

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

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DXer Profile: W6JD, Doug Westover



The Force 12 - C4S



Close-Up of the Force 12 C4S



Doug Westover at the Controls of W6JD



The Force 12 ZR Vertical



The Awards Wall at W6JD



The Neat Layout at W6JD

General Meeting June 8, 2001

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

Program

Election of Officers. Time to stand up and be counted. Better still -- stand up and count! Need we say any more? Be there or be square!

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).

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:

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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



The year since our last election is just about over. Now it is time for some of you to step forward and run for office. Dick, W6KM is beating the bushes for candidates. Give him a call.

It has been a GOOD year! We had a great Visalia Convention. And for a number of you, a change-over to online delivery of the *DX'er*. On the negative side, we have lost some wonderful members: W6ZKM, W6FGD, KA6DXY, W6RQ and K6ITL all became silent keys.

Your Board of Directors will consider a change in meeting places at the next board meeting. It has been proposed that we meet at Harry's Hof Brau in Redwood City. This would involve changing the meeting night to Thursday. Our next club meeting will be at the American Legion Hall in Redwood City on June 8th. Come and vote for your favorite candidate or better yet, run for office.

Last night on our net, we had a roll call with a number of members participating. It was a breath of fresh air with members commenting on recent activities including reports on North Korea slim, etc. Join us next Thursday.

73 es CUL. Chuck, K6RK



WB6JJJ & AA6G



WA6MME & W6FDU

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 MAY 13, 2001, MEETING OF NCDXC

The usual rag chewing and indulging of libations took place in the bar before the meeting. The NCDXC meeting was called to order at 8:07 P.M. by President, Chuck Patterson, K6RK. The meeting place of the NCDXC was the American Legion Post, El Camino Real, in Redwood City. Guest was K6JTC, Harry Workman. He was introduced, and the acting secretary will send a membership application to him.

Our speaker for the night was Barry Bettman K6ST. Barry presented a very good video of his "Living Your Dreams", his IOTA DXpeditions.

A new club meeting place was discussed, but will be more fully explored at the next Board meeting June 2. The club meeting coming up in June (election of club officers) was noted by President, K6RK. We need applicants for all officer positions. The club picnic in Pleasanton will be July 14, all invited. There being no new or old club business, the club meeting was adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Panton, W6VG, acting secretary.

This 'N That (Cont'd.)

the most wins, but perhaps it is because our club is also, indicated as the last to have won it.

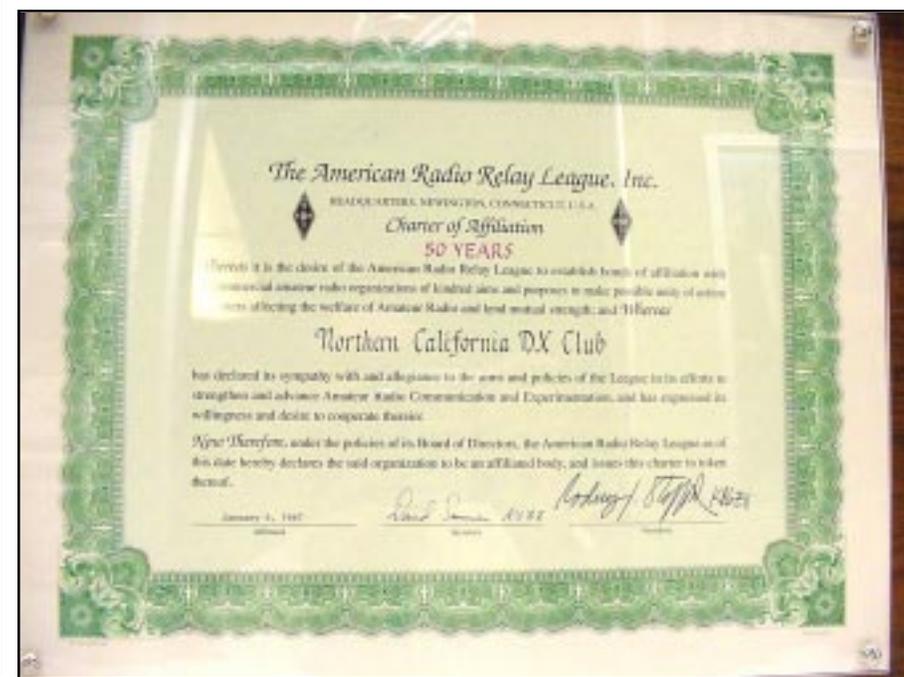
It was displayed at the May meeting. If you have more history to provide, please write an article about it and send it to the Editor. I am sure many of us would like to know more about the history of this old trophy.

Also, you can see the picture of the Award the ARRL presented to the club in 1997 for its 50 years. It says the "THE NCDXC CHARTER OF AFFILIATION 50 YEARS, AFFILIATED JANUARY 8, 1947." It is very nicely done and measures 15 1/2 inches wide by 12 3/4 inches high. It is very impressive and also was displayed at the May meeting. It also is headed for storage. It has been quite sometime since I have been to the locker. Today, it is someone else's function to attend to that duty. The locker is just full of memories. Maybe, someday, we may have a part of a club house that would allow us to display our many items in all their glory, so that we might share the exciting history of the NCDXC, the first incorporated DX Club in the World. 73 Dick, W6KM

This and That by Dick Letrich, W6KM

Before the DX Convention in Visalia, I was asked if I knew the whereabouts of the "North-South Annual ARRL DX Contest Award". Well, as most know, I have no interest in Contests, so I had no clue. But, at Visalia I was given, what may have been the original N/S trophy and asked to see to it that it was placed in our club locker. Seems that the very first date engraved is for 1950. Another trophy may have preceded it. I have no clue. But, there

is little room left to engrave and I am told somewhere out there is a new one that replaced it. On the bottom it says "reconditioned March 1995, W6MKM". W6MKM is Steve Stephenson. I polished it up a bit for the photograph. Since we don't have a place to display it, at least we can enjoy the photo. The reason for it being in our possession, would seem to be because the NCDXC not only has



DEALING WITH THE NEW AND IMPROVED FCC by Hillar Ramat, N6HR

As I was perusing the March 2001 CQ magazine, I came across this nice article by Fred, W5YI about all the superlative information available on the "new and improved" FCC web site. After reading the article, I decided right then and there to quit procrastinating and take care of some long overdue business, like changing my address and maybe renewing the license, etc. It used to be pretty simple: fill out the venerable Form 610, write a check and wait 2 weeks until Gettysburg sent you the proper reply. Yes?

Feller, let me clue you in: IT AIN'T SO NO MORE! FCC IS INDEED NEW AND IMPROVED! Unless you have a computer and Internet access, you can't even get FCC's attention! And unless you have the additional fortitude of a computer-hacker, are into NSA cryptography and can solve the Times Sunday Puzzle in less than two hours, you are faced with A CHALLENGE that will be a fair test to any survivalist!

First you start out with the FCC Web Site: www.fcc.gov. As the screen unfolds, the headpiece depicts a massive building of at least nine floors with 100,000 square feet of office space per floor - and - 7000 people working there - and right away I felt a weakness in my knees: these people HAVE to have some papers to shuffle and memos to move around to justify their existence - and I am the pigeon which they must clamp onto! Horrors! But cheerfully the web page pointed to 'more information' - like the "FCC Handbook" - as a starter. The suggestion of Chapter One was to study their organization chart. I did. Gee whiz! The old KGB's organization of some nine directorates was simpler. Bill Gates' Microsoft corporation chart is simpler. General Motors' is simpler! The Catholic Church's with 140

cardinals in red hats running all over the world is simpler! I hit the "RETREAT" button - but still decided to dive into the next deeper level of this FCC iceberg at www.fcc.gov/wtb/... Note the added /WTB/!

This time I also decided to be better prepared. I made sure my last will and testament was in order and I considered giving a 'heads-up' to the local suicide prevention bureau. They were out to lunch. As a substitute, I found an unopened bottle of Bushmills and decided that this good ol' Irish stew would surely stand up to the FCC! I bravely uncorked the Bushmills!

And, then I punched up the /WTB/. There was hope on the horizon! What unfolded was a much simpler web page than the previous one. It even had a "menu" - like under FORMS, it gave a list of forms 'that may be of interest to you'. Hey, great! This menu started with Form 159 and ended with Form 1046. Not bad, I thought. Only some 890 forms in between. I searched for the old Form 610. Sorry, there is no more Form 610. However, there is a Form 610B which allows your club to apply for a new callsign, I think... Form 610 has been replaced by Form 605 - called a "Quick Form Application". Besides the "Main Form" it also has Schedules A,B,C,D, etc etc. For even 'quicker' application. Or so I thought! I sampled the Bushmills for quality control purposes and zeroed in on Form 605.

Upon clicking on "605" and hitting the PRINT button on my computer - out came a load of gibberish! Guess what - the Form 605 is "zipped"! No kidding! And every 'unzipping' program I had in my computer did not even make a dent into solving this set of FCC zippers! An hour later I gave up and it was time to have a full glass of Bushmills... I decided to skip the 'water back'...

With the help of distilled Irish spirits, I called on Terry, K7OI for assistance. He has a supercomputer at his work site and he told me that maybe he can use it

during his lunch tomorrow to download this zipped Form 605. Fine! I relaxed and waited... But just to be sure I also wrote to the FCC in Gettysburg and asked that they snail-mail me a Form 605. Just in case.

Well, Terry came through! Next afternoons e-mail carried an attachment, which indeed was the Form 605. 14 pages of it! Two pages of the Form and 12 pages of instructions as to how to fill out the form. Mind you, this was just for the "Main Part" of the form, not the Schedules! Of interest was a note from the Office of Management and Budget that this form is indeed 'approved' and should take 44 minutes to complete! It did not specify the IQ level required...

In anticipation I poured me a glass of Bushmills (no ice) and went to work! By golly, it was not as tough as I thought it would be. But then I already knew that the abbreviation for the State of Washington is "WA" and so I did not have to go thru a whole page of abbreviations for states and military commands. I also skipped Form 606 which was a worksheet on how to request your Taxpayers Identification Number since I already knew that from my dealings with the IRS. I was also glad that I remembered my full name - even after a second glass of Bushmills! Then I swore to the whole truth as I had scribed onto the Form, signed it and felt proud to be an American! I'm telling you! Fully armed now with the completed form and smug as a porker, I went back to /WTB/ to consult "for how much"? i.e. what \$\$\$ to scribble on a check to OI' FCC. Looking me in the face was a menu button labeled "FCC FEE SCHEDULES". Just point and click!

I did! Aye, ay, aye... that was my third mistake in three days! After sorting through numerous pages, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs worthy of a Philadelphia lawyer, I hit pay dirt! Hey, it's a bargain - only \$15 bucks! You can send it 'electronically' using your VISA or MasterCharge! All you have to do now is fill out TWO more forms! Form 159 and Form 160. Unfortunately, Form 160 is not listed in the /WTB/ forms

—Continued on page 5

FCC - Continued from page 4

menu and has to be ordered separately... (ever heard of 'Catch-22'?) Oh, the heck with it! I went down to the post office and got an old fashioned Postal Money Order. Simple! I tacked that to the Form 605, licked the stamp and off to Gettysburg the envelope went! The heck with the forms - follow the old adage: 'keep it simple, stupid'...

It took ten days! The entire envelope came back from FCC as "unprocessible"!

It seems that Form 159 is still required. (By the way, this form is entitled REMITTANCE ADVICE and is not to be confused with any other form). Fortunately, it printed out in an unzipped format including the 'Instructions to fill out Form 159'. For a simple application, pages 2 and 3 of the Form were not required. It was again time to uncork the Bushmills...

To fill out Form 159, one only needs the following: Lockbox Number (AKA Lockbox); Your FCC Registration Number (AKA FRN); Your Social Security Number (AKA TIN); and your daytime telephone number (must be for arranging a blind date).

To get the Lockbox Number, you have to call FCC in Gettysburg. I did. Six menus, a wait of 22 minutes and 3 shots of Bushmills later I got it! To get your FRN, you have to go and be registered in the ULS. Go see www.fcc.gov/WTB/ULS. To get registered in ULS, you'll need a 'password'. I tried my call-letters. These were promptly rejected. Next I tried my cats name - that was also rejected as being 'too short'. I tried the long version - that got rejected because it was too long! (Read T. S. Eliot's "The Naming of Cats") After a few more tries - the FCC computer must have had a moment of mercy or it blew the fuse - it assigned a password for me! Great! Of course it did not tell me what the password was - unless I filled out another Form. I forgot the form number but remember the list still has over 800 of them...

After two hours - I finally had my very own FRN! I filled out the remaining Form 159, signed it, reattached the Money Or-

der and sent it away again to Gettysburg... THREE WEEKS LATER I received a reply by snail-mail that my change-of-address had been duly noted! My license renewal was rejected because it was submitted too early before the expiration date.

As the man said, "FCC IS NEW AND IMPROVED"! Indeed it is! And all I need now is a new bottle of Irish...

Hillar, N6HR



Thank You

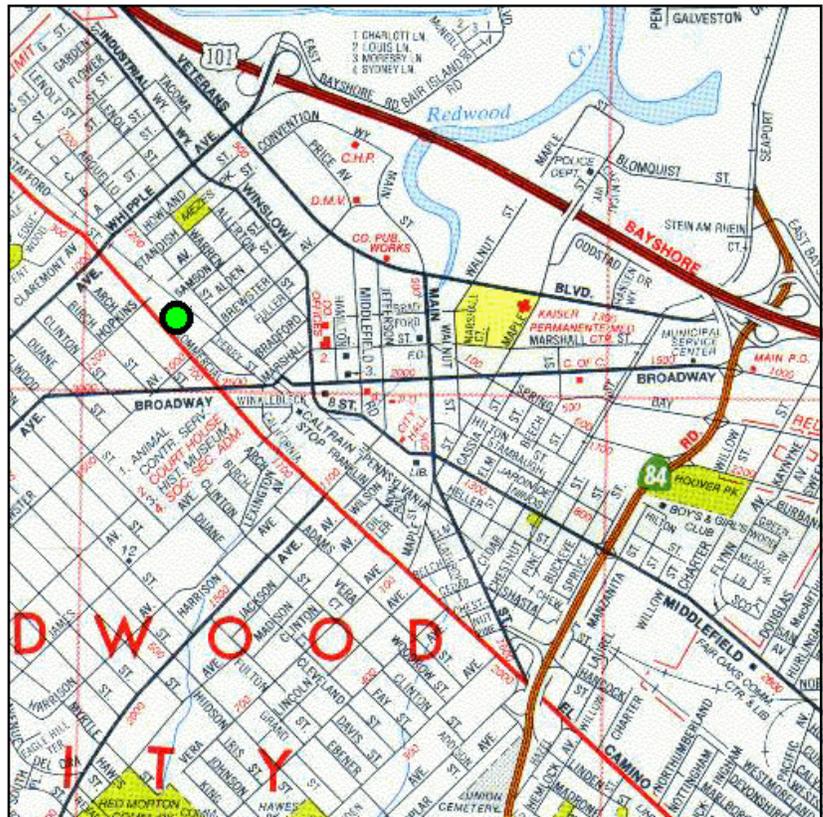
Once again, you will probably notice the many contributions of Dick Letrich, W6KM throughout this issue of the *DXer*. Suffice it to say; Dick is a regular contributor and without his contributions, the *DXer* would have very little real content.

Dick does the monthly *DXer Profiles* - both the pictures and the text article. In addition, he takes the monthly meeting pictures and contributes other written and pictorial articles for the Club's interest. All of this input makes my job easy. Thank you, Dick.

Finally, I want to thank Hillar Ramat, N6HR for sending us his "FCC..." article. In my opinion, Hillar's article is right on!

73, George, W6YD

Map to the Meeting



NCDXC Annual Picnic - July 14th

Free Food & Sodas for You, Your Family, Friends and Prospective Members*

Time: 11:00 A.M. Place: Amador Valley Community Park, 4455 Black Ave., Pleasanton

Menu: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Beans, Salads & Soda Pop. (Bring your own "hard stuff")

*** In order for us to plan better, please, Call Dick Letrich, W6KM (408-267-2624) and let him know how many will attend.**

Map to NCDXC Picnic

NCDXC Picnic

City of Pleasanton FACILITIES



“PICK-NICK”, “picka nick”, “picnic”: no matter how you spell or say it, it means; a get together with your friends. This picnic is put together with the purpose of allowing some of our Ham friends a chance to visit and have eye-ball contacts without having to drive through heavy Friday night traffic to attend a regular meeting.

I have it from a good source that Master Chef, Bill Maurer, WB6JJJ has been honing his skills and can't wait to ply them on us. I, of course, will be his able assistant. Our members from afar will be able to get to this general location very easily. So we are hoping to see the Sacramento, Stockton, Fresno and Valley members show up in droves. (*I'll be there. -Ed.*) You do not have to make a reservation, but just show up. We encourage you to bring any of your family or future members along. We will have plenty of friendship to go around.

It would be fun to set up a rig at the picnic and make a few contacts so if you want to bring a portable rig please do so. I'm pretty sure that you would have lots of help setting up an antenna. Perhaps, next year when someone else takes over the picnic, I will bring along my TS-130 and set it up....I have lots of wire and I'm sure I could scare up a 12 volt battery to operate it. Anyway, we're looking forward to seeing you there!

73, from your Officers and Directors.

Dick, W6KM

DXer Profile: W6JD, Doug Westover

I know that I have said this before, but doing the monthly DXer Profile has allowed me to visit many shacks. Each one is unique and set up for the operating habits of the owner. No two are alike, but they do have one thing in common. That is the warmth of a shack that has been made comfortable for the many hours that one spends in it. As you will see by the pictures, the shack of long time member, Doug Westover, W6JD is no exception.

Doug joined the NCDXC in July of 1963. He has continued to be an active member. Most will recall that over the last few years, he has arranged the Annual Club Christmas Parties. He has held the following calls, KN2CHN 1952 in New York, W7UYE in Tucson, Arizona, W0QFD in Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado. When he joined the club his call was K6TZX. Doug's pride and joy is the Elecraft K-2 that he recently built using his electronic skills and running it with 10 Watts output. His main rig is a KENWOOD TS-870. The Amp is an Ameritron AL-80A. His tuner is an MFJ-989C Versatuner. The main antenna is a Force 12 C4S at 45 feet and a 30 meter Force ZR vertical, ground mounted. Doug's favorite mode of operation is CW and nearly all of his Awards are in that mode. His total country count is a very impressive 349. While Doug is not a DXpeditioner, his work has allowed him to be "DX", using W6JD/VO1 from Newfoundland and W6JD/KP4 from Puerto Rico. His wall is papered with awards from DXCC (in several modes and bands) to Honor Roll. I had an all too short, but nice visit with Doug —

The club thanks you for your continued support, Doug.
Gud DX es 73. Dick, W6KM

It's Your Choice!

Over the years, the Northern California DX Club has been indeed, fortunate to have had some really good leaders. Unfortunately, many of them are now gone - having either moved out of the area or become silent keys. Others have contributed so much over the years, that it is time for us to step down and have a rest.

We're, therefore, entering a new era in the Club's history - a time when new leaders need to step forward and take on the responsibility of guiding the Club into the new Millenium. Along with that responsibility, goes the challenge of meeting the needs of a changing environment and conceiving new solutions to satisfy those needs. It is, therefore, incumbent upon our membership that we support our new leaders by taking on the many tasks necessary for the Club to function on a day to day basis.

It is equally as important that we, as soon to be past leaders, not get caught up in our past. If we do, then our past will become our past. We need to recognize the value of change. In so doing, we will be able to lend our full support to our new leaders' new ideas, that will allow the Club to grow with the times.

How about you? Will you step up to the plate and take on the challenge? Or will you be content to just sit by and watch the Club go the way of the Dinosaur?

The choice is yours!



George, W6YD

Meeting Pictures by W6KM

L to R:
Bill, WB6JJJ;
Don, AA6W;
Barry, K6ST



The Deserving



Chuck, AA6G & Gary, K6DXX



Barry, K6ST



The Deserving

Bill, WB6JJJ
&
Ron, W6VG



Harry,
K6JTC
&
Gary, K8RX

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FIRST CLASS

Election of Officers.
Be There!