



THE DXER

• NCDXC EST. MCMXLVI •

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

Volume LXII Issue II

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<http://www.ncdxc.org>

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Open Contributions to the DXer are due by the first Saturday of every month. Have an idea or something to share? Just send it to Phil, K6PTS phil@k6pts.com Thanks!

Don't Miss The February Meeting Presentation by Jim Brown, K9YC on "Coax Baluns"



The use of common mode chokes as "current baluns" was introduced in the 70's by W2DU and W7EL as a means of preventing distortion of an antenna's pattern by an unbalanced transmission line. A choking impedance on the order of 500 ohms was deemed "enough," and most current baluns are designed to meet this standard. In 2006, W1HIS observed that multi-turn chokes having 5,000 ohms or more of choking impedance provided the additional benefit of significantly reducing local noise coupled onto the antenna from the feedline. While some of his advice on how those chokes should be wound was wrong, the concept is entirely correct and quite powerful.

Over the past four years, K9YC has been doing extensive research on the use of ferrite chokes to suppress RFI at MF and HF. That work has led to new understandings of how ferrite chokes work, including a far more accurate equivalent circuit for ferrite chokes,

(continued p3)



Northern California DX Club Officers:

President: John Eisenberg, K6YP
Vice Pres: Risto Kotalampi, W6RK
Secretary: Craig Bradley, AE6RR
Treasurer: Steve Jones, N6SJ
Director: Curt Kolovson, W6RQ
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9-Band Award: John Brand, K6WC
Contests: Dick Courtway, N7RC
California Award: Robert Bickel, K6FX
Records Manager: Open
Publications Mgr: Open

Club Repeater: W6TI/R
Frequency/offset: 147.360 Mhz +, pl 110.9
Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Control Operator: Jim Abraham, W6EB
Maintenance: Peter Grabosky, W6OOL
Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)
Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.
Net Manager: Kristen McIntyre, K6WX
DX News: Net Control Operator
Swap Shop: Jim Abraham, W6EB

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: NCDXC
Box 608
Menlo Park, CA
94026-0608

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President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I really enjoyed the Jan. 17 meeting. What made it special for me was having the opportunity to present George Allan's application for Life Membership in NCDXC to all of you for a vote. George W6YD has been a go-to-guy in NCDXC for many years. He joined NCDXC in 1982, edited the DXer for many years, is a past President of the club and contributed to its financial well being by chairing the International DX Convention in Visalia several times. IDXC provides a very major fraction of our club's annual income. Often IDXC income is in excess of member dues. The convention also brings significant recognition to our club from the international DX contingent. George has given unselfishly his time to NCDXC and it was an honor to present his application which was unanimously approved by the membership. You can read more about George and how to apply for the Life Membership Grade elsewhere in this issue.

At the meeting, Risto presented the James Brooks video of the ZL8R Dxpediton. James Brooks 9V1YC is an outstanding videographer. We have seen his work on several prior occasions and I think that this video tops them all. In the future, Risto will be presenting the new Scarborough Reef BS7H video also shot by 9V1YC.

At the February 21 meeting, Risto has a fascinating program on ferrite choke and baluns by Jim Brown K9YC. Jim is an active contester and an expert on EMC and RFI suppression. Professionally, he is an audio engineer who has designed and installed sound systems in large public and private auditoriums and stadiums. Jim's talk will be an excellent opportunity to learn how to keep RF currents from flowing on the outside of your coax's shield and thereby radiating into your neighbor's telephones and stereo systems. Naturally Mike and Carolyn will have another outstanding NCDXC raffle.

January was an interesting month for DX. 3Y0E on Bouvet Island was audible in the bay area between 1700 and 1900 UTC. I know that at least two guys at W6YX were able to nail this very rare entity. Congratulations Dave AA6XV and Rebar N6CCH! Just as exciting is the news that Petrus who operated 3Y0E will be operating from the almost as rare Marion Island ZS8 in the "near future". While you are waiting for ZS8 there are a couple of good ones on the air now. VP6DX, the well funded multi-operator Dxpediton to Ducie Island, should be on the air as you read this and the TI9KK operation on Cocos Island is easily workable on several bands. Today they figured out that operating split is good thing and increased their rates substantially as a result. Both Ducie and Cocos can only be activated by a Dxpediton so if you need them, now is the time.

Well that's it for this month. I will look forward to seeing you at our February 21st meeting. All the best and good DX!

John



(continued from p1)

far more accurate measurements of practical chokes, and the development of inexpensive and easy to build forms of chokes that are vastly superior to nearly all commercial products.

This tutorial presentation begins by observing that virtually all ham antennas are unbalanced, even when fed with balanced lines, that the use of coax is simply another element of the unbalance, that the unbalance couples noise from the transmission line to the antenna (and transmitted RF into the shack). It is shown that effective common mode chokes should be strongly resistive, not inductive, that dissipation is not a factor if the choking impedance is high enough, and that such chokes are not sensitive to the length of the transmission line (a well known weakness of inductive "coil of coax" chokes). It is shown that chokes can be used as "egg insulators" to prevent the interaction between a feedline and another antenna.

The fundamentals of balanced and unbalanced transmission lines are discussed. It is shown that coax has the advantage of confining virtually all of the transmitter's power within the coax, while even the best balanced lines have at least 30% leakage flux. This means that the ferrite core of a coax choke sees only the common mode current, while one on a balanced line sees the common mode current plus at least 30% of the transmitted power. This makes high power chokes impractical on balanced lines.

LICENSE PLATE CHANGES

The California DMV just made a rule change regarding amateur callsign plates. This is regarding the space added in the middle of the callsign. This rule has now been changed. However, in order to get a corrected plate you need to follow a special process. For info see:

http://www.dmv.ca.gov/ham/ham_plate.htm

CLUB CALENDAR

February 21st	Regular Club Meeting
March 20th	Regular Club Meeting
April 17th	Regular Club Meeting
April 25-27th	Visalia DX Convention

Also be sure to check out the new calendar on the club website <http://www.ncdxc.org>

OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

The NCDXC is helping members submit their outgoing bureau QSL cards. Simply bring your cards to a meeting. There is no charge for postage or submission to the bureau. All expenses are covered by the club.

Please be sure to bring your cards and a piece of paper with your name, address, callsign and your ARRL member number. We will take care of the rest.

Thanks to Dave Gomberg, NE5EE for managing this for the club.

DX ANNOUNCEMENTS

3Y0E is QRT but there is good news from Stan SQ8X who indicates that Petrus 3Y0E will be Headed to Marion Island ZS8 another RARE Island in the southern Indian Ocean. See www.3y0e.com for details.

Call	Entity	Start	End	Comments
VP8DIF	S. Georgia	1/27	2/28	QSL DJ9ZB
VP6DX	Ducie Is.	2/11	2/22	160-6,7 Stations
S21ZDT	Bangladesh	2/1	2/21	QSL SM4XIH

There are also many African countries on the air.

Check your favorite "DX Tout Sheet" for details.

Reminder - 2008 Visalia Convention Tickets Are Available
For details see <http://www.dxconvention.org>



NCDXC February Meeting



Thursday, February 21st

6pm – 7:30pm Dinner/Social
7:30pm Club Meeting



Featured Presentation

Coax Baluns by Jim Brown, K9YC

Location:



Holder's Country Inn
998 South De Anza Blvd.,
San Jose, CA 95129 - (408) 244-2798

CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES!!!



- 1st - ICOM IC-2200H 2M 65W Mobile with Optional Digital Mode
- 2nd - 20 Meter Single-Band Rotatable Mini-Dipole Antenna
- 3rd - Multi-Functional High-Efficient Portable Camping Light.
- 4th - AA/AAA Compact Travel Battery Charger
- 5th - Package of 3 LED Key Chain Flashlights

Also we have the following raffle - door prizes:
Yaesu Log Book, ICOM DX Zone World Map and Key Chain Flashlight

Secretary's Message

It was good to see those of you that attended the January meeting. The video on ZL8R was great.

We had one new member voted in at the January meeting:
Sid Mc Aulay, W6JJW, please welcome him to the club.

We also approved the life membership application for George Allan, W6YD. Congratulations George!

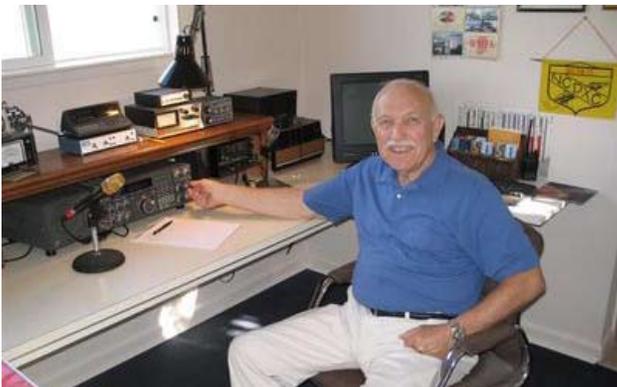
The badge situation has been straightened out and Steve has ordered them. He expects to receive them before the February meeting and bring them to the meeting.

The major Secretary's duties in January were to get the new roster mailed. They have all been mailed. If you were a paid-up member by the end of November and did not receive one, please check that your address is current in the online members database and contact me if it needs to be corrected. I will bring the remaining copies to the February meeting and I will be happy to hand out copies to paid-up members. If you have not renewed your membership, you can do so at the meeting and get your copy.

Hopefully we can all share our stories of working the VP6DX guys at the meeting. See you there!

73,
Craig, AE6RR

NCDXC Life Membership For George Allan, W6YD



At the January 17, 2008 NCDXC meeting George Allan's application for Life Membership was brought up for a vote of the club's membership and was unanimously approved. Prior to the January meeting, the NCDXC Board of Directors met to consider George's application. George lives in Los Banos and has been active in the club since 1982. He is a past President and has served NCDXC in many other capacities. Most notably he has served as Chairman of the International DX Conference for NCDXC in 2001,

2003 and 2007 in addition to filling other IDXC roles. I know how much work the IDXC Chairman does, as George mentored Steve Jones N6SJ and I to chair IDXC last year, and also ably handled the event's publicity. IDXC is the premier DX convention in the United States and is chaired on alternate years by NCDXC and SCDXC with the help of the Central Arizona DX Club and other organizations. The board also unanimously approved George's application noting that his is the first Life Membership application received in the past several years. George will receive a Life Membership certificate and a special badge to commemorate the occasion. Congratulations George!!!



NCDXC Life Membership Requirements

By John Eisenberg, K6YP

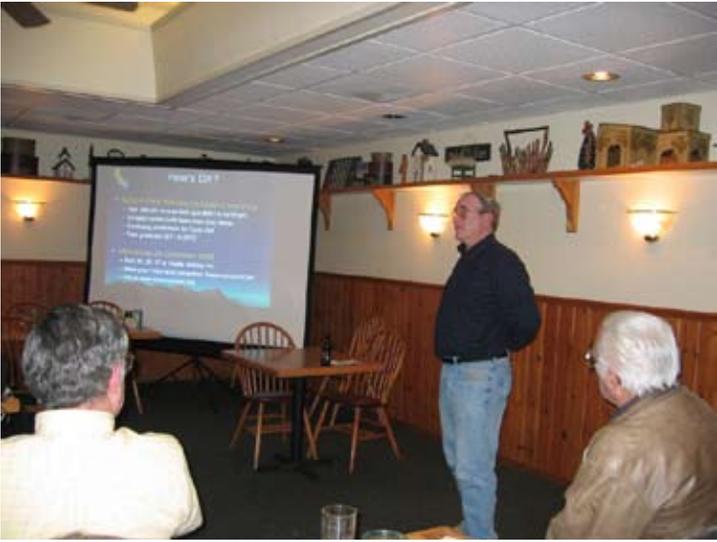
At the January meeting several members asked what are the criteria for NCDXC Life Membership. According to the club's Bylaws & Procedures Manual the requirements are:

1. The applicant must have been a NCDXC member for a cumulative period of at least three years.
2. The applicant shall make application on form 8-105b and submit his/her application to the club Secretary with a payment according to age. A table listing the current life membership fees is attached. (W6YD should be commended on submitting his application on a proper and genuine form 8-105b as there has not been one in the Procedures Manual for at least 5 years. Way to go George.)
3. The Secretary must bring the matter before the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.
4. The Board must discuss the application and exercise judgement if the applicant's ability, DX achievements and operating ethics will be a credit to the club on a long term basis.
5. If this determination is made, the President shall present the application to the membership for a vote at the next regular club meeting. If the voting is not unanimous, those voting opposed shall be required to rise and state their objections to the applicant being considered. The matter is then returned to the Board for further discussion. The Board may either deny the application and return it to the applicant along with all fees paid or again present it to the membership. If the membership approves the application by at least a 2/3 majority it is approved.
6. A Life Member shall receive a distinctive badge and a special certificate of Life membership.
7. A Life Member no longer must pay annual dues to the club.

Age Interval	Life Membership Dues
20-25	\$800
26-30	\$730
31-35	\$660
36-40	\$600
41-45	\$530
46-50	\$465
51-55	\$405
56-60	\$345
61-65	\$290
66-70	\$240
71-75	\$195
76-80	\$155
81-85	\$120



Photos from the January 2008 Meeting



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