

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

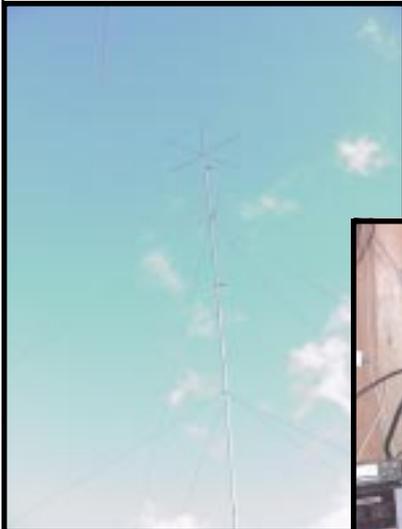


DXer Profile: W7XA, Al Koblinski

(See Story on Page 6)

Cubical Quad

Vertical Antenna with
Capacitance Hat



Al, W7XA
at the
Main Operating Position



The W7XA Test Bench
Showing High Activity

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No General Meeting this Month. Instead, we will have a Christmas Party on Thursday, December 9th See Page 3 for details.

...and a TS-950SDX from HRO...



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: Dick Letrich, W6KM
 Vice Pres: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 Secretary: Bill Fontes, W6TEX
 Treasurer: Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ
 Director: Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW
 Director: Ron Panton, W6VG
 Director: Don Anastasia, AA6W

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9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX

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: Net Control Operator

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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President's Comments



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, to everyone in the club. Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone, I am really getting into the Holiday spirit(s). Hey, it's not too late to get reservations for the Club Christmas Party. Always more room for any Ham and his wife or friends. The party was very well attended last year and by all signs it should be a fun time again this year. So come get into the Sprit by attending the final club function of the Century.

As you know, our Club Bulletin has to be put together several weeks in advance. So, I have no idea what the weather will be this week. Since it has been wet for a few days now and prevents me from working outside, it has been nice to get at the rig, as signals have been good. I hope they hold up for you and I hope you work a new one for Christmas. Go ahead; you deserve it!

I was up checking out the club 2 meter repeater, as a guest of our repeater Chairman, Smitty, W6CS and Peter, W6OOL. Pete is no longer an active member, but has stayed on to keep our repeater up and running. What a great guy! You should find some pictures somewhere in this issue of the DXer. I can't begin to tell you about the breathtaking view at the site. On our visit, the sky was quite overcast and dark. And yet, the distance I could see was more then I could have imagined. I hope you can tell from the pictures. It is a great site, but not one you can "Just drive up to." I was told that our antenna is up at about 2800 feet. No wonder it can be worked from so long a distance. I have worked it from Yosemite Park and other locations in the Sierras. When we had the two simplex links; one in Sacramento and one in the Santa Rosa Area, we really did "get out." We still have coverage that is second to none. Too bad the repeater gets so little human use; WHAT A WASTE.

At the November meeting, a nice program was given by our Presenter, W6WO. Details can be found in the minutes.

I am now looking for a Chairman to handle the DXer of the Year Award. Then, the BOD will appoint two and these three shall then choose a fourth and fifth member. The DXer of the year, if one is chosen, will receive the award at the International DX Convention in Visalia April 14,15&16. By the way, if you did not receive a Convention Signup Flyer from the SCDXC in the mail with an application, contact Don Bostrom. N6IC@arrl.net and I am sure that he will get one to you, Pronto.

This will be my last chance to pass on to the entire club my Christmas and New Years Greetings. I would rather do it in person at the Christmas Party. But, if that is not possible, I wish to say MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW CENTURY TO ALL. May the future bring all of you the very best and may you continue to enjoy DX'n for another Century. Dick W6KM



Treasurer's Report

November 1999

Income:

Dues	\$72.00
QSL Cards	\$90.00

Total Income \$162.00

Expenses:

DXer Printing	\$325.00
DXer Postage	\$80.60
Repeater Phone	\$26.00
NARCC - rprr coord.	\$20.00
QSL card imprinting	\$12.99
Roster printing - 25 ea.	\$37.62
Roster postage	\$110.00

Club Officer's Expenses:

Secretary	\$32.43
Treasurer	\$20.00
Directors	\$32.87

Total expenses \$697.51

Checking Accounts:

Club acct.	\$27,590.23
Repeater acct.	\$1,807.34
TOTAL	\$29,397.57

CD acct. \$10,247.28

Current Club Total \$39,644.85

Directions to Christmas Party

From 101:

Coming from the south, take Milbrae Ave. West to El Camino. North on El Camino about 1 mile to Center Street (traffic light). Turn right on Center into Martinelli's parking lot.

Or take 380 exit west to El Camino, go south about 2 miles to Center St. Turn left on Center and right into Martinelli's parking lot.

From 280:

Take 380 exit east to El Camino and follow the 380 instructions above.



Christmas Party!!!

When: December 9, 1999 (it's a Thursday)

Where: Our favorite spot: Martinelli's Steak Pit
1180 El Camino Real
Milbrae

Cocktails at 1800 hours. No host bar.

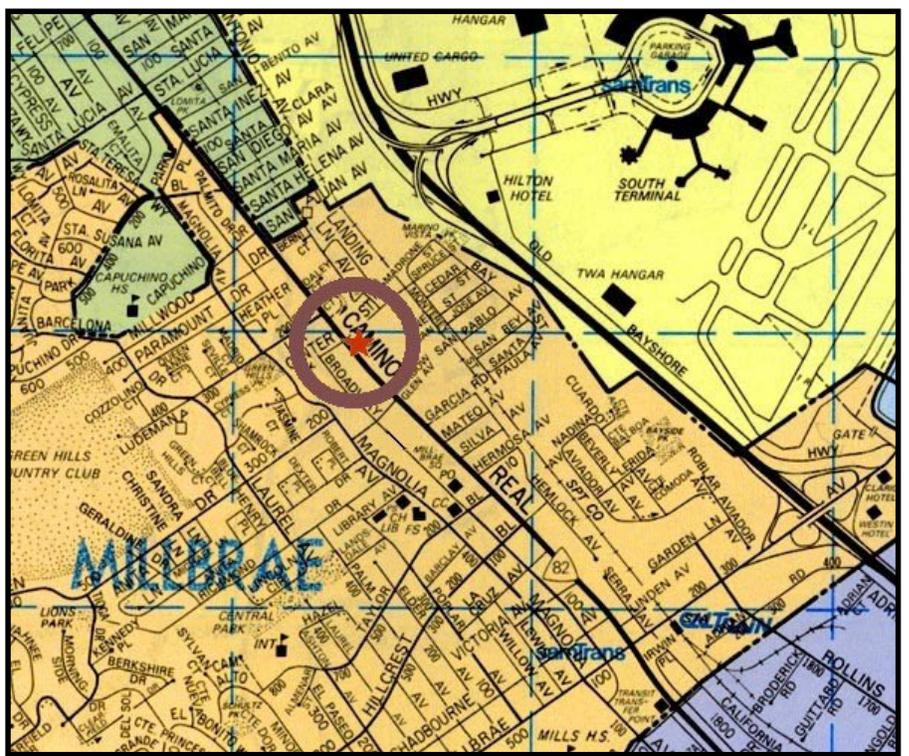
Menu: Entree: Choice of 8 oz. prime rib, fillet of sole or chicken saute sec
Includes: wine, green salad, relish tray and pasta starter, vegetables, potato (or rice with the fish) & Martinelli's cheesy french bread. Coffee or tea. Ice cream

All for the ridiculously low price of \$20.00, (tax and tip included of course) Kids under 12 free.

We will also be giving away some really nice door prizes. So, bring yourself, the XYI (or OM), kids or grandkids. But to do so, you must send your check, made payable to the NCDXC, along with your entree preference(s), by December 4, to:

Doug Westover, W6JD
717 Los Robles Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Hope to see you there!!



General Meeting

The meeting was opened at 8:00PM by President Dick Letrich, W6KM at the American Legion Post #105 in Redwood City. President reminded everyone that it is important to get their reservations in for the Christmas Party ASAP. We are a bit short on the guarantee. A fun time will be had by all and the food is excellent.

Certificates of Full Membership were presented to Kevin, KG6D and David, W6NUC.

We had one visitor; Art Thal, KA6WIF. Our presenter was Ron Skelton, W6WO who was accompanied by his wife, Jean.

Speaker, Ron spoke on his travels and work including Nigeria, New Foundland, Borneo, Canada, Jamaica and other countries. Ron was originally from England but now calls Capitola his home. A very excellent presentation with many pages of QSL cards and stories that he passed around, also a beautiful engraved silver dish sent as a QSL! After the presentation he was awarded with the Troster guest speaker award by VP Chuck, K6RK and Jack, W6ISQ.

A quick break and meeting resumed. No Treasures report as one was just submitted for the last DXer. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the DXer. Rusty, W6OAT talked about the TCI/AT&T Modem interference: Very strong on 80Meters. TCI/AT&T will correct problems of hams that have complaints. Gordon, W6NW informed us that the FCC has issued several wrong class licenses. Bud, W6WB urged members to continue to submit articles to the DXer and complimented George W6YD for the great job he is doing and the rest of the present membership agreed and applauded him. Bud also was a bit miffed that the Visalia Hotel was already out of rooms and felt that perhaps the dates were not passed on to the club as quick as it should have been. The president was assured that Bud did now have accommodations in the Convention Hotel.

Pres. Dick, W6KM reported that the KLM Antenna Company is now out of business and if you needed parts there was still a source at this time (The contact can be reached by email. Contact Bruce Scott at klm_antennas@msn.com)

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Keith Butts, KN6K

for Sec. Bill Fontes, W6TEX

Bhutan Revisited From Jim VK9NS

Back on Norfolk Island after a two months absence, I have much to do to catch up with mail, QSL cards etc. I shall do my best to bring you up to date with A5 Bhutan.

My recent visit to Bhutan was by invitation and please, accept my apologies for keeping everything low key. Very few knew of my intended visit, to avoid raising hopes of activity during my stay.

I traveled to Bhutan via the 'long path.' First to Auckland, New Zealand, then London, and returned home via Bangkok, up to Paro (Bhutan) and back to Bangkok via Calcutta, then to Sydney, on to Brisbane and finally Norfolk Island. I had an extended break in the U.K. with my family and also attended the GM Convention at Stirling, the IOTA Dinner (RSGB) HF Convention and also part of the RSGB HF Convention itself.

My travels involved the usual 80 Kgs including Amateur Radio gear and often wonder if I will ever meet that 20 Kg. limit one day. I arrived at Paro (Bhutan) on a superb day of sunshine and the new terminal and airport facilities are stunning. After customs and entry formalities were completed I was legally in Bhutan and I was met by Dasho T. Yonten (S/Judge, rtd) better known to us all as Yonten, AC5TY/A51TY. Originally, it was planned that I should be based in Paro (airport area) and travel up to Thimphu (the capital) as required. It was however, decided that being based in Thimphu would be more convenient for me.

Many of the older DXers will remember Yonten as he was quite active over several years in the past, first as AC5TY and later as A51TY. Yonten is now retired and has been keen to get back on the air. HIDXA donated a Kenwood TS960S (with antenna tuner) brand new state of the art switched mode power supply, an HF6V Butternut antenna, coax cable, log book etc. And, also a 20M dipole antenna, coax cable, log book etc. During my stay the equipment and also a 20M Dipole

was set up quite quickly in Yonten's house in Thimphu. Yonten and I assembled the HF6V in two separate parts and it will be a simple five minutes job to have the antenna complete. We were waiting for metal work to roof mount the vertical when I left.

Whilst we monitored several bands I was able to guide Yonten in a few of the ways of the bands of today. There were some very good signals on that dipole! Plans are also being made to get a beam for him (e.g. Cushcraft A4, 3el) and this will be organized later. Position of a tower etc. were also discussed. The Paro location will also be very good and this was also discussed. All donated equipment is registered at the Ministry of Communications and Yonten has several other items available eg a linear etc. By the way Yonten has not forgotten his CW. No transmissions were made.

MOC.

Deputy Minister Leki Dorji kindly arranged an immediate first visit to his office by Yonten and myself. However, although apologetic (I had written earlier, requesting authorization) he felt strongly that with the introduction of the Amateur Radio Service so close to completion, there was nothing to gain by authorizing any operation under the guise of Demonstration of Amateur Radio

etc. As this ruling was also applied to Yonten, it was felt that it was a sensible and honest decision.

Amateur Radio

One must consider that it is only in recent months that the Telecommunications Act (Bhutan) has become a reality. It is a fact that the level of work done by MOC in recent years has been quite outstanding. Today so many aspects of telecommunications have been brought under real and legal administration. If one needs proof of this statement the Kingdom of Bhutan now has its own TV station in Thimphu. Is now on Internet and e-mail. MOC now has a Spectrum Management Agency, Monitoring Unit in place and so on. (In many cases our own licensing and telecoms structure are taken for-granted)

The introduction of the Amateur Radio Service in Bhutan is now very close and I predict that from early in the year 2000 activity from A5 will be on a regular

(but sustainable) level. That this activity will be Amateur Radio based on a solid legislation base so enabling the Amateur Radio portion of the Telecommunications Act to be administered fairly and professionally.

It is now 11 years since my first involvement with The Kingdom of Bhutan then my operation as A51JS in 1990. Call it idealism if you like, but my view has always been the hope of A5, Bhutan joining the world of Amateur Radio on an equal footing. The Kingdom of Bhutan is a sovereign nation and certainly the Ministry of Communications in recent years under Deputy Minister Leki Dorji along with his small staff has achieved a great deal to make this ideal a reality.

Sincere thanks are due to many individuals in Bhutan who did so much to make my stay another wonderful experience. In particular, to Yonten and his family and all at MOC. I was also able to renew several old friendships.

It is hoped that Kirsti, VK9NL, and I will be back in Bhutan early in year 2000.

73,

Jim VK9NS

P.S. Please contact HIDXA if you need further information.

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Originally Printed in *The DailyDX* by Bernie McClenny, W3UR.

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Operating from PJ2C de N6HR

Funny things can happen when you hit your e-mail 'check mail' button. Fortunately, I don't get an onslaught from ATT, MCI and SPRINT about my long-distance communication requirements any more, though I must admit some peculiar people have latched on to my e-mailbox. Why do I need to give urgent attention to the latest trends in homeopathy? Or anchovy production in Riga? Oh well, as the saying goes - things happen!

Couple months ago I received a missive from Harry W8KKF - "wanna do the Caribbean again?" (Last year we were at J3A). After running this by Elsie, the answer was: "Why not! Where?" "Curacao - we have a license as PJ2C for the contest. Before and after, use your own call /PJ2 and answer your own QSL's!" OK, Elsie, get some tickets and lets go!

Geoff W0CG had already secured couple condos at a resort on the very Northwest tip of Curacao, and with the local help from Jose PJ2MI, we had the beginnings of an antenna farm. If you have ever traveled with Ron, WA8LOW (he is a portable Motorola Service Station), you would not flinch at what he brought along: 5000 feet of radials, 1000 feet of RG8U, 2000 feet of rope, plus all kinds of beverage terminal boxes, IRC filters and everything short of an anvil, forge and a blacksmithy shoppe. Not to be outdone - Dan K8RF brought 3 monobanders and Mark N4OKX brought another 3 monobanders. Noel W9ELF brought a A3S tribander just as a spare for the multi station. Everything went up in good fashion except the 2-element 40! The beam was just too heavy for the pipe tower and so we ended up with a circularly polarized beam. No problemo - Ron WA8LOW had TWO R7 verticals along! Besides, the monobanders, up went a full-size 75M vertical and a Battle Creek Special for 160. It is amazing what beverages can haul in when placed flat on coral sand! A full-service RF ground was fashioned from ROMEX running into 100 feet of seawater at the bottom of the cliffs. All antennas were about 150 feet above the sea level...

To check out everything, several shouting matches created pileups from JA-land to Europe. On PJ2, only CW is allowed on the WARC bands, so I racked up a kiloqso plus on 30/17/12. The conditions were fine and the bands at PJ2 are open to somewhere in the world around the clock. Dan K8RF even worked a QRPer in France - 5 watts - not bad for 160 meters!

The contest was the usual bedlam of all kinds of big guns and little pistols. We went as M/S, the guys next door at Bonaire went M/M as PJ4B. It seems as though every

island in the Caribbean had a contest crew shouting away! The scores surely will reflect the excellent 10 and 15-meter openings on both days.

The accommodations at the Kadushi Cliffs Resort were superb and the staff made sure we had plenty of elbowroom. The NW limestone cliff area of Curacao and the resort are famous for its scuba and snorkeling adventures - the waters are crystal-clear to 100 feet down and teeming with every kind of coral head imaginable. It is THE place to go diving. A totally unspoiled nature's aquarium.

After the contest, we took the antennas down - they NEVER fit into the boxes they came in - and we had plenty of time for sightseeing and sampling of the local scenery. Wilhelmstad, the capital, is a stop for cruise ships and the downtown is as picturesque as any city. The prime industry on Curacao is the huge oil refinery in the inner harbor, with pipelines to the Venezuelan oil fields. Of other interest is the 'floating market' where Venezuelan farmers bring their fresh produce and fish in daily, selling them off their boats.

There is daily air service from Miami by several air lines and thus Curacao is a relatively easy place to get to. As in every civilized venue, the city boasts MacDonalds, KFC, Wendy's, Radio Shack and whatever else your gullet may desire in fast foods or transistors. Casinos abound if you feel like rattling the 'bones' a bit. Accommodations range from major hotels chains to quaint beachfront housing.

And - as a parting shot - in the eastern suburb of Wilhelmstad we found THE hangout for all QRPers: "1/2 WATT SHACK". Sporting a big advertising logo of Pepsi-Cola! You will see the picture of this in the upcoming QST! Oil up your 500 milliwatt rigs!

Hillar and Elsie N6HR/N7WDX

Sign seen on back of bomb squad member's shirt:

"I am a bomb technician. If you see me running, try and keep up!"

DXer Profile: W7XA, Al Koblinski

This month, the DXer profile highlights Al Koblinski, W7XA. Al has been a club member since December of 1981, so it seems appropriate that we should feature him this month.

Al is an all around Ham and is one of the more talented types. He not only operates both modes equally well, but has the ability to both build and repair nearly anything electrical. Al was first licensed back in 1961 as a youngster close to 14 years of age. This early desire to be a Ham led Al to the field of electronics in the Navy and also as his means of livelihood today. I did not write down all of the calls and locations that this world traveler has been to, but here are just a few; EI4VAO, KN7PFU, W5QFZ and many others, especially in the Orient, Puerto Rico,....etc. **WHEW!!! HE HAS BEEN DX!**

His shack is located in a small cozy room in the basement of his home. There, he has his operating position and off to the right he has a well equipped work bench, and I must add, he is actively repairing rigs. His basic station consists of a Ten-Tec Omni 6 and a NCL 2000 amp. I hope that you can get an idea of his antenna from the pictures that I took. It is a home brew quad at 50 feet. Currently it is 5 elements and covers 10,15 and 20 with a few additions to be added soon. This is a BIG antenna and Al put it up almost by himself with a friend helping at the very end. There are, as you would expect, wire antennas here and there. He also has a large Gap antenna. With a nice deep lot to work from, Al continues to try new setups all the time.

By Dick W6KM

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Staff of The DXer, I would like to take this opportunity to offer our best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Holiday Season.

May the New Year bring you Health, Happiness, Prosperity, and lots of DX.

**Sincerely,
George Allan, W6YD
Editor**



November Meeting Pictures

The Troster Award presented by its Originator



Jack, W6ISQ, Ron, W6WO & Chuck, K6RK



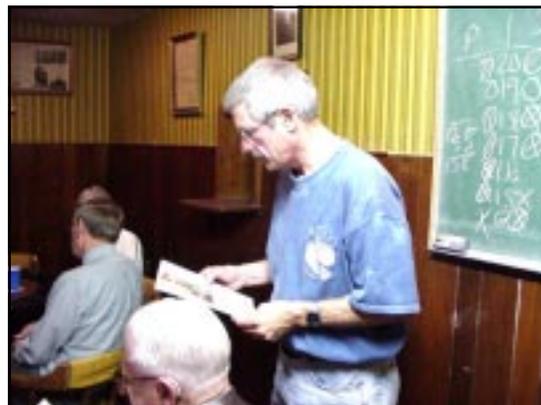
**Jean, XYL of W6WO
Looks on Admiringly.**



Chuck, K6RK Introducing W6WO



WB6JJJ Makes a Point

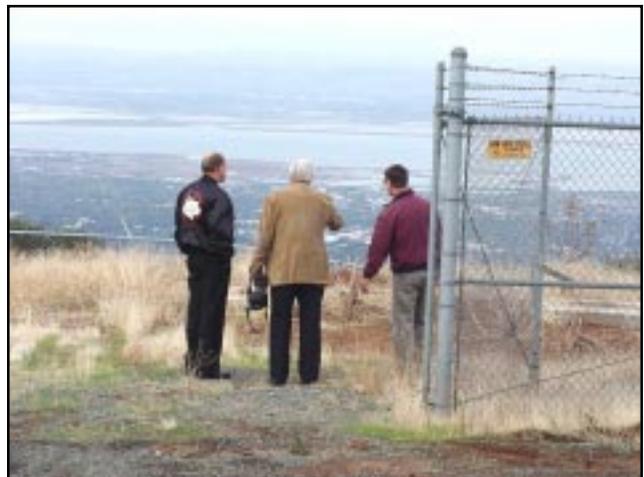


Rusty, W6OAT Talking about TCI Modem Interference

W6TI in Pictures Photos by W6KM



W6OOL & W6KM Check Out the Repeater



W6CS & W6OOL Checking Out What the Repeater "Sees"

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 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
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TH-79A/D Transceiver
 • 12.7MHz 29.440
 • 20W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
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IC-705EMK II 1st Transceiver
 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
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ALINCO



DS-41T/DS-11T
 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
 Call Now For Low Pricing!



IC-715/DSP 1st Transceiver
 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
 Call Now For The Ultimate Radio!



DX-701 1st Transceiver
 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
 Call Now For The Ultimate Radio!



TH-77A 2nd Transceiver
 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
 Call Now For Low Pricing!

YAESU

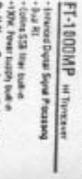
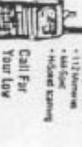
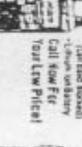


FT-50RD
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 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
 Call Now For Low Pricing!



FT-1000MP 1st Transceiver
 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
 • 120dB Dynamic Range 100 Watts
 • 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K. 20K.
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 • 100W
 • 100W 100W
 • 12V Car. Car. DC. 16.4.8V. 7.16.1.1.3.2
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