

# DXer

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



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## Editor's Choice

### No Editorial?

After agonizing over a topic for an editorial, I realized that I have never been an editor before. There are gems that I would like to write about, but know nothing about. Like ARRL executive committee and the DXAC. Or maybe the code - no code issue. What makes a good DX operator or a great DXer. Perhaps the VEC program needs a pounding? How about the impact of LEO on ham radio? I can come up with many topics, but don't have the time or inclination to become a political student. Surely there are members of this club that are well versed in one or more of these issues. I propose that, rather than me expounding on issues I know nothing about, that the experts in the membership take the challenge. Hello! Is there anyone out there that can help me out? I need your assistance; the club needs your assistance. If you have an opinion on these or other topics please write up your opinions/thoughts and send them to me.

73 de K7JJ

### Need Print/Mail Coordinator!

Don, KO6GI, has done yeoman service for a long time and needs to stand down from his task as Print and Mailing Coordinator for the *DXer*. Our print vendor is located off Winchester Blvd. in Los Gatos. The club needs someone to pick up the finished newsletter, affix labels and postage and deliver them to the post office. As an alternative, I could pick them up from the printer's and the new coordinator could meet me in the Moffett Field area. Don has agreed to handle the task for another month or so. The job requires very few hours once per month. Please get involved and take over this very important job. Contact Dave, K7JJ. TNX!

### Dues are Due

**It's That time again!**

Please send your 1997-1998 dues to the Treasurer!

### August Meeting

**Palo Alto Hofbrau**

**August 8, 1997**

**Dinner at 7 PM,  
with the meeting  
following.**

**Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
Guest Speaker**

## QRM de K6XN

N O R T H E R N  
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**Club Officers:**

President: Ted Park, K6XN  
 Vice President: George Allan, W6YD  
 Secretary: Ron Panton, W6VG  
 Treasurer: Keith Butts, KN6K  
 Director: Ted Algren, KA6W  
 Director: Gordon Girton, W6NW  
 Director: Garry Shapiro, NI6T

**The DXer:**

Editor: Dave Earnest, K7JJ  
 15200 Monterey Road  
 Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
 408-779-6662 ext. 203  
 k7jj@garlic.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, W6CUA  
 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. **Web Pages:**

**Chuck Vaughn, AA6G**

(<http://www.ncdxc.org>)

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

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RE: \*DOING IT\*

Its a great time to be a DXer and/or a contester! Its also a great time to build rigs, put up antennas, learn new skills, meet new friends and revisit memories of things we enjoyed doing with old friends...and even more important.....\*doing it\*.....to be is to do.....

I had forgotten how much fun all of this DXing really is and how much fun it can continue to be. There is no substitute for actually doing it. Talking about it or thinking about it is just not the same. I relearned this lesson again and again this summer...that the fun is in the \*doing\*....

I recently was fortunate to go on a six week paid sabbatical from the company I work for. The only company criterion was that I enjoy myself and not do anything \*work\* related. I decided to spend the bulk of the time at my ranch in Nevada and to continue building a club station at the \*Park Ranch Amateur Radio Club\* NN7NN with the help of W6NW and N6MAW (both NCDXC members) and others.

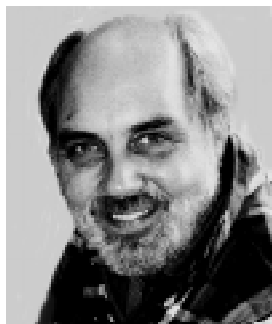
So far this summer we cleaned out the second story of a varmint infested barn on the ranch, installed windows, electrical wiring, and carpeting, and built three station operating positions with two complete HF KW rigs, including two meter packet radio, computer logging and.....we put up a 75 foot self supporting rotating tower (5 cubic yards of steel reinforced concrete) with 4 elements for 20, 15 and 10 meters....we also found time to chase and announce lots of DX.....and began working on a four square phased array for the 80 meter band for later this year....the fun was in \*doing\* it.....

We also hosted a local Boy Scout Troop and Boy Scout Explorer Post at NN7NN...if you heard K6BSA/7 from Nevada on field day that was Troop and Post 566 from Saratoga operating from Park Ranch, Nevada...we operated 2A from generators in 45+ mph winds in the desert...we had to hammer in six foot steel stakes to keep the \*operating tent\* from blowing away....ask N7NT..he was there in the tent on cw....if you worked K6BSA on SSB you must have heard the wind whistling through the tent.....the scouts put up an old 3 element TA33 and a 40 meter dipole at 60 feet with an army surplus antenna mast and made over 1600 contacts....one of our boy scouts had just gotten his tech+ amateur license two weeks before field day.....after some instruction he helped put the TA33 together and he made half the QSOs on 40 meters..with a little help from the rest of us.....again...the real fun was in \*doing\* it.....

The fun is in \*doing it\*.....think about what has been the most DXing or ham radio related fun for you over the years.....have you been \*doing it\* lately????

Lets get out there and \*do it\*...whatever \*doing it\* means to you that caused you to become and love being a DXer.....

73, Ted



Peter Gerba, KN6BI

## General Meeting

Ted, KA6W, opened the Club Meeting at 8:00PM.

Ted spoke at length about the Club's active members, what he tried to accomplish while Club President and the future of the NCDXC.

He thanked his fellow Board Members for serving with him.

Ted also recognized Chuck, AA6G, for his efforts with the 50th Anniversary and the NCDXC WEB Page.

Ted then turned the meeting over to Ted Park, K6XN, our new NCDXC President. Ted, K6XN, gave a short talk regarding our current meeting place. Gordon, W6NW gave the Treasurer's report. Gordon opened a new account for the "Life Membership Funds" (see Treasurer's report).

Ted, K6XN, introduced Frank Holst, W6ZKM. Frank applied for "Life Member" status in June. The Board approved Frank's application and the members at the July meeting voted Frank, W6ZKM, in as Life Member #41. Congratulations, Frank. Members watched the VK0IR Video (a really great video). The meeting closed at 9:30

Peter Gerba pgerba@crl.com

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## Board of Directors Meeting

The July Board of Directors meeting was held at the Palo Alto Hofbrau. Ted, KA6W, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. KA6W, K6RIM, W6JD, NI6T, W6CF, AA6G, K7JJ, W6NW, KN6K, W6VG, K6XN, K6WR and KN6BI were present. Correction to June BoD notes. K6RIM was in attendance at the June BoD Meeting. Ted announced that Doug, W6JD would take on the job of Club Contest Chair. Board made clear that the Club will enter points for ARRL awards only. Gordon, W6NW, gave the Treasurer's Report. (see W6NW's Report for details). The Treasurer's Report was approved by the board. Ted Park, K6XN, asked about the current Meeting Place and about the Palo Alto Hofbrau. Ted Algren, KA6W, turned the meeting over to Ted Park, K6XN, the new NCDXC President. Ted, K6XN, addressed the Board in general and KA6W and K6RIM regarding several minor procedural issues and the Meeting was closed at 7:00 PM.

Peter Gerba, KN6BI, Outgoing Secretary, NCDXC

## Treasurer's Annual Report

Gordon Girton, W6NW  
Profit and Loss Statement  
July 1, 1996 Through June 30, 1997

<u>Income</u>	
Dues	6,236.
Advertising (HRO)	600.
Interest	1,142.
Badge (s)	432.
QSL Cards	25.
DX Convention	6,928.
9BDXCC	141.
Scanner Rebate	72.
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,576.</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	
Dx'er: Copy Postage	5,667.
HP Scanner	538.
Page Maker	627.
Misc.	39.
Bank, Checks, Stamps	32.
Insurance	305.
Storage \$363 X 2 years	726.
Roster (s)	1,115.

Awards	
9BDXCC	283.
California	81.
Trophies	321.
Meeting (s) Room	700.
50th	182.
Screen	159.
Bylaws Manual(s)	64.
Badge (s)	430.
INTERNET	179.
Repeater	185.
PO Box 608	58.
Franchise Tax Board	20.
Staff Misc.	28.
Thursday night net:	
Call sign CD-ROM	37.
QRZ Magazine (2 Years)	50.
Gift (s)	
CQ Magazine Trophy	50.
NCDXF (Heard Is.)	1,000.
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,876.</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,700.</b>

Balance Sheet: (As of June 30, 1997 )	
<b>Assets:</b>	
<b>CD's:</b>	
Life Membership	9,825.00
Club	11,179.66
Club	5,067.58
<b>Checking:</b>	
Repeater	1,280.84
Club	<u>13,671.51</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>41,042.68</b>

## President



**Ted Park, K6XN**

Ted was first licensed in 1960 and has held his current call, K6XN, since 1977. Ted is also the trustee for two club stations in Nevada, NN7NN and N7PR. He has also been licensed as VK3CXN, VP2MU, ZF2UD, V2A/K6XN and has operated portable with reciprocal licenses from G, 8P6, VP2V, VP2K, VP9 and VP2M. Ted has achieved DXCC Honor Roll and 5BDXCC. He is a life member of ARRL. Ted holds a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering and a Doctorate in Law from the University of California. Prior to becoming an attorney, Ted served on active duty in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, attaining the rank of Captain. He graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger school and served in combat in Viet Nam in 1968 and 1969. In recognition of his service, Ted received several decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Viet Nam service medal with four campaign clusters, among other decorations. After Vietnam, Ted resigned his commission and went to law school on the GI bill. He has been an attorney at law since 1974 and I am currently an officer of Tandem Computers Incorporated. I am Tandem's Assistant General Counsel for Intellectual Property Matters. I love chasing DX, contesting, and building stations and antenna arrays!!!!

## Vice President

### **George Allan, W6YD**

George is not new to leadership roles in the NCDXC, having served as club president in 1993-1994, Vice President, 1992-1993 and 1994-1995. He also was Co-chairman of the 1995 International DX Convention. In 1985, George served as editor of the *DXer*. George has been active in other local radio clubs. He has twice been President, Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA). He was Co-Chairman of the Pacificon convention for all 5 years it was sponsored by SCCARA. George is 61 years old and was first Licensed in 1956. His former Call are: WA6O, KA6GJW, W6EJX, W9CTV, KN9GAZ. His DXCC level is 232 countries confirmed. Other awards include WAS, WAC, WAZ. George's ultimate DX'ing goal is to work 5BDXCC with 40 meter DXCC in CW mode.

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## Secretary

### **Ron Panton, W6VG**

Ron Panton was born February 8, 1915. His ham radio teacher was also his trumpet teacher, W6EEQ. He received his first ham license in May, 1930, as W6CBE. Commercial licenses were obtained during the following two years. He played trumpet and arranged music for the big bands of the 30s and 40s. He was licensed as W6VG in 1960 with Extra Class. He played oboe and English horn in the Peninsula Symphony for 20 years while working at Stanford Research Institute in communications and propagation labs. He also worked at United Airlines, ICBS and other radio stations before retiring after 25 years at SRI. He enjoyed CW operations on DXpeditions to ZK2, KX6, and KL7. His present QTH in Menlo Park has been the same for almost 50 years.

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## Treasurer

### **Keith Butts, KN6K**

Keith was first licensed in 1977 as WD6CHF and earned his Extra Class in 1979. He has served as SCCARA President twice and is past Secretary of the Northern California Contest Club. He is a graduate of San Jose State University and began DXing at the SJSU club station. He has worked 160 countries and his current station is a Kenwood transceiver, Drake L4B amplifier, tribander, 40 meter dipole and various VHF/UHF antennas.

## Directors

### Ted Algren, KA6W



**KA6W**

Ted was first licensed in 1953, at age 13, as WN0QYE, in St. Paul MN. By 1958, he had upgraded to Extra Class. In 1963, he received a BSEE from the University of Minnesota and moved to California to work in the aerospace industry. His California call sign became W6PJD. In 1969 he earned an MSEE from Santa Clara University. Ted was bitten by the DX bug in 1957. Ted joined NCDXC in 1982 and has served our club in several capacities, including twice as President. He enjoys outdoor sports, good beer and fast cars (no mixing allowed!)

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### Gordon Girton, W6NW



**W6NW**

Gordon, W6NW, 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 '70s. He is President and Treasurer of the Sunnyvale VEC. Formerly a software manager, Gordon has been retired since 1980 - the year he joined NCDXC. Gordon served as NCDXC Treasurer in 1996-1997.

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### Garry Shapiro, NI6T



**NI6T**

Garry Shapiro, NI6T, was originally licensed in 1956 as KN2RQC at age 13. He had earned his Extra at 16 and DXCC by the time he moved to California to attend grad school, in 1963. Apartment restrictions and work in electronics curtailed his radio activity for almost 17 years, before he was re-licensed in 1982. His canyon QTH discouraged DXing until he found, to his surprise and delight, that sunspot peaks allow even the QTH-challenged to work DX—not to mention mobile rigs on ridge tops. Garry joined the NCDXC in 1990 and has since served as Secretary, Vice President, and Editor of "The DXer," the Club newsletter. His editorial efforts garnered two national awards. He was honored to receive the 1997 NCDXC DXer of the Year award at the International DX Convention in Fresno. Garry has logged DXCC on nine bands, holds Mixed Honor Roll, and awaits cards for CW Honor Roll. He is a noted low-band enthusiast, often to be found on 160 meters. He has participated in several DXpeditions, most notably the 1995 DXpedition to Conway Reef.



**W6VG**



**KN6K**

## Dave Earnest, K7JJ

This is my second issue as *DXer* editor and as I am new to the club, I thought I would write an introduction about myself.

First, I want the club to know I will do the best I can to turn out a quality newsletter. I have never been an editor and have been out of the mainstream DX world for awhile, so I am not going to get out a soap box. I would like to thank Garry, NI6T, for his help in getting me started in the right direction. You will find that I won't be emulating Garry's style. I am personally not interested in competing with anyone in the amateur radio press. My first responsibility is to the membership of the NCDXC. As such, any editorializing will be by the membership itself. After I get used to you and get more experience, I may dust off the old soap box - but that is unlikely! I am here to support the Board and the membership.

I was first licensed as W7YBI in 1954, as a Conditional class. As the FCC took bandwidth away, I upgraded accordingly. I now hold an Extra Class license and recently changed my call under the Vanity program. Former mainland calls are: W7YBI, K0BQE, W6HUQ, and W7KJJ. I was KA2ZZ in Japan in the late 50's and KS6DY in Samoa in the early 70's. I have 311 DXCC countries-mixed with a couple more to turn in to ARRL. I earned the normal DX awards from KS6, but am most proud of 5BWAS and the California Award. I have spent nearly 10 years operating from HZ1AB and maintain an internet web site for that club station. I am Retired Air Force, with 10 years active duty and 12 years in the Reserve over a 42 year period. My career has been in communications maintenance, installation, and operations. I am finishing my career working in Data Communications at NASA-Ames. I plan on retiring in 1999, but may wait until January 1, 2000, to see if all the computers turn the date over correctly! I'm a life member of ARRL and hope that my *QST* label expiration date changes from 12/99! HI!

My xyl, Sue, and I have been married since 1957. We are now full-time RV'ers and live in a 40-foot, expandable 5th wheel trailer. I run a TS850 and AL811 to an R7 vertical. I run a TS440SAT in the pickup truck, along with 2-meters. I enjoy contesting and chasing DX; preferably on CW. If you need an extra hand during a contest, I'm your man! **73 de K7JJ**

## CY9AA 160M Report

Doug, CY9AA wrote the following to Gary, NI6T

"Hi Gary. Appreciate your thank you note. As principal 160m op Mike forwarded your e-mail to me for reply and I can assure you that positive feedback like yours goes a long way to make the rough times such as the landing seem worthwhile! One of the problems we had in our 160m operations became apparent a week before the trip. We had counted on the old Low band Beacon tower (120 ft. insulated) to be there for our use. Our captain had checked out the site before our trip and reported that the tower was gone although our Coast Guard sources said the tower was still there. As a plan "B" I picked up a 16lb. tank of Helium and 2 weather balloon, 1 six footer and 1 three footer. Upon our arrival we confirmed the tower was indeed gone. The concrete base was there as well as the 120 buried copper radials. I decided to use the base for a support and tie into the radial system with the balloon supporting 3 20awg wires 128 ft. long for a quarter wave. We deployed our balloon vertical about 1 hour before sunset and I could already hear Eu signals. I started to call CQ on 1824Khz listening for JA and Asia until 30 mins past sunset, with only Eu stations calling. Had a massive pileup of Eu for a couple of hours and then east coast U.S. started. You guys on the west coast were LOUD to me, but I understand about your hearing problems with the seasonally high QRN and the QSB. I also had reports of stations calling on my Xmit freq. or very close by even though I kept sending UP 2! The QSB was likely very pronounced because of the wind that was almost constant and the balloon would be perfectly vertical for awhile, then would be as bent as 45 degs. with some strong gusts. The performance of this antenna was remarkable with our salt water location, but each balloon only lasted 1 day/night. Seems like the UV rays of the sun would deteriorate the balloon during the day and it would burst by evening. The balloons were underinflated so I am sure expansion was not the culprit. We all learned a great deal from this DXpedition and am very glad we were able to satisfy many DXers on the bands that do not seem to get enough effort/attention during many DXpeditions. 160m is tough at the best of times and I am glad that you as well as many others braved the QRN along with us to fill a small gap in your country totals! Again thanks for your support.

*73 es DX Doug CY9AA/VE1PZ"*



Here is a response that Garry submitted to the Internet's "Top Band Reflector", regarding interference from light dimmers.

*"My neighborhood is full of light dimmers that are making reception on 160M and 80M next to impossible. I have tried shielded loops, both horizontally and vertically polarized. These don't help much. The noise blanker in my OMNI-V helps some, but still the average noise level hovers around the S-7 level. Has anyone had any success in minimizing the effects of light dimmer noise using the DSP boxes? or by other means? Chip, NW00"*

Garry's reply:

The DSP boxes are of limited use for that purpose--the algorithms are for white noise. The JPS ANC-4 is an analog combiner at the feedline. A noise antenna's output is subtracted from the RX antenna's output. Effective operation requires experimentation to determine an optimum noise antenna--excellent cancellation of almost any single source can be obtained. However, it is relatively ineffective against multiple sources. If your neighborhood is full of dimmers, the best course is to attack the problem directly:

1. Find a source of "clean" dimmers--these usually have internal filtering--beads, etc. To determine which are clean, invest in one--each of several brands from different hardware/electrical stores; get the single-pole model that advertises RFI protection, whether it is a push-and-turn model or one that looks like a conventional switch. You will note that these cost a buck or so more than the cheapest, unprotected ones--which is why people buy them. Set up a jig with a 100W bulb and all your dimmers, so you can switch or connect each in turn. I made one out of a couple of pieces of scrap wood. Place your AM portable nearby and do a comparison test. The differences should amaze you. Then go buy a bunch of the quietest ones. One possible problem is that some of the big chain hardware stores buy product from several sources, and private brand--them, so you may not get the same unit next time around.

2. Locate the offending units by walking the neighborhood with an AM radio--a little portable with a loopstick antenna. Its directionality can be used to advantage. Tune it to a clear spot near the top of the broadcast band. Often, walking past a house with a rotten dimmer will really ring its bell.

3. Negotiate with the homeowners/renters to selectively kill breakers to localize the culprit and to replace their offending dimmers. This can be a great way to meet your neighbors, but beware if you have TVI. Some will tell you to go perform an impossible anatomical act. Others will be happy to cooperate--especially if you can convince them that RFI is a serious and dangerous defect. Sometimes, the offending dimmer will be a double-pole model and you will have to repeat step 1. While it is not a good idea, in general, to go tinker with other people's houses--the lawyers will tell you not to do it--you have little choice here, if you hope to hear anything on 160. If you do not know how to replace a dimmer, you are an appliance operator and probably should stick to 20m SSB nets. I found a Lutron D-600, sold by WW Grainger, the clear winner in the group I compared. But it was not a complete sample and your mileage may vary. If you find one BETTER than the Lutron, please let me know!!!!

**Garry Shapiro, NI6T**

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## **San Diego Dx Club Officers Elected**

The following 1997-1998 officers were elected at the June meeting of the SDDXC:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Bruce, K6JYO</b>
<b>VP:</b>	<b>Jim, W6YA</b>
<b>Sec/Treas:</b>	<b>Harry, WA6YOO</b>
<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Bill, NG6Z</b>
	<b>Harvey, KD6QK</b>
	<b>Larry, N6NC</b>
	<b>Bob, WB6NBU</b>

**Dick Shanks, W6BZE, was unanimously elected President Emeritus.**

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## **50th Anniversary Note!**

I'd like to remind members that they can send in their logs for the mug and/or matching coaster tile to the club P.O. box or directly to me.

— AA6G

## **Web Page Inputs Needed**

In regards to the web page I'd like to know if any other members have personal web pages and if anyone has any links that are DX related that they think should be added to please forward them to me.

— AA6G

## **Kure Island Expedition Announced**

The Midway-Kure DX Foundation announces plans for a multi-national team DXpedition to Kure Island, KH7K, tentatively set to take place the latter half of September 1997. This will be an all-mode, all-band operation involving 5-6 operators (names, calls, QSL route TBA). The team expects to be QRV from Kure for one full week and will be operating three HF stations continuously. As with MKDXF's AH4/AH0W Midway operation, there will be a concentrated effort to work those areas of the world where Kure is most badly needed, as well as on low-band operating. The DXpedition will be conducted in tandem with fish and wildlife scientists who will accompany the team. More details be announced later. For information contact: Gary McClellan, K7ZD k7zd@phnx.uswest.net

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**DXer**

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**FIRST  
CLASS**