

DXer



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
DX CLUB**

DXer Profile: W6CS, "Smitty" Smithwick



Robert "Smitty" Smithwick at the controls of W6CS. Smitty has 331 confirmed. See complete story on page 7.



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**General Meeting
September 14, 2001**

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

Program

Ben Deovlet, W6FDU will show two historical video tapes from the ARRL with comments by Bud Bane, W6WB.

NO DINNER

Social Hour 7:00 P.M.
Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Directions to the Meeting
(See Map on Page 4)

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).

**October Meeting
will be held on
Thursday, October 18th
at Harry's Hof Brau in
Redwood City
Program Information Not Yet
Available**

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:
 Secretary: Ron Pantou, W6VG
 Treasurer: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
 Director: Dick Letrich, W6KM
 Director: Bud Bane, W6WB
 Director: Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO

The DXer:

Editor: George Allan, W6YD
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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 Pantou, W6VG

Publications Mgr: Ron Pantou, 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



Sad to report that two members have become silent keys.

MERLE PARTEN, K6DC & KARL RUDKOSKY, KF6QO

Merle preceded me as NCDXC President the first time around. He was extremely helpful to me. I remember him as the "King of the bottom end of 40". He usually worked the DX first and the rest of us came along later. When merle worked at Eimac, he designed an 8877 amplifier that was featured in *QST* and older handbooks. I built two of them. I remember being concerned about the high plate voltage when the key was up. Merle said "don't worry, they had 8877's with about 10 kV on them in the lab and they didn't even burp!

Jim Cain, K1TN has been commissioned by YASME to write a book about Lloyd and Iris. See page 94 of the July, 2001 *QST*. I have been in touch with Jim and he would appreciate any anecdotes,....etc. about them. Lloyd and I were in the Signal Corps ROTC together in 1937/38. Jim's e-mail address is: yasmebook@mybizz.net.

Our next meeting will be September 14th at the American Legion Hall. Based on returns of the questionnaire, it looks like we will move our meeting place to Harry's Hof Brau in Redwood City beginning in October. Ben, W6FDU has put together a program for the September meeting. See notice elsewhere.

Your board of directors held a meeting on August 25th. We had preliminary budget discussions. Final budget will be set at our next meeting. It will reflect current dues receipts and reduced DX'er printing and mailing expenses. One item discussed was a donation to the NCDX Foundation. If you have thoughts, pro or con on this matter, please let me know by e-mail or snail mail.

My first ham license was dated August 30, 1930. What a great 71 years it has been in our wonderful hobby. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I have.
 73, Chuck, K6RK.

PS to President's Remarks:

I have just talked with Tom Jones, K6TS. He has just received some disturbing news from his doctor. He may be faced with surgery. He says he must resign as Vice President of NCDXC. We wish him well.

We, therefore, need someone to step forward to fill this position. Please, all hands, seriously consider this opportunity to serve your club. Chuck

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 rolls. 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.

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was convened at 10:01 A.M. by Chuck Patterson at the home of W6VG.



Present were President, Chuck Patterson, K6RK, Tom Jones, K6TS, Ron Panton W6VG, Ben Deovlet, W6FDU, Dick Letrich, W6KM, Bud Bane, W6WB, Rolph Stoddard, W6TWO and DXer editor, George Allan, W6YD. A query was presented by Chuck Patterson for info on



the Colvins and the date of their joining the NCDXC. Jim Caine, who is writing a book about the Colvins has requested the



information. W6VG proposed some minor changes in the Procedures Manual, which were approved. Ben Deovlet said

that several films for our club meetings have been sent to us by the ARRL. Ben & Tom Jones will find a new venue for our Xmas party. As expenses rise, it is possible that the NCDXC will



find it necessary to subsidize part of the cost of the Xmas dinners. Ben, W6FDU the club treasurer presented the board with an interim budget. September 30 is the target date for the final budget. The NCDXC has been asked for a donation to the NCDXF, and this is being considered, pending a study of the club budget. The closing date for the new roster is still September 1st, with President, Chuck Patterson contacting each person who has not rejoined at this time.



Board meeting adjourned at 11:01 A.M. Respectfully submitted, Ron Panton, W6VG, Secretary.



Silent Keys

Merle Parton, W6DC



We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of long time club member Merle Parton, K6DC.

Merle joined the club in May of 1968 and was an active member all the while he lived in the Bay Area. He served as club President 1981-82. While the records won't show it, many will remember that Merle was President during some trying times for the club. There had been lots of internal bickering and Merle took it head on. As part of his President's Message in August of 1981 for the DXer, he wrote; "Lets try to keep the meetings sweet, simple, happy and serene. I would like to be your moderator, not a dictator."

Club meetings during Merle's tenure were often held at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant in San Leandro, Holiday Inn in Belmont and other places to see if we could accommodate the 60 to 90 members who often showed up. Even in those golden club years, there was grumbling about the meeting locations and times.

Merle's dedication to this hobby was not a flash in the pan. He gave up a good operating site here in the Bay Area to move to Santa Barbara, where his use of ham antennas was severely challenged. But, true to his nature, he persisted until he won.

K6DC... "KAY SIX DOG CAT" — ALSO CALLED AT TIMES, "K6 DOLLY'S COUSIN."

Merle Parton, now a silent key. Amateur Radio will indeed miss him.

Silent Keys (Cont'd)

Karl Rudkosky, KF6QO



We were saddened to hear that long time NCDXC Member Karl Rudkosky, KF6QO passed away July 31 at the age of 78. Originally licensed as WA6YXP, he joined the Club in April 1970. He was also, a life member of the ARRL and the Telephone Pioneers of America Radio Club. He was on the DXCC Honor Roll.

Karl's interest in Radio and Communications began when he was a boy and built his first crystal set. This interest was ever present and followed him into the U.S. Navy. He was serving as Radioman with the Aviation Unit aboard the U.S.S. Helena when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He retired from the Navy after eight years and began a career with Pacific Bell where he worked for 35 years.

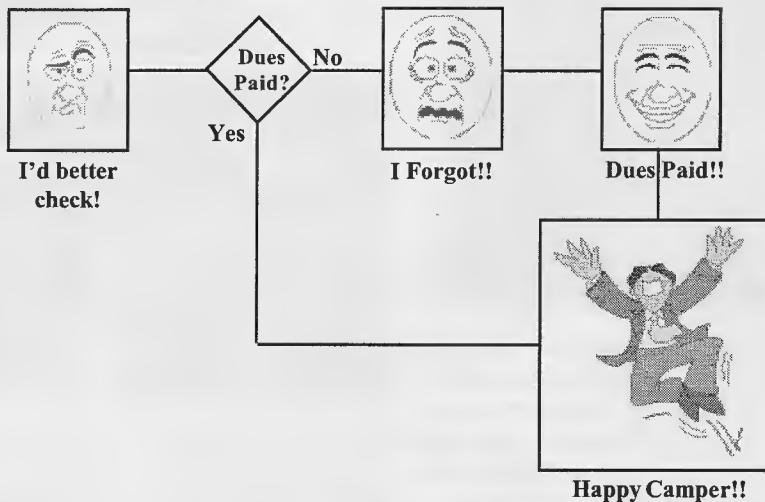
While still at Pacific Bell, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and was part of the VR872 Transport Squadron Unit as Radioman. He was proud to be part of this crew and to be the Radioman when the Transport went on the "Goodwill Tours" to many countries, and when Fleet Admiral W.F. Halsey was aboard. All in all, his military service totaled 26 years.

In addition to his radio associations, Karl belonged to the Navy League, the Golden Gate Wing and the Pearl Harbor Survivors Organization.

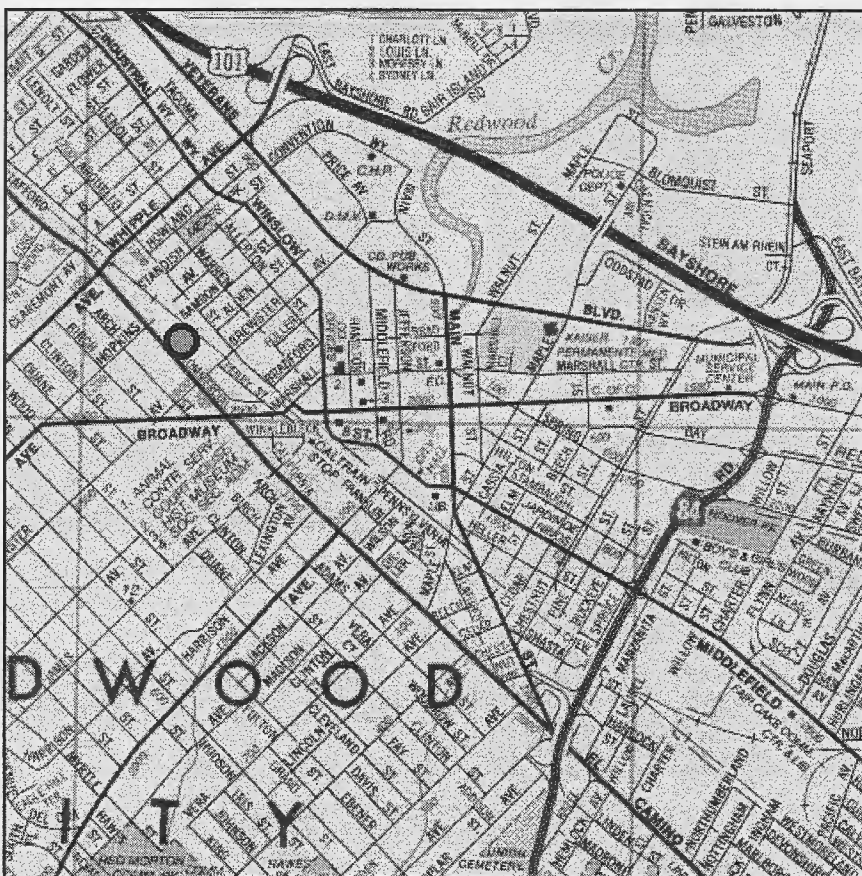
He was a patriotic man who had a lot of spirit with a feisty sense of humor. He will be missed.

Could This Be Your Last Issue of the *DXer*?

NCDXC dues were overdue on September 1st. If you haven't paid your dues, this could be your last issue of the *DXer*! You might want to follow the program below to assure getting your *DXer*.



Map to the Meeting



Welcoming Toly, UA0IAE & Vlad, UA0IAS by Steve Schaffer, KD6GC

My experience and friendship with Russians began as many friendships in ham radio begin. Numerous qso's over many years with UA0IAS, Vlad and UA0IAE, Anatoly. During one qso with Vlad, he suggested that he and Anatoly who both worked for Aeroflot, could fly over and visit. Of course, I said that would be wonderful. This was in 1991, an interesting time in the history of Russia and its relations with the U.S. At the time, the Iron Curtain was crumbling. No date was set for a visit, but it was a "plan" for the future. About 3 weeks later, I received a "collect" call from Anatoly saying in broken English, "we are here in Anchorage, but have no money. Can you send us round-trip tickets Anchorage-SF-Anchorage? Well this was not exactly the plan as I had understood. The original plan was that I was to host and sponsor Anatoly. And John Baer, W6SL in Arroyo Grande was to host and sponsor Vlad. They were to get to California on their own. Having little choice, other than

to leave them stranded in Anchorage, John and I agreed to buy their tickets.

The following day, I met Anatoly at SF airport. (Arrangements had been made for Toly to be with me and for Vlad to spend time with W6SL.) After hugs and halting attempts to communicate in English and Russian (I had taken a six month course, woefully inadequate!) we headed for Santa Rosa. As a clue to the strangeness that was to follow, Toly offered me a Paparosi (a rather strange Russian cigarette) I proceeded to light up with him and lit the wrong end. It smoldered, smelled like fertilizer and we had a good laugh.

Upon arrival at my home, Toly said he was hungry. I showed him the ice box and said, "help yourself". To my surprise, he went for the bacon. Raw bacon that is, and proceeded to eat the entire package, raw!

He was quite interested in my hamshack and rig and wanted to get on the air the following day. We spent many hours in the shack taking turns operating.

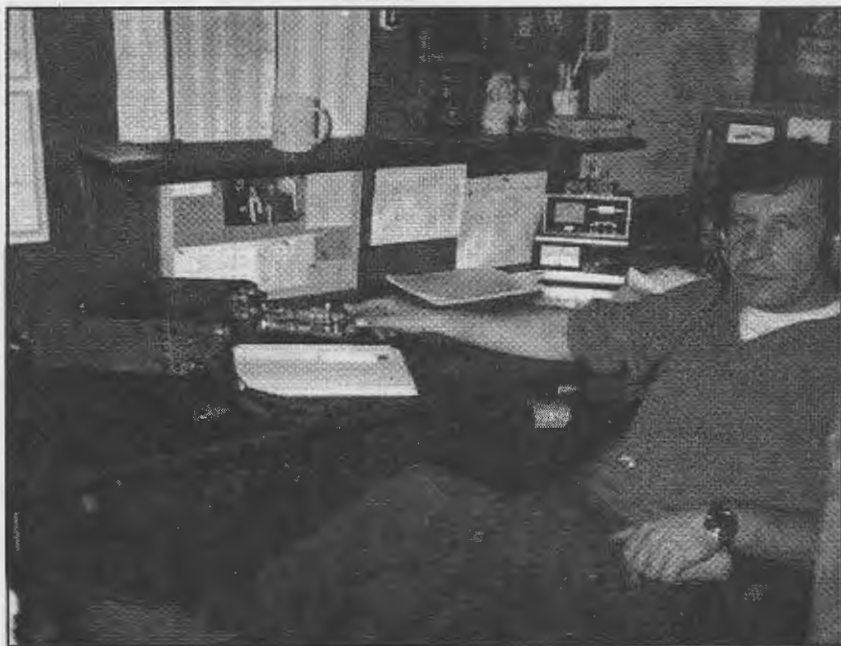
On another day, Toly decided it would be fun to cook Sashleek (shish kabob).

I brought out the BBQ and proceeded to lay in store-bought coals. He laughed and said that would not do. He wanted "fire"! It was quite amusing and challenging to put this meal together as my Russian was limited as was his English. He proceeded to dump out the charcoal briquettes that I had put in the BBQ, and he went searching for "wood". He then filled my BBQ (a small portable type) with large pieces of wood! Soon we had a roaring fire blazing on my patio. As I live in the mountains, I was to say the least, a bit nervous about the possibility of a major fire erupting. I then brought out some small fondue sticks to put the lamb and veggies on. Again, this would not do. He took my fireplace poker and proceeded to skewer the meat and veggies onto them. Well, fortunately, we didn't burn down the house or the surrounding forest and the meal actually turned out pretty well.

It might sound like this was more a MISadventure, but in fact, the time was quite interesting and enjoyable. After Vlad's stay with W6SL down south, arrangements were made for us to all meet at the home of Len Traubman, a fellow ham in San Mateo. Vlad was to then join Toly at my place in Santa Rosa.

An interesting and amusing occurrence was when we took Toly and Vlad to a local ham club meeting. They were welcomed by the members of the club and afterwards we all gathered for champagne and toasts to our two countries. Vlad had worn a jacket and decided he wanted the American amateurs in attendance to sign. However, ONLY those who worked c.w. were allowed to sign. He did not want any SSB operators signing his jacket!! Oh well, all present took it good naturedly, even the phone operators!

Many hours were spent talking about the situation in Russia, our ex-enemy and the many misconceptions they had about Americans and vice versa. We also helped one another with our respective languages and I learned more Russian in the short time they were here than during the 6 months I



Anatoly, UA0IAE at the Controls of KD6GC

Continued on Page 6

Welcoming... Continued from Page 5

had studied at the local junior college. We of course exchanged gifts. Flags, T-shirts and books for them. A large samovar, picture of a walrus and a matrioshka (nested) doll for us!

Although my wife did not speak Russian at all, and still doesn't, she also enjoyed getting to know Vlad and Toly. In fact in the future, she and I would take a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg together.

As a result of the visit, I made 6 trips (so far) to Russia. Three to Siberia to see Toly and Vlad. They are from a small pasolik (settlement) called Palatka which in Russian means "tent" so it gives you some idea of how rustic a place it was and is.

The conclusion of their visit was no less interesting and challenging than any other part of the experience. Just about the time they were making plans to return to Russia, the Soviet Union collapsed! They had worked for and flown here on Aeroflot. Aeroflot was suddenly no more! As a result, they could not return home! They decided that they would fly up to Alaska on a US airline, compliments W6SL and KD6GC! Once in

Alaska they figured they would get some sort of work until they could arrange their return home. They ended up spending a month in Anchorage before they could get back to Russia.

To anyone who is possibly contemplating having some Russians come to visit, or a trip to Russia, I can only say that it would be well worth the effort. As when dealing with any other country, I would highly recommend that you at least learn the basics of the language as without that, it is difficult to really get to know the country and its people. One should also be prepared for unexpected events to occur!

My Russian teacher's reaction to my visits to Siberia were predictable. She said she had never heard of anyone who voluntarily chose to go to Siberia!

I would be happy to share information with anyone who might go or has gone to Russia. I have also been the guest of hams in Maikop and Byelorechinsk (RA6Y ...area) not far from the Black Sea. My e-mail address is:

kd6gc@mail.ru

Steve Schaffer, KD6GC



Steve, KD6GC, Anatoly, UA0IAE, Len Traubman, Vlad, UA0IAS and John, W6SL

News from KI6Y

Hello All:

I have moved from California to a new QTH in Central Oregon and will be building a contest station here on the east (dry) side of the mountains.

Mail and QSLs for KI6YB, CN8YB and KI6Y sent to old addresses will continue to arrive.

Visiting DXers are always welcome.
73 de Charlie, KI6Y

Charles M. Southall, KI6Y
20050 SW Elizabeth Lane
Bend, OR 97702 U.S.A.

Mobile: 541.788.5469 (GSM world-wide)
E-mail: southall@compuserve.com

Speakers Wanted

Your Board of Directors is looking for someone who is familiar with the use and operation of the *DX Edge* to speak to the Club on that subject. If you both have the expertise and would be willing to speak to the Club about it, please contact Chuck Patterson, K6RK.

For that matter, please contact Chuck if you would like to be a speaker on any Ham Radio related subject. Better, of course, if the subject is DX related, but some of the best programs we've had, have not even been Ham Radio related.

So, please step up to the podium with any subject you think would be of interest to our members.

(I'd still like to see a program about PSK31 - Ed.)

DXer Profile: W6CS, "Smitty" Smithwick

SMITTY SMITHWICK, known for years as W6JZU - now, of course, as W6CS. A new call is nothing new for Smitty. He was first licensed in Chicago, Illinois in 1940 as W9KTL. He has also held W7NOH and several others from countries, such as Grenada, Lebanon, Israel, Tahiti, Guam, Monaco, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the UN station 4U1UN and perhaps a few more that just didn't come to mind. Smitty is a Life Member of NCDXC and has been a member for 30 plus years, having joined on July 10, 1970. His country count is 336 confirmed and he is just as comfortable on CW as SSB. He has held offices in the club and has served as Repeater Chairman for more years than any of us cares to remember.

His station is centered around a 70 foot tower that drops down to the roof so he can service it from a built on catwalk. The antenna is a KLM KT-34XA and shares the same mast with a two element 40 Meter Mosley. The signals come from a YAESU FT-1000MP with a built in tuner and when needed, his afterburner is an ALPHA 87A. His back up station is an ICOM IC-730 and a COLLINS 30L1.

As a retired Dentist, Smitty has always been a humanitarian and continues to donate his many skills by assisting the MEDISHARE FOUNDATION. I highly recommend you check out the Foundation and its great work by going to its web site WWW.MEDISHARE.ORG to view some of the many projects he and other members are working on. Many of its members are active Hams. Thanks for a nice visit, Smitty.

73 Dick, W6KM

Yearbook Deadline Nears

Once again, the cutoff to be shown in the 2001 yearbook is rapidly approaching. In order to be shown you must have a submission in between October 1, 2000 and September 30, 2001. If you have not submitted and you are not current on the DXCC Honor Roll, you will need to make a submission on or by September 30, 2001. Note: the submission must *be in our hands by this date*, not postmarked. In 2001, September 30th is a Sunday, so applications received on October 1, only, can be credited for September 30.

In order to receive the free copy you must:

- Be an ARRL member
- Be current on the DXCC Honor Roll (325 current entities)
- or, if not on the Honor Roll you must submit an application by September 30, 2001

The yearbook will be out in the spring of 2002. If you do not qualify for the free copy, it can be purchased for \$5 each. Previous editions are available starting from 1993 for \$5 each (includes shipping).

73,

Bill Moore, NC1L
DXCC Manager

Editor's Choice

For those of you who missed it in the President's Message, Tom Jones, K6TS must step down as Vice President due to medical reasons. The nature of Tom's illness is pretty serious and could involve corrective surgery. We wish Tom the best and applaud him for having stepped up to the job. We also, regret seeing his health take a turn for the worse.

Tom has been a stalwart member and one fine gentleman, who has been willing to take on a variety of tasks, for the Club when he was able. I'm sure Tom would appreciate your support and would get a lift from hearing from us.

That being said, the Club now needs a Vice President. Won't you consider having the same courage that Tom did and volunteering for the job? Remember: many who are able, don't know it, because they won't try. It's time for you to give it a try!

Kudos `n Credits

We again remind you that this publication would not be possible without input from you, the readers. I solicit your input and promise you that I will preserve your style by not performing massive editorial surgery on any articles you submit. I do correct spelling and obvious gramatical errors. Beyond that, your style should remain intact.

The following contributors made this month's issue possible:

W6CU, Ed Hardin.
KD6GC, Steve Schaffer.
W6ISQ, Jack Troster.
W6KM, Dick Letrich.
K6RK, Chuck Patterson.
W6VG, Ron Pantan.
KI6Y, Charles Southall.

Thank you, one and all.

W6YD, George Allan.

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- CTCSS/DCS memos
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- Built-in DSP, Vox, CW keyer
- 300 Memories

Call Now For Low Pricing!



DJ-196T 2M HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alpha numeric Display
- CTCSS • DCS Built-in
- "S" Meter
- Auto Dialer

Call Now For Low Price!



DR-135TP 2M Mobile

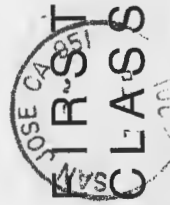
- 50 Watt out • Alpha Numeric Display
- 100 memos • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 Port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode Built-in



FT-1000MP HF Transceiver

- Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
- Gate RK
- Collins SSD Meter built-in
- 100W, Power strictly built-in

Call Now For Low Pricing!



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



Back to School

Is this your last issue of DXer?
 See Page 4.