and 440 bands. The world constantly changes along with cultures, their habits and beliefs. The test of our integrity as people is to grow in spirit along with change. This is the test that faces Amateur Radio today.

The objectives are the following from Kenwood.

1) Work hard to expand the hobby to ensure its perpetuation and survival.

2) Expose the hobby of ham radio to more people in more locations. There are approximately 50 retail stores serving hams throughout the USA. We currently have about 690,000 licensed hams with 250,000,000 in total population. We think more people would become responsible operators if they are directly exposed to Amateur Radio.

3) Invest in a new, one-of-a-kind educational pamphlet about ham radio and how to become involved.

4) Invest in providing more study guide materials to people so they can learn the responsible way to become a ham radio operator.

5) Provide incentives to schools and clubs to bring new operators into ham radio and provide proper education.

6) Provide incentives to upgrade beyond the no-code tech license.

7) Enhance public safety and local crime prevention activities so that ham radio operators can support their communities.

8) Work with and help develop a stronger national disaster response organization that the Amateur radio community and your neighbors can be excited and proud to be a part.

I want to personally thank all those who have expressed their opinions to Kenwood. Although the feelings are mixed, we firmly believe that the positives of our plans greatly outnumber the negatives. In light of the facts we have presented here, I would like to invite those with constructive ideas to join in our efforts to strengthen Amateur radio. With everyone's help we will make Amateur Radio better and more enjoyable for everyone in the years to come

Sincerely,

Kenwood Communications Corporation
 —Paul Middleton, KD6NUH
 National Sales Manager Amateur Radio Products Group

Editor's Notes

- Ed Schuller, WA6CTA, has resigned as conductor of the Contest Corner. President-elect Ted Algren seeks a volunteer to take over this monthly feature.
- The Editor has *finally* changed Internet Providers. His new E-mail address is: ni6t@scruznet.com.

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