

DXer



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

NCDXC Member Honored

2004 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS Alumni Humanitarian Award

Robert C. Smithwick

Lending a Helping Hand

IN FARAWAY LANDS AND IN
HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY, ROBERT
SMITHWICK'S EFFORTS HAVE
MADE A DIFFERENCE



An avid ham radio operator since his teenage years, Robert Smithwick, DDS '44 has listened to and participated in conversations all over the world.

But on one particular Sunday in 1989, as he sat perusing his morning paper, Smithwick overheard a conversation between Kirby Palmer, an administrator at Muganero Hospital in Rwanda and another ham radio operator, Ken Kirk-Bayley of the Isle of Jersey, England, that caught his attention in earnest.

"It was just a casual conversation until the fellow in Rwanda remarked he needed help locating a new sterilizer for his hospital," recalls Smithwick. "Well, as I listened to that, it occurred to me that many of my fellow Medical Amateur Radio Council members are on hospital staffs and have access to sterilizers they could release. So I broke in and asked for a few more details."

Established in 1965, MARCO promotes goodwill and fellowship among amateur radio operators worldwide who are professionals in the healing arts, or who have an interest in the medical, dental or allied health professions. Medical professionals and others participate in regular radio chats and exchange medical and technical information.

"So I went on the MARCO radio network ... described the Muganero Hospital's need and had eight sterilizers offered to me immediately," says Smithwick.

Smithwick, a member of MARCO's board of directors, proposed a program that would allow members to share their talents, expertise, and surplus medical/dental equipment, medicines and supplies with clinics, hospitals and dispensaries, especially those located in developing and Third World nations. The board accepted his proposal and established MediShare International, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, and named Smithwick its managing director, a position he held until 2000.

See "Smitty" Honored ... Page 4

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General Meeting July 8, 2004

Harry's Hof Brau
1909 El Camino Real,
Redwood City

Program

Installation of Officers
&
Other Fun Things

Social Hour ..	6:00 P.M.
Dinner	7:00 P.M.
Meeting.....	8:00 P.M.

**No Meeting in August
No DXer in August**

**Deadline for Input for
September 2004 Issue is
August 25, 2004**

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: Doug Westover, W6JD
 Vice Pres: Chuck Patterson, K6RK
 Secretary: Mike Gavin, W6WZ
 Treasurer: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Director: Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI
 Director: Keith Butts, KN6K
 Director: Ron Panton, W6VG

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9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC

Contests: Dick Courtway, N7RC

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

Control Operator: Robert Smithwick, W6CS

Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)

Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.

Net Manager: Randy Wright, W6CUA

DX News: Net Control Operator

Swap Shop: Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI

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



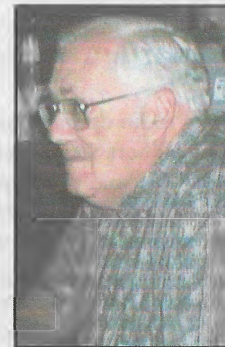
Well, this is my last message to you as Club President. Please give Dewey and the incoming slate of officers the same support you've given me for the past two years. I've been honored to serve you.

As I see it, the major challenge for the club is the same as it was when I first took office. Simply stated: we need to retain membership and encourage new members. The Board, at its last meeting, established a Membership Committee whose purpose will be to not only recruit new members, but to promote club activities that will bring out more participation.

A second proposal of the Board was to drop the 100 country requirement for voting membership. So far the advisory vote on this issue seems to be strongly in favor, so the new administration should look into what is required to change the by-laws, once the final votes are in.

Speaking of club activities, don't forget the ever popular club picnic/barbecue. This year it's July 31st at last year's location. Please let Dick, W6KM know if you plan to attend so he can get some idea of how much to buy. And, in a break with tradition, there will be a regular meeting July 8th, since the picnic is so late in the month.

73,
 Doug, W6JD



NCDXC Dues Information

Full and Associate Members;

<u>Date Dues are Paid</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Family Rate</u>
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

The June 10, 2004 monthly meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City. It was called to order at 8:00 P.M. Officers present were Doug, W6JD, president; Chuck, K6RK, vice-president; Dewey, KG6AM, treasurer, Mike, W6WZ, secretary and; Ron, W6VG, director. Previous president/director Bob Vallio, W6RGG was also present.

Gerald L. Greenberg (Jerry) W6ERN was unanimously voted in as a full member with 150 confirmed countries.

Mike, W6WZ announced the date of the Christmas Party has been set. It will be Saturday, December 11, 2004 at 1:15 at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose.

A slate of new officers was announced and voted on. President, Dewey, KG6AM; vice-president, John, K6YP; secretary (for 2nd term) Mike, W6WZ; treasurer, Steve, N6SJ; director, Chuck, K6RK; director, Ron, W6VG; and director, Doug, W6JD were unanimously elected.

A report was given by Bob, W6RGG, the ARRL Pacific Division Director about BPL. A discussion ensued about what could be and what should be done. Jerry, W6ERN suggested that an ad should be placed in the local newspaper. It would state how the downfalls of BPL would impact the general population in the areas of police and fire radio communications. Jerry stated that the public is unaware of the possible problems.

Bob, W6RGG suggested that a yearly events calendar be published in the *DXer*. Ron, W6VG wants a dues envelope sent out to members who have not paid their dues, as a reminder.

Chuck, K6RK, who was a colonel in the U.S. Signal Corps during WW-2 gave a presentation. He shared his experiences while stationed at Dayton, Ohio of the disbursement of all the communications supplies to the armed forces of the United States.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Mike Gavin, W6WZ, Secretary.



Kay Em's Gems

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and Board of Directors. I'm pleased to see new faces, as well as, dedicated and experienced OT's. This is a great opportunity for the club to turn a new page and surge ahead.

I'm anxious to see the results of the questionnaire that was sent out with the dues notification. It is a direct step that, if it is passed, can bring the club up to the current times. Changes must be made or our club will continue to wilt. And I hope that this will be the first of several steps that are needed.

I would suggest that the next step we need to implement is one that I now regret I was unable to accomplish while I was President. I also believe it to be the right step to take. That step is to remove "Charlie" or any automated DX announcements from the club repeater. I can hear the howls of objection now from several members! These are the same members who, with a few exceptions, contribute little or nothing to the club, but are the most vociferous when "their Charlie" is threatened.

I confess that I seldom listen to the club repeater anymore, except to occasionally make a "real" DX announcement or to take part in the Thursday night Club 2-meter net. I can assure you that I'm not the only Club member who has taken this route. And, I dare say, darned few *potential* members listen anymore, either! Why should they?

Poor quality and incorrect automated DX announcements are not only the norm, they are embarrassing to a club that professes and perceives itself to be on the cutting edge of DXing. I say, let's turn off this out dated automation, once and for all and return the repeater to REAL DX announcements and personal communications!

During my second year as President, I made a behind the scenes effort along with the Repeater Chairman, Smitty W6CS to inquire into the possibility of obtaining a second 2 meter frequency

See Gems ... Page 5

NCDXC Officers Elected

Newly elected officers of the Northern California DX Club for 2004-2005 are:

President	- Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
Vice President	- John Eisenberg, K6YP
Secretary	- Mike Gavin, W6WZ
Treasurer	- Steve Jones, N6SJ
Director (Past President)	- Doug Westover, W6JD
Director at large	- Chuck Patterson, K6RK
Director at large	- Ron Pantan, W6VG

“Smitty” Honored (Continued from Page 1)

In addition to distributing material items, MediShare helps health care professionals volunteer their services in short-term appointments, ranging from one day to two years in length. “Many American health care professionals are looking for opportunities to serve overseas, but don’t know how to find them,” says Smithwick.

The launching of MediShare isn’t the only ambitious project that Smithwick has undertaken for the betterment of others.

In 1957, Smithwick decided to forego a certain amount of income from his dental practice in Sunnyvale, Calif., to become the founding board president and trustee of Foothill-De Anza Community College District in Los Altos Hills, Calif. For the next 34 years, he would serve on the college’s board of trustees, helping to implement several key programs and overseeing its growth and development. During that time, the district expanded from 1,609 students located on a temporary campus to more than 45,000 students located on two campuses.

During his tenure, Smithwick helped the district develop a more comprehensive curriculum than what was being taught at most junior colleges during the late 1950s and early 1960s. “We wanted to offer a good deal more than just English, math and a foreign language or two,” he says.

Smithwick was also instrumental in launching a two-year, accredited dental hygiene program, the first such program in California.

“When I started practicing in California, dental hygiene was only taught at four-year dental schools,” says Smithwick. Yet, the state didn’t require a bachelor’s degree to obtain a dental hygienist license. “That didn’t make a lot of sense to me ... so we persuaded the state and the University of California to allow us to create a two-year pilot program,” he says. “And it was an immediate success.”

As someone who has made a significant effort to help others in his community and elsewhere, Smithwick believes many professionals in the fields of dentistry, medicine and the like aren’t thinking “outside of their professions.”

“When they come into the community... for example, they ask, ‘How can we be active as dentists?’ They’re thinking as dentists, not as citizen-dentists,” he explains.

“They can contribute in major ways outside of their professional interests,” he adds. “I’d like to see more of that.”

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Membership Committee

The function of the membership committee is to recruit new members and keep the interest of the existing membership. A number of proposals have been put forth; attending meetings at other clubs and presenting DX oriented talks. Having raffles at club meetings, recruiting more “expert” speakers for programs. finding other meeting places that are more “program friendly” and in varying geographic locations to get a better turnout for meetings. Operating “demos” and “Elmering” for new and prospective members and anything else you can think of.

Please step forward and volunteer for this important function.

Doug, W6JD

N6BV For September

Dean Straw to speak about “Strategies Using Propagation Predictions for DXing and Contesting”

John Eisenberg, K6YP has lined up Dean Straw to speak at the monthly meeting of the Northern California DX Club to be held on September 9th.

Always an interesting speaker, this will be Dean’s second appearance in front of an NCDXC gathering. He is always in demand for speaking not only at club meetings in the area, but at conventions and technical events around the country as well. He possesses the rare ability to speak about unusually technical subjects in terms that even lay-people can understand.

So, bring your friends and family out to hear this outstanding speaker at our September meeting.

CQ WPX Humor

Some soapbox comments on the just-completed CQ WPX CW Contest. It only makes sense to us inveterate contest operators...

Danny K7SS in QSO w/ K9QVB:

K7SS: K9QVB 599 273

K9QVB : 599 666

K7SS (being superstitious): I don’t like that number! Give me another number!

N6MZ waiting 10 minutes so he could have #4000 from D4B.

N6HR to W7OM: W7OM 599 589

W7OM: N6HR 599 599!

N6HR: “?”

W7JWJ to N6HR: Get a QRS operator! Put N7YX on! (Harry can copy code at 70 wpm!)

N0AX at KU0W: leaning on the F1 button while completing reading TWO books in 18 hours (still 0.5 million score)

And Mike, N7WA taking an hour off work so he could be on right at the start of the contest — at 4 PM local! (2300Z)

Ha ha! 1001001 Hillar, N6HR

Keep 100 Country Requirement By K6DXX

I am against the proposal to eliminate the 100 country requirement for full (voting) membership. My reasons are as follows:

1) This defeats the basic purpose for which the club was formed. TO UNITE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST IN DX. The club was formed by and for true DXer's and should remain so. The 100 country requirement is a test of this true interest.

2) To delete the 100 country requirement for full membership in an attempt to increase the membership (with those who are not really interested) will simply reduce the club stature to that of ANY ORDINARY RADIO CLUB.

3) We already have an ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP category which allows prospective full members to enter the club and MIX WITH THE DESERVING while working to full membership. Working the

first 100 countries to become a member should be and is one of the most exciting time periods leading to club membership and gaining the acceptance/respect of the full membership. (Read: NO PAIN..NO GAIN, YOU ONLY GET OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN).

4) Concerns 1 and 2 on the straw ballot are legitimate concerns and should be addressed through the presentation material presented at the club meeting and in the *DXer* by John (K6YP) and Steve (N6SJ).

5) I feel concern 3 "ELITIST" is simply not true and the membership must convey this to prospective members. I never had that feeling when I was working my 100 countries toward membership. To my knowledge, all our members are more than willing to impart DX knowledge or extend a helping hand if other members have a need, be it hard-

ware or operating knowledge. The idea/perception that we are all BIG GUNS is also false. We may have a few, but I think most (of our) members have average stations. We have Honor Roll members who use low power, others who have meager antenna systems, etc. So it's up to the membership to convey this information to prospective members.

Finally, I would like to see the club take a TRIAL STEP back in time and ELIMINATE CHARLIE and encourage membership to use the repeater for both DX (primary) and discussions. Get it active again with members and prospective members talking with one another and making DX announcements.

Gary Cervo
K6DXX

Visalia 2005 Organizational Meeting

July 17th 1:30 PM

Harry's Hofbrau, Redwood City

**Meeting Will Cover
Planning and Organizing
For 2005 Convention**

Everyone interested in planning and organizing for the 2005 Visalia Convention is encouraged to attend a meeting for that purpose on July 17th at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City. The meeting is planned to begin at 1:30 and should not last more than two hours. This meeting is intended to be a brainstorming session to come up with the kinds of programs and activities we'd like to see at the Convention. We will also decide organizational requirements (committees,..., etc) and establish timelines that must be met to achieve the goals of the convention.

Once decided, committee heads can be appointed and the real work can begin.

This is probably the earliest planning meeting we've ever had for the convention, but I consider it to be an essential step, if we're to get ahead of the process. It also, gives the Club the opportunity to decide some rather important issues, as well - issues like: who is going to be the Convention Chair? Or, who will become DXer Editor if W6YD is to be the Convention Chair?

It would be very gratifying to see a bunch of new faces at this meeting. People who have yet to participate in the convention planning process bring new, fresh ideas to the table - ideas that can become big hits at the convention. So, I would encourage anyone who has even the remotest interest in the planning process to attend this meeting.

Hope to see YOU there.
George, W6YD

Gems ... From Page 3

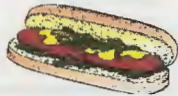
to which we could move Charlie. But, NARC, the repeater coordination group never even had the courtesy to reply to our inquiries.

Fellow DXers, now is the time to encourage and support our current Board of Directors to finally put this antiquated system to rest. We all have computers and nearly everyone knows how to use them to find the DX information and current announcements, as well as where they were originated.

Some may disagree, but it's time to act. For those who are unhappy with this, I say, "Just move over and let the rest of us move forward. And quit holding the club back with threats and complaining. If you really want to encourage new members and progress, simply listen to the bands and report any DX you hear".

73.....
Dick, W6KM,
Past President

NCDXC Picnic July 31 (11:30 AM til ??)



Mitchell Park, Palo Alto -- Located at intersection of Middlefield Road and Meadow Drive behind Palo Alto Fire Station #4. Club provides burgers / hot dogs / soft drinks and all the fixings.

Our permit is very clear

NO ALCOHOL

From Highway 101

Take San Antonio Rd exit, West to Middlefield Road. Turn right onto Middlefield and follow it to Meadow Drive. Turn left onto Meadow about half a block to Mitchell Park entrance.

From El Camino Real

Turn onto Charleston (East) and follow it to Middlefield. Turn left onto Middlefield and follow to Meadow. Turn left onto Meadow about half a block to Mitchell Park entrance.

Just a little more about the picnic:

Car pooling might be a good idea as the park is fairly heavily used and parking can be a problem.

You should try to park as close to the library lot and tennis courts as possible. Unfortunately the map of the park that Palo Alto supplied is pretty poor quality and did not scan/reproduce very well.* But, if you look carefully, you will see an area that is circled...this is the Pine Grove Area and the location of our picnic.

Doug, W6JD

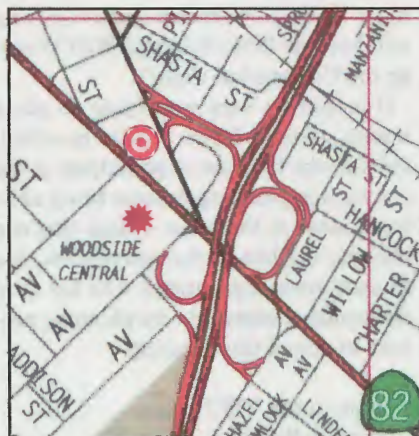
Directions to the Meeting

Harry's Hof Brau is fairly easy to find. It's on El Camino Real, just north of Woodside Road (Highway 84).

From Highway 101, take the Woodside Road (Highway 84) West exit to the El Camino North exit. Follow that exit (a short distance) toward El Camino to the stop sign at Main Street. You will practically be in Harry's parking lot! It will be right across the street on your left.

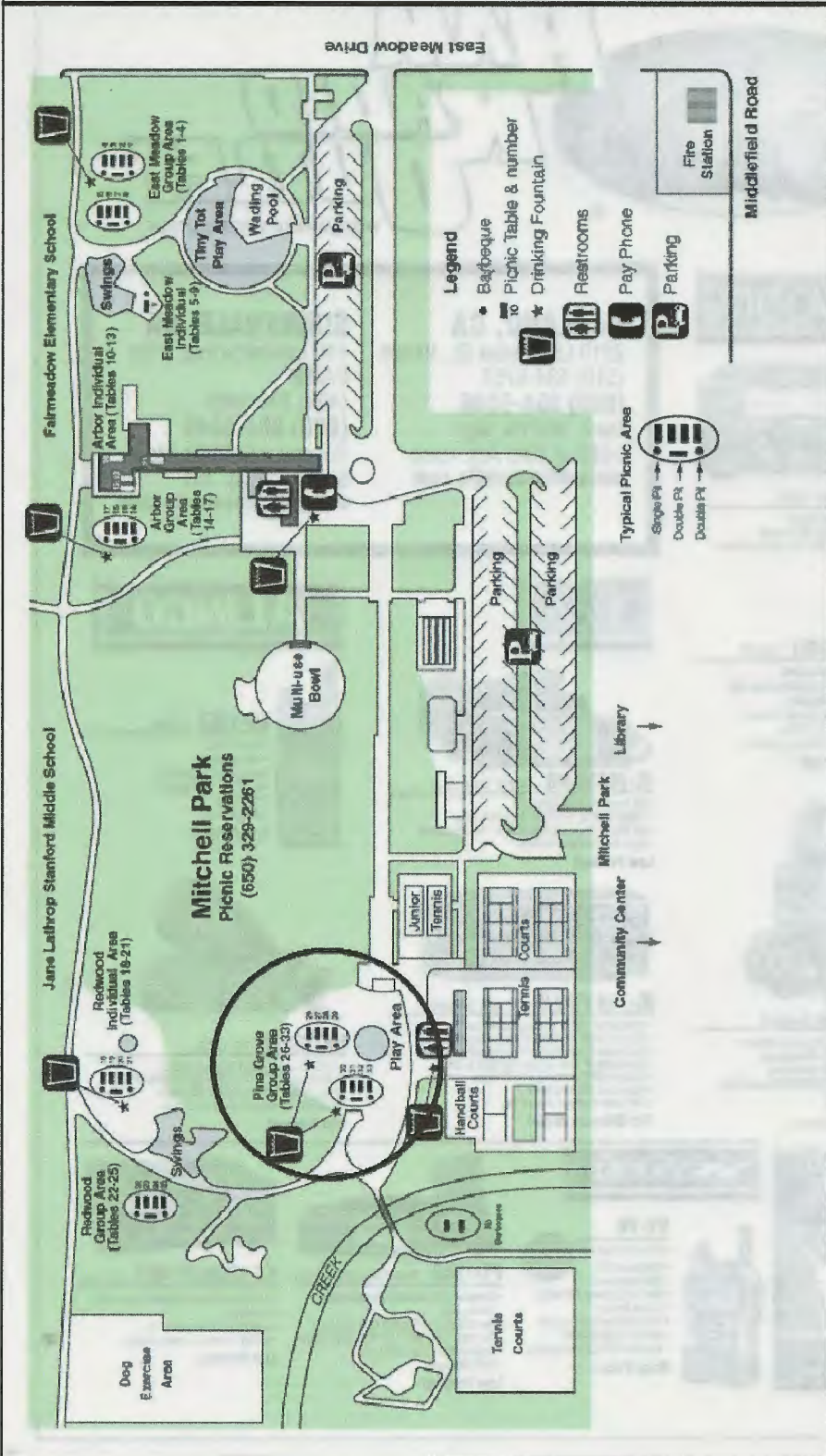
From Highway 280, take the Woodside Road East exit and follow it to the El Camino North exit.

Harry's will be on your right just past the underpass. There are parking lots on both sides of the building. So, if one lot is full, just try the other one.



* We downloaded a fairly decent image of the park from Palo Alto's website (see the image at the right), but it's still somewhat lacking in clarity. In particular, it has been prepared from a perspective that's 180 degrees opposite to conventional mapping. Therefore, all the printing appears upside down when properly viewed. Other than that, it's fairly clear and shows our picnic site quite clearly. -Ed.

More NCDXC Picnic Information



Editor's Choice

Once in awhile, stories for the DXer just fall in our lap. Mostly, however, they come from our members, as was the case with the article herein, about Dr. Smithwick, W6CS. The credit for that story belongs to Tom McShane., NW6P, who alerted us to the honor that had been bestowed on Smitty, our friend and fellow DXer. Not only did Tom tell us about the story, he made sure we had resource material for it.

Researching this article revealed to me, the sheer magnitude and significance of the many contributions Smitty has made to both the local and international communities. Hopefully, the article herein, will cause you to appreciate it too.

All too often we fail to recognize the stature of many of our members. Many are not only "giants" in their hobby, but in their communities, as well. Please join me in thanking Tom for giving us the chance to recognize one such member in these pages.

Congratulations, Smitty.

Thank you, Tom.

George, W6YD



Kudos 'n Kredits

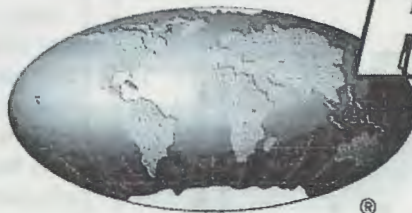
This month's issue of *The DXer* was made possible by articles and input from the following sources:

- W6JD, Doug Westover**
- N6HR, Hillar Raamat**
- W6KM, Dick Letrich**
- NW6P, Tom McShane**
- W6WZ, Mike Gavin**
- Hugh M. Cook,**
Editor of the UIC Magazine

Thank you, one and all!

George, W6YD

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- Enhanced 5 inch color TFT w/spectrum scope
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

The Ultimate Radio!

ALINCO



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS • DCS built in
- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

YAESU



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- Internet WIREs compatible

Great Price!



FT-100D HF/6M/2M/70CM Trans.

- Compact Transceiver w/detachable front panel
- Rx 100kHz to 970mHz (cell blocked)
- Tx 100W 160-6M, 50W 2M, 20W 70CM
- Built-in DSP, Vox, CW keyer
- 300 Memories

Low Pricing!



FT-1000MP MKV HF Trans.

- Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
- Dual RX
- Collins SSB filter built-in
- 200W, External power supply

Low Pricing!