

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

The Early Years of *The DXer*

With NCDXC at the halfway point in its 50th Anniversary Year, your Editor has been leafing through some of the Club's archival material, including the first few years of *The DXer*. It's quite a kick to look back at the NCDXC of the late 'forties and early 'fifties, to see what was being worked and who was working it, what the burning issues of the day were, and what was the character and composition of the Club.

The first *DXer* appeared in July, 1948, with the Club not quite two years old. The progenitor issue, edited by Peter Baker, W6PB, sported a cover drawing and three pages of news, scuttlebutt and DX info, and was mimeographed on colored paper. The second issue had five pages and a cover and included a photograph—pasted on the page—and detailed description of a member's station. That feature would continue for many years. Our members—all male, by the way—appeared not to be QRPers. Almost every station pictured had at least one rack full of large bottles and meters; many had two or three. The issues are sprinkled with offerings of large transformers, "condensers," and chokes. Hammarlund and Collins receivers were the norm, as well as beams for 10 and 20 meters. We did not yet have 15 meters.

The members referred to each other by their suffices—*everyone* was a W6! And some of the callsigns are—thankfully—still with us: the August, 1948 issue lists W6WB and W6BUY on the Board of Directors.

The third issue—September, 1948—noted the passing of K.B. Warner, W1EH, in an obituary by Horace Greer, W6TI, and a page of propagation predictions. The October second-anniversary issue included the Club Roster: 42 members, including the first Associate Member—W6AM! The first Ladder followed not long after.

January, 1949 saw a new President—Bud Bane, W6WB. It is wonderful to note, in light of the all the new, young 1x2 callsigns about, that W6WB is *not* a reissue—Bud has had that callsign since the Ark settled on Mount Ararat, and we hope he has it for many more years.

Early in 1950, *The DXer* went bimonthly. The fourth anniversary saw a new Editor take the helm of the newsletter—"Chas" Henry, W6EJA. Also in that year, NCDXC and SCDXC put on the first joint bash that would become the International DX Convention, but I find no mention of it in *The DXer*!

By 1953, that had changed. The "4th Annual DX Conference" was held in Fresno and hosted by NCDXC. The announcement appeared in *The DXer* for November/December, 1952 and indicates that the Convention already had most of the characteristics we know today. Of course, we also know that our predecessors were a particularly thirsty lot! The banquet speaker was Larry LeKashman, W2IOP/W9IOP. Larry was

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Directions to the Convention

To reach the Holiday Inn Centre Plaza Hotel, take Highway 99 to Fresno and exit at Ventura Street. The hotel is 3/4 mile east of the highway at 2233 Ventura.

Travelers from Silicon Valley using Pacheco Pass should continue on SR152 past

Fresno!

Coming Events

- International DX Convention, April 4-6, Holiday Inn Centre Plaza, Fresno
- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday each month, Las Positas College, Livermore, 7 AM-noon
- Foothill Flea Market, 2nd Saturday each month, Foothill College, Los Altos, from 7 AM

Fresno!

April 1997

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: Ted Algren, KA6W
 Vice President: Doug Westover, W6JD
 Secretary: Peter Gerba, KN6BI
 Treasurer: Gordon Girton, W6NW
 Director: Eric Swarz, WA6HHQ
 Director: Lloyd Cabral, AA6T
 Director: Al Burnham, K6RIM

The DXer:

Editor: Garry Shapiro, NI6T
 20941 Nez Perce Trail
 Los Gatos, CA 95030
 (408) 353-6068
 (408) 353-1119 (FAX)
 ni6t@scruznet.com

Printing, Mailing: Don Berticvich, KO6GI

DX Ladder: Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ

9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

California Award: Rubin 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

Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU

QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

W6TI DX Bulletins:

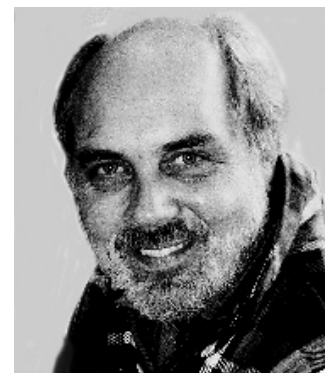
W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

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

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Board of Directors Meeting

The BOD meeting was held at KA6W's offices in Los Altos on March 12 and was called to order at 6 PM by President Ted Algren, KA6W. Attending were: Doug, W6JD; Gordon, W6NW; Al, K6RIM; Peter, KN6BI. Also attending were members of the DX Convention Committee: Rich, W6UDS; Len, K6ANP; Craig, W6WL; Lee, K6IME; Bill, W6TEX and Tom, N6BT, our Convention MC.



- The bulk of the meeting time was devoted to various convention topics. Tom, Craig, Rich and Len worked to organize the MC's timetable, A/V equipment schedules, food delivery, etc. A lot of hard work and planning has gone into making this Convention work! When you see these folks at Fresno, remember to thank them!
- The BOD then held a short meeting. Ted again stressed the urgent need for a new *DXer* Editor.
- Gordon went over the Club Repeater checking account and phone line details. Ted closed the meeting at 9:30 PM.

General Meeting

The monthly general meeting was held at the San Francisco Yacht Club in Belvedere on Friday, March 14, 1997. Attendees enjoyed cocktails, and then an excellent dinner was served in the Cove House.



Bob Fabry, N6EK, made one of the very first slide show presentations of the record-shattering Heard Island DXpedition, in which he was a participant. Many XYLs and other guests attended and, by all reports, enjoyed a very special evening.

After the Heard Island presentation, President Ted, KA6W, conducted a brief business meeting. Barry Bettman, K6ST of Half Moon Bay was approved as an Associate Member. Welcome to the NCDXC, Barry! Rich, W6UDS, requested help stuffing pre-registration envelopes for the upcoming International DX Convention. Also, Lee, K6IME, sought volunteers to sell raffle tickets.

Ted adjourned the meeting at 10 PM.

—Al Burnham, K6RIM, Immediate Past President

Roster Changes

New Associate Member.

Barry Bettman, K6ST (E)
 421 Casa Del Mar Drive
 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-1413
 H (415) 726-1205 <
 W (415) 726-1205
 E-mail barryn@ix.netcom.com

New E-mail Address

Ron Hill, K6UR, k6ur@lightspeed.net
 Wayne Mills, N7NG, n7ng@sprynet.com

Callsign Change

William (Bill) Hurd, W6CTL (AB7CH)
 Lee Williams, K6IME (WA6IME)

Whiskey Shots

It's That Time Again!

The time we all await each year to meet and visit with our fellow DXers (and their friends) is upon us. Our 48th International DX Convention is nigh and those able to join us in Fresno will renew old friendships and start new ones.

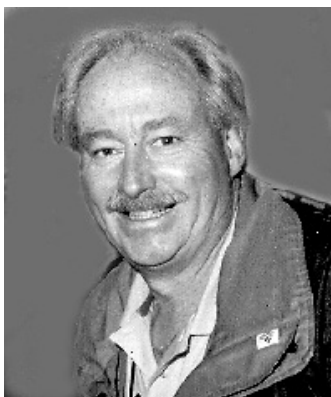
While reviewing the list of expected attendees, I noted a number of foreign DXers joining us. German, Swiss, British, Swedish, Italian, Mexican and Canadian DXers—and probably more—are traveling to Fresno attend “The Event.” When you note a call you do not recognize, step forward and greet the visiting DXer. Thank him or her for joining us and for taking the time to travel from a faraway place to be with us.

I know there will be a few Pile-up Sharks lurking about. Of course, beating the Pile-up Shark is what makes working that special rare one so enjoyable. Get to know those you perceive as your constant adversaries—I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised to discover what really fine people are among them.

We are *all* very fortunate to be able to enjoy this time together. I'll keep this month's commentary short and say thanks in advance for all the work our Convention Committee and its many helpers have put forth to guarantee our enjoying a great time during the Convention. Give them your personal thanks when you see them scurrying around the Holiday Inn. They really do deserve your appreciation!

CU in Fresno!

—Ted Algren, KA6W, President



Treasurer's Report

March, 1997

Income:

Dues, app. fees	\$34.00
Badge(s)	<u>28.00</u>
Total Income	\$62.00

Expenses:

DXer	
Copy Cost	\$227.85
Postage	64.00
Repeater telephone	15.42
Meeting Room	50.00
Badges	<u>127.34</u>
Total Expenses	\$484.61

CD

Life Membership	9825.09
California Federal 5.6%	5067.58
Great Western Bank 6%	<u>\$10870.99</u>

Checking (B of A):

DX Convention	\$3500.00
Club	<u>7410.59</u>
Total Cash	\$36674.25

Club Members as of 3/1/97

Charter	3
Honorary	10
Life	32
Family 6x2	12
Associate	6
Absentee	24
Full	<u>233</u>
Total	320

—Gordon Girton, W6NW, Treasurer

“The Northern California DX Club...has voted unanimously to register protest against the Federal Communications Commission proposal discontinuing the issuance of two-letter calls and issuance of amateur calls only in sequence.”

—J. R. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer,
to the FCC, October 16, 1951



Visalia, 1993—the Sunday morning session, with Bob Ferrero, W6RJ in the Truth Chair, being interrogated by Rusty, W6OAT. On the left is Lance, K6GSJ—Dr. Lance Lyre—who created this uproarious and unforgettable scene.



*NCDXC DX Conference
Committee, 1953
L to R standing: W6WB
, W6TI and W6TT
(Chairman); Sitting:
W6ATO and W6DZZ
(President)*



Horace Greer, W6TI in 1949



Chas Henry, W6EJA—Charter Member and The DXer's second Editor

from page 1

The Early Years of *The*

both a noted DXer and a highly accomplished contester.

This issue contains a few snapshots from that era. Enjoy!

—N16T

Fresno!

The Charter Member Mystery

My trip through the Club's past has deepened a mystery that surfaced after our 50th Anniversary meeting, last October.

I had always thought our Club had ten Charter Members. However, a photo of that group, taken Christmas, 1947 (and published in the February, 1996 *DXer*) shows 11 men. The invitation to the first meeting also lists eleven, but one man (W6JLM) is not in the aforementioned picture, and one of those pictured (W6ITH) is not on the list. But the invitation to the second meeting lists all twelve—plus Don Wallace, W6AM, as an Associate Member.

That appears to solve the mystery. But Editor/Charter Member Chas, W6EJA reminisced, in *The DXer's* sixth anniversary issue, "W6PB, W6BUY and W6TI got thirteen of us together at the Coit..." Was W6AM the thirteenth man, or was someone invited who never joined?

So, old-timers, help solve the mystery. How many Charter Members *did* the NCDXC have? 11, 12 or 13?

We'll see you all
in Fresno!

photos from archives of The DXer

1997 International DX Convention

Holiday Inn Centre Plaza, Fresno, California

April 4-6, 1997

Friday, April 4

12:00 - 15:00 Sherwood Forest G.C. 11th International DX Convention Golf Tournament

15:00 - 17:00 Upper Atrium Registration & Raffle Ticket Sales

17:30 - 19:00 Salon B Cocktail Party Hosted by HRO & NCDXC

Saturday, April 5

06:30 - 08:30 Upper Atrium No-Host Coffee and Danish

08:00 - 17:00 Upper Atrium Registration & Raffle Ticket Sales

09:00 - 17:30 Salon D Exhibits and Vendor Displays

08:30 - 09:00 Salons B & C Introduction of ARRL League Officials by Brad Wyatt, K6WR

09:00 - 10:00 Salons B & C Propagation by Ned Stearns, AA7A

10:15 - 11:30 Salons B & C IOTA (Islands on the air) Program by Martin Atherton, G3ZAY

11:30 - 12:30 Salons B & C 1AØKM DXpeditions by Paolo Cortese, I2UIY

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

10:00 - 14:00 Salon A Ladies Program (See separate flyer)

12:30 - 16:00 Salon E QSL Card Checking, New and Updates

14:00 - 15:00 Salons B & C DXAC Forum, moderated by Jack Troster, W6ISQ

Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, ARRL President will be a panelist.

15:15 - 16:00 Salons B & C 5V7A DXpedition by Bob Vallio, W6RGG

16:15 - 17:00 Salons B & C Contest Forum moderated by Bob Wilson, N6TV

17:15 - 18:00 Salon A1 Building a One-Tower Station by Steve Morris, K7LXC

17:15 - 18:00 Salon A2 Midway Island DXpedition by Frank Smith, AHØW

18:00 - 19:00 Foyer Cocktail Party Hosted by HRO & NCDXC

19:00 - 21:00 Salons A, B & C Dinner. Tom Schiller, N6BT, MC, will introduce Ted Algren, KA6W, President, NCDXC, for guest introductions, DXer of the Year. and a special presentation to Robert "Smitty" Smithwick, W6JZU, ARRL Humanitarian of The Year.

21:15 - 22:15 Salons A, B & C Heard Island DXpedition by Bob Schmieder, KK6EK

22:15 - 22:30 Salons A, B & C Prize Drawings

Sunday, April 6 (Daylight Savings Time)

08:00 - 10:00 Salons A, B & C Breakfast Buffet

09:15 - 09:30 Salons A, B & C Announcements and Special Awards, Tom Schiller, N6BT, MC

09:30 - 10:30 Salons A, B & C XZ1N Myanmar DXpedition by Dr. Warren Hill, K7WX

10:30 - 10:45 Salons A, B & C Prize Drawings and Convention Wrap Up

Fresno Drawing Prizes

Here are the drawing prizes for the 48th International DX Convention.

• Main prize—Yaesu FT1000D

• Pre-registration prize—Icom 756

20 meter yagi

Additional prizes include:

• Force 12 C3S trapless multiband yagi

• US Tower MA40 tubular tower,

• Hy-Gain by Telex 204-BA Long John

• Hal Communications P38 Modem

• Svetlana 572-B & 811-A tubes

• Eimac 3-500Z tubes (pair)

RV Parking

The Holiday Inn Park Centre has provided spaces for up to 20 RV's in a designated area at the left-hand side of the hotel. Rumors to the contrary, one need *not* be a registered guest at the hotel to occupy an RV space—just show up. The management requests that RVers park in a manner not wasteful of the provided space.

FIRST
CLASS

P. O. B O X 6 0 8
M E N L O P A R K, C A
9 4 0 2 6 - 0 6 0 8 U S A

We'll see you all
in Fresno!