

# DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DX CLUB**

## *Inside*

General Meeting Minutes	3
BOD Meeting	3
DXing & QSLing	
By Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD	4
Buro Rate Increase	5
Map to Meeting Site	5
W6ZKM Hospitalized	5
Monterey Radiofest 2001	
by Dick Letrich, W6KM	6
Visalia 2001 Report	6
DXer Profile:	
K6TS, Tom Jones	7
More Meeting Pictures	7

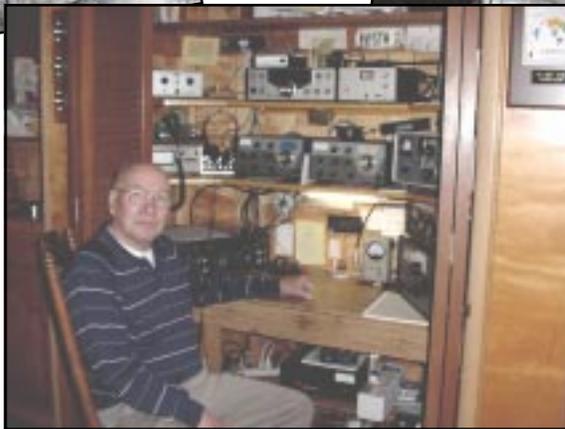
## *DXer Profile: K6TS, Tom Jones*



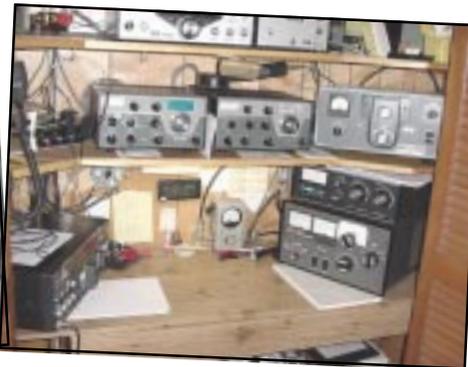
Story on Page 7



Tom Jones,  
K6TS  
at the  
Controls



DXCC  
Honor Roll  
5BDXCC



### **General Meeting March 9, 2001**

**American Legion Post 105,  
651 El Camino Real,  
Redwood City**

#### **Program**

**How to (Really) Work DX  
Tom Jones, K6TS**

**NO DINNER**

**Social Hour 7:00 P.M.**

**Meeting at 8:00 P.M.**

**Directions to the Meeting  
(See Map on Page 5)**

**From the North or South:**

Take the Woodside Road exit west off Highway 101 and turn right on El Camino Real. Drive about one half a mile to 651 El Camino Real (on the right).

**Next Meeting: April 20-22  
Visalia DX Convention**

**May Meeting; May 11, 2001  
Program**

**History of Ham Gear  
Gary Halverson, WB9MZU**

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: Chuck Patterson, K6RK  
 Vice Pres: Don Anastasia, AA6W  
 Secretary: Keith Butts, KN6K  
 Treasurer: Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ  
 Director: Dick Letrich, W6KM  
 Director: Bud Bane, W6WB  
 Director: Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO

**The DXer:**

Editor: George Allan, W6YD  
 719 Ruddy Court  
 Los Banos, CA 93635  
 w6yd@aol.com

Printing, Mailing: Dick Letrich, W6KM

Web Page: Chuck Vaughn, AA6G  
<http://www.ncdxc.org>

DX Ladder: John Kelly, KG6XF

9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Doug Westover, W6JD

California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX

Historian/archivist:

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: Robert Smithwick, W6CS

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

*The DXer* is published monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members. Unless otherwise noted, NCDXC permits re-use of any article in this publication—provided The DXer and the article's author are credited.

## President's Comments



First I want to thank Ron, W6VG for volunteering to act as our secretary until our next election. Keith, KN6K has resigned for personal reasons. This reminds me - elections are coming up in June. How about running for an office?

Tom, K6TS will put on a program at our March 9 meeting. He says it's about how to work DX. This is a program Tom put together designed to lure new hams into the wonderful world of DXing. Come and hear from an expert how it should be done. Find out what you've been doing wrong all this time. Better yet, bring ALONG a new ham, one who has not yet been bitten by the DX bug. The program originally announced for March has been pushed off to the May meeting.

Les, WB6ORZ put on a great presentation at our last meeting. All about restoring old gear. Thanks, Les.

The other day I heard Dick, W6KH sign off on the repeater. He stated he was moving to San Diego County. Goodbye, Killer Hog.

If you still need D68 and haven't worked it, it's your own fault. What a great operation!

Jack, W6ISQ was on the net the other night, reading off a long list of gear available from the estate of the late Bill Orr, W6SAI. Lots of goodies, contact Jack for details.

Less than two months until Visalia - George, W6YD reports it is coming together nicely.

As some of you know, I have a second station at Railroad Flat in Calaveras County. It's in the foothills at about 3000 feet. It's a great location for DXing, plus lots of wildlife around. There are some tall trees, several towers, a snug cabin and no noise. I'm not going to live forever and maybe someone out there would like to share this QTH and maybe take it over eventually. If you are interested let me know and I'll provide more details, etc.

See you at the next meeting.

73, Chuck, K6RK

### NCDXC Dues Information

**Full and Associate Members;**

Date Dues are Paid	Member	Family Rate
1 July thru 30 September	\$24.00	Plus \$15.00
1 October and after	\$24.00	Plus \$15.00

\*Members who have not remitted dues by the 30 September deadline are considered dropped from the membership roles. Those desiring to renew membership may do so anytime, but will not be included in the new issue of the NCDXC Roster .

**Absentee Member Dues are \$16.00 per year.**

## General Meeting Minutes

### Minutes of Jan 12, 2001 NCDXC Meeting

Meeting called to order at 8PM. 13 Members and 2 guests present. Guests were Roy, N6FUN and XYL.

Dick Conner, KM6EP gave an excellent program on amateur rocketry and mini RF payloads called "CANSATS".

The application of Roy Herman Adam, N6FUN was read and he was voted into membership.

A discussion ensued on the issue of QSL Checking at the DX Convention.

The meeting was then adjourned

Submitted, KN6K

### MINUTES OF NCDXC MEETING 9, FEB. 2001

Meeting was convened at 8:06 P.M. by President, Chuck Patterson, K6RK. Location was the Legion Hall in Redwood City. Guests were introduced, and each NCDXC member present at the meeting gave his name & call. QSL cards will be checked at the Visalia Convention. Locally, QSL cards will be checked by NCDXC members N6NU and AD6FX. A comprehensive report on the details of the Visalia DX convention planning so far, was given by George Allan, W6YD, with 106 pre-registrations so far according to W6KM. At the convention banquet, the presentation will given by Garry Shapiro, NI6T on the DXpedition to Kingman Reef. Sunday morning, the presentation will be given by G3NUG on the DXpedition to the Islamic Republic of the Comoros. A chair for the ladies program is still needed. Dave Bell will give a report on the state of this year's WRTC operation. NCDXC annual picnic date is 14 July, and once again, the location will be in Pleasanton. WB6JJJ spoke on the financial status of the NCDXC. W6WB was voted in as a life member after the ok of the board of directors. Our speaker for this evening, Les Zwiebel, WB6ORZ was introduced by Vice President, Don Anastasia, AA6W. Les gave a very interesting talk (with slides) on restoring old receivers, transmitters, and transceivers. Good pictures of some of our old ham equipment, now in mint condition. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary, W6VG.



George, W6YD, Rolph, W6TWO,  
Ron, W6VG & Guest



Steve, W6MKM, Tom, K6TS &  
Ben, W6FDU

## BOD Meeting

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors of the NCDXC met at the home of W6VG on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001. Meeting convened at approximately 10:15 A.M. Present were: President, K6RK; Treasurer, WB6JJJ; BOD member, W6WB; and BOD member, W6TWO. Also present were member pro tem W6YD and data base manager, W6VG. A very comprehensive report on the state of the club's finances was given to each person present and all questions on the report were answered to the satisfaction of all present. George, W6YD gave a fine report on the Visalia DX Convention. Sounds good. No members of the DXer of the Year Committee were present give a status report, but I know the committee is in capable hands (WGOAT & KAGW). The BOD hopes to interest more club members in participating in the upcoming DX contests (Feb & March). The Life application of Bud Bane, W6WB was filed with the board and unanimously accepted. However, a motion was made that in view of the longevity of Bud's membership (54 years) and 93 years of age, and an active board and club member- we should make him a life member on the spot. Moved and seconded by all. DXer of the Year requirements should be changed, but not at this time. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by acting secretary, W6VG.



W6TWO, W6VG & W6WB

**DXing & QSLing** By Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

The Old Timer had come down the hill when a winter storm in from the Pacific had broken up and the clouds on the high ridge across the way were moving upward. Also, showing about the same time was one of the local QRPer.

The QRPer had to know what we had been working in the way of DX. The Old Timer acknowledged that he had worked the rare one out on a special operation not too long back. The QRPer just had to know the details.

"What report did he give you?", the QRPer asked. And the Old Timer with a straight face said, "Five by seven plus nine". The QRPer had to think this one over!

The light came suddenly. "That's not a good report", he almost shouted, "you don't add the decibels until you pass nine. The ARRL will never take a card with that report, I'm sure of that". Somehow, the Old Timer did not seem to be too concerned. The QRPer shortly left for greener fields, the problem question still unanswered.

After a bit we had to ask: "Did that really happen, did you give a five by seven plus nine report?" The Old Timer just smiled and that was his answer. At least on that subject.

So we talked about DXing and QSL's and the memories of the Great Days of DXing. DXers always love to talk. DX is the language of the dialogue. Everybody talks, nobody listens and only the naive sits at his rig calling: "CQ DX, CQ DX". To be deserving, one has to learn to listen.

Then the Old Timer talked a bit about those good old days. And he talked of the time when he had worked a British Army station on the equatorial bulge of west Africa. One of those small enclaves later turned loose to forage on their own.

"The QSL card came through, the British soldier had filled it all out and then, apparently dissatisfied with the writing, had traced every letter on the QSL report with a red pen. It definitely was not the Mona Lisa of QSL's but for me it would count as a new one.

"So we submitted it with others on hand to the ARRL. They quickly worked it through their files, even writing a personal letter to me when they returned it.

"This is an altered card", they thundered, "and if you ever try again to submit anything like this, you will be banned forever from the DXCC. And we are keeping your name in our files on this matter".

"A pure case of injured innocence", the Old Timer explained, "and it was a new country for me. So what could I do?"

"I mailed the letter from the ARRL", he continued, "back to the British soldier who had returned to his home base. He was quick to reply.

"I have no QSL cards left from that operation", he said, "but I do have some from an operation a couple of years back. I am thus sending you a QSL that was used in that previous effort but I am entering the information from the latest effort.

"And there enclosed was a nice, clean, neat and pure QSL. But, as the QRPer had asked: 'Will the ARRL accept it?'"

"I waited a month or so and until I figured that they had dispersed the double guards behind the castle walls there in downtown Providence and sent the card in. My fingers were crossed, but the triggers were not pulled to sound the alarm. The card was accepted, we had survived".

We liked that story. Truth and justice and clean living had triumphed. For each DXer has the moral strength of ten, because their hearts are always pure. Pure

and undefiled and all you have to do is ask any DXer to learn the quick steps to justification and rationalization.

"Did you ever hear from the ARRL again?", we asked and the Old Timer smiled. "I did", he said. "A decade or two later and I called them, they did not call or write me".

"It was about 1970 and a group over in Southeast Asia, Viet Nam and Hong Kong people who were planning a Spratly operation. They called on the telephone to ask if I would contact the ARRL DXCC Desk and inquire that if they used the 1S1 - prefix in their callsign for their coming operation, would the ARRL accept the cards?"

"I said I would. Remember, that the 1S1 prefix was at that time, and probably still is, an unauthorized prefix. So, I called the ARRL, got the DXCC and even Bob White himself. I put the question to him. 'Would the ARRL accept the suggested 1S1 - call for Spratly credit?' I got a firm answer, one which left no doubt at all".

"I don't give a damn what callsign they use, as long as they can prove that they were there!", Bob White roared, and BANG went the telephone into its receiver.

"The next morning I gave the Hong Kong/Viet Nam crew the word that Bob White had given his solid endorsement of their intended callsign and everything from then on, went as intended."

"Also, along those years, I worked Europa, a small island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa. It counted for a new country, but the QSL card itself looked as if it counted for nothing". The Old Timer paused to remember those years, the years of danger, terror, worry and DX intrigue.

I finally decided that if I did not submit the card for DXCC credit, but rather, ask Bob White in advance whether or not it was acceptable, I might survive. So that is what I did. Just asked in advance".

"Bob White returned the card, remarking that it was hardly a work of art and information but, that he would accept it when it was submitted. And he did. It was one way to get home free and without a worry about the 'DXCC Doomsday Book'

(Continued on page 5)

### DXing & QSLing

(Continued from page 4)

where one's name had possibly already been long entered and yet not forgotten".

The sky was clearing and the Old Timer got up to leave. "Those were great days back then", he said and we believed him. Along the way we had heard enough of his stories of DX experiences and the memories of his three years and more in the Army of the United States in WWII. DXing was not the only thing that he would talk about. He had been there, but he never complained, it really did seem that he did enjoy those early days of DXing and other things.

And then he was gone. Striding down the hillside road toward the village. Once, he advised us that those old men who shuffle when walking, shuffle from laziness. That shuffling is an acquired trait that can be avoided. And the Old Timer would always emphasize his words with the dictum: "Walk tall! DXers always walk tall!" And he believed in what he preached. "Stand tall", he would say, "but never stand short!"

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD  
February, 2001

=====

This is the law of DXing,  
That only the strong shall thrive;  
That surely the weak shall perish,  
And only the Deserving survive.



**Bud Bane, W6WB**

### Buro Rate Increase

*The following comes to us from Bernie McClenny, W3UR Editor of the Daily DX, via Jack Troster, W6ISQ and is reprinted with permission of the Daily DX.*

In response to the recent postal rate increase and price restructuring, the

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau has announced new rates for this service. It is still possible to send ten cards for one dollar, but the twenty and thirty card rates have been discontinued. The new rate is \$4.00 per each half-pound or portion thereof. This rate structure helps to cover the basic cost of handling the minimum number of QSL cards in a package while actually offering a price reduction for sending a half pound of cards (approximately 75 cards) which previously cost \$6.00.

The new rates will go into effect on March 1, 2001. The last Outgoing QSL Service fee increase was in January 1999.

### W6ZKM Hospitalized

Word comes to us that Frank Holst, W6ZKM has been hospitalized with a serious illness. Since, he expects to be there for quite a while, I'm sure he would be grateful if he were to hear from his friends at NCDXC.

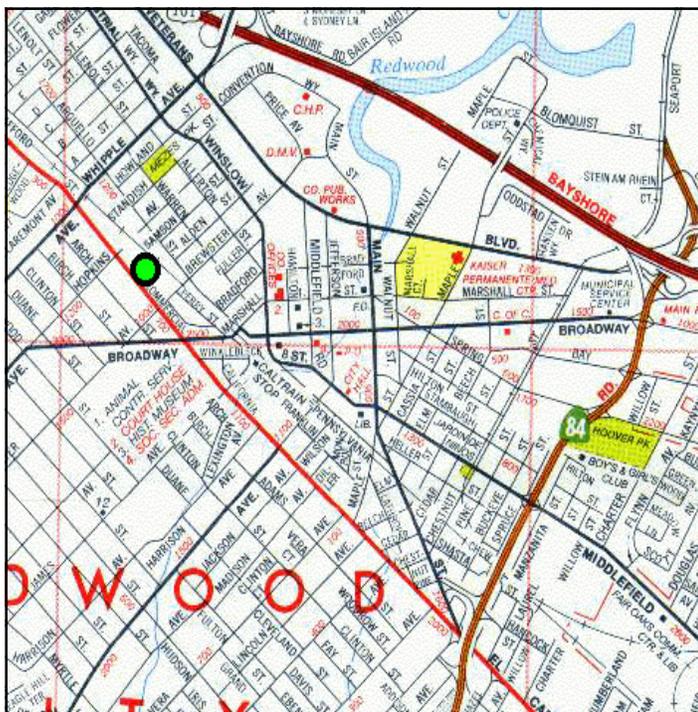
If you would like to send a card to Frank, visit him or call him on the land line, here is the information:

Frank Holst  
c/o Mtn View Health Care Center  
2350 Solace Place, Room 3B  
Mtn View, CA 94040  
Tel 650-961-6161

Visiting Hours: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM.  
If you call, your call comes into the nurse's station. When they answer, just ask for Frank Holst in room 3B. They will bring him a cordless phone and you can chat to your hearts content.

Frank would love to hear from you.

### Map to Meeting Site



## Monterey Radiofest 2001 by Dick Letrich, W6KM

Last year I reported on my visit to the Annual Monterey Radiofest held on the old Fort Ord Army Base. As you may recall I told everyone how enjoyable it has been. It is always well done and is designed for both the Ham and prospective Hams in a public location that has easy access. This type of small Ham gathering is what really helps to promote our hobby. While dedicated Ham conventions are great, you will find that they are not designed to promote and show off many of the facets of the Hobby to the public. Not only that, it is well done and one of the few chances for Hams to gather in a low-key atmosphere and actually visit each other. We have very few of these "Hamfest" type gatherings in Northern California compared to the rest of the United States. While advertising is usually rather sparse, they take place wherever Hams live. Be sure and check the Ham magazines, such as QST or World Radio for the action around you.

I was not disappointed this year, either. I ran into many Ham Radio friends and, as you can tell by the pictures, there was a good turnout. There were nice exhibits of how to become a Ham and how to get information on too many aspects of the Hobby to mention, individually. There were a small number of "Flea Market" type vendors and Hams, selling off some nice gear, as well as, some very special bargains at the Ham Radio Outlet booth.

I really look forward to attending each year. One of the other Ham gatherings I've heard about, but have yet to attend, is held in the Santa Rosa Area. I'll be adding that one to my list of Ham events to attend. As soon as I know the dates, I'll be sure to pass them along to you.

73, Dick, W6KM



**Dr. Gerry Griffin, K6MD**



**The Elecraft Crew**



**Craig Smith, W6WL & his YL**



**Jim Maxwell, W6CF & George, W6YD**

## Visalia 2001 Report

Well, things have changed considerably since I reported to you last month. First and foremost in my mind, Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV volunteered to be Program Chairman. Dennis is getting tremendous assistance from Rusty Epps, W6OAT and, together, these guys have lined up some really outstanding programs for you.

No less significant is the fact that the Redwood Empire DX Association has stepped up to the task of performing the functions of the Prize Committee. Len Geraldi, K6ANP is the Committee Chairman and is getting terrific help from REDXA members.

The Saturday Spouses Program has now been arranged. Lacking a Chairperson for this activity, I took on the job and did it myself. It will be a trip to the Palace Casino, a Las Vegas style gaming casino, just outside the town of Lemoore. The \$15.00 fee includes transportation, prepaid lunch at the casino and a book of "goodies" worth \$50.00. There is limited room, so the tour is limited to the first fifty applicants.

About two weeks ago, I began sending out mailers to everyone who attended last year and to members of both the SCDXC and NCDXC who did not attend IDXC 2000. Many of you received one of them. As a result, Dick Letrich, W6KM, our Pre-registration Chairman reports that (as of this writing) our registrations count stands at just over 200. Considering the late start we had, that's good!

Finally, I've arranged with the hotel to have a bar setup that will work the pileups down in a hurry. . Times are changing and unfortunately, we're unable to do our own serving as we did in the past. So, we discussed alternatives with the hotel's Catering Manager and arrived at a solution that should minimize the problems that were encountered last year. We're hoping to offset the cost increase, here by adding a few new ven

**(Continued on Page 7)**

## ***DXer Profile: K6TS, Tom Jones***

Some members may recall that the September 1999 issue of the DXer carried some pictures and a country count for Tom Jones, K6TS. Well, Tom only needs P5 to have 'em all! But I thought that it was time to fill you in a little more about this very active member.

Tom joined the NCDXC in September of 1987. That makes him a 14 year member. In that time, Tom has been very active and has helped the club in many ways. First and foremost in my mind is the effort that Tom has put forth to promote DX at the entry level. He has made presentations before several clubs and has been a featured speaker in the past at Pacificon in Concord. Who knows how many he has instilled with the DX bug? This month Tom will make his presentation to our club with updates to cover the always changing world of DXing. It would be a great time to bring along a guest to the meeting.

Here is a brief rundown of Tom's Station. His main rig is a Yaesu FT-1000D hooked up to a Heathkit SB1000 "after burner". His main mode of operation is CW, but if you look under his operating desk, you'll find a microphone that he uses to keep a few skeds. His back-up rig(s) are; a Drake R4C and a T4XC which is matched to a Collins 30L1. His antenna is a Quad with the boom at 38 feet (looks a lot higher than that to me!) and for 40 & 80 he has a HyGain HT-18 vertical. He also has a few miscellaneous antennas and wires running around the yard, but I don't think they show up well in the pictures.

Tom is a "natural ham" in every sense of the words. He inherited it from his Dad who was also a very active ham and who held several calls. Tom got his ticket in May of 1941. At the time, he had no idea how it would play into his future. When he entered the Navy, that ticket qualified him to become a Radioman. After the war, he was able to QSO with his Dad on a regular basis, and that was in the days of really high long distance rates! Well, Tom ended up making a career of the Navy from which he retired. Tom is a young 75 and "Sparky" is the first to jump in and offer to help whenever he can.

Tom has been arranging the club's annual picnic site for the last several years. Keep up the good work Tom...The club really appreciates it.

73, Dick, W6KM

## **Visalia 2001 Report**

**(Continued from Page 6)**

dors to the list of those already supporting this function.

Well, that's about it for now. Please, be sure to check the Club web site ([www.ncdxc.org](http://www.ncdxc.org)) occasionally. There you will find a link to the Convention page, where you can follow our progress and get up to date information.

George Allan, W6YD

## **More Meeting Pictures**



**Part of Les, WB6ORZ's slide presentation was this vintage Hammarlund HQ-180a.**



**Walt, W6MZQ & Paul, AA6Z**



**Doug, W6JD**



**Les, WB6ORZ**



**Jack, W6ISQ, Les, WB6ORZ & Doug, W6JD**



**The Deserving**



**Bill, WB6JJJ**

