



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB



## Come to our May 21st Meeting! Featuring the Presentation “An Introduction To Working Amateur Radio Satellites” by Don Anastasia, AA6W

The NCDXC is excited to announce that our feature presentation for our May meeting will be from Don Anastasia, AA6W on the subject of working Amateur Radio Satellites. Take this opportunity to learn about this fun and unique method of communications as well as see a live demonstration contact with a LEO (low earth orbit) satellite. The meeting is on May 21st at Holder's Country Inn, San Jose. You'll want to arrive early to get a great seat for this exciting demonstration presentation. Remember visitors are always welcome to all NCDXC events. Please be sure to share this with other interested amateurs. Dinner begins at 6pm, Club Meeting at 7:30pm.

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## President's Message

By Craig Bradley, AE6RR

Hello Everyone, It was great to see many of you in Visalia! I heard several Hams who have been to many IDXC's say that this was the best International DX Convention ever! How appropriate for the 60th anniversary of the convention. John Eisenberg, K6YP and Steve Jones, N6SJ the co-chairs of the convention along with all of the committee members that worked tirelessly to pull this off are to be highly commended! Everything went like clockwork, including the (formerly) dreaded sign-up procedure for the banquet; when I arrived after lunch, there was no line.

The talks were excellent, the programs for both the banquet and the breakfast were also great, and of course the hotel staff again did an absolutely flawless job with all of their services. The only negative words that I heard all weekend were directed at the Sun (thank you "Chirp"). Of course Chip Margelli, K7JA was his usual great self as MC.

The exhibit hall was sold out in spite of the economy and it was great to peruse all of the products on display. I even bought my XYL a gift; a copy of Gordon West's Technician License Manual. She may even read it!

The NCDXC board created a new special award to be presented at the convention, the NCDXC President's Special Award

(Continues)

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Club Repeater: W6TI/R  
Frequency/offset: 147.360 Mhz +, pl 110.9  
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Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)  
Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.  
Net Manager: Don Anastasia, AA6W

### 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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Be sure to drop off your bureau cards to Doug, W6JD at our next meeting. The club will then send them all to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau for free. Be sure to take advantage of this excellent FREE service to club members.

## President's Message (continues from pg. 1)

for the most outstanding small DXpedition of the year. This award was awarded to the VK9GMW Mellish Reef expedition by George Wallner, AA7JV and Tomi Pekarik, HA7RY. The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$250 to the expedition. These guys went through an incredible odyssey to give VK9M to many of the deserving, especially on the low bands. Although it was hard to hear him over the PA system with the cell phone patch, it was good to hear from George "freshly" back home in W4 land.



They both made it home safe and sound. For those that did not attend or would like to hear some of the story again, the VK9GMW portion of my talk is included in this issue of the DXer.

I also had the pleasure to present John Eisenberg, K6YP, with the NCDXC Club Member of The Year Award. Every year the NCDXC presents this award to the most outstanding member of the club who has consistently and actively participated in DX and club activities. John has been an outstanding member and contributor to the club for many years. He has served as Vice President, President for two terms and co-chaired the IDXC twice, both in 2007 and 2009. He is currently a Director of the club. He is also responsible for twisting my arm until I agreed to accept a nomination as Secretary of the club two years

[ Continues ]



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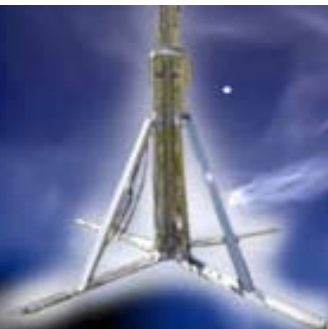
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## President's Message (continued)



ago. He has had a significant part in making the NCDXC what it is today and is very deserving of the award. I would like to again congratulate John!

As usual there was too much to do, to many people to have eyeball QSOs with and too little time at Visalia. Before I knew it, breakfast was over and it was time to hit the road with an empty truck (I didn't win any big prizes). However as the sports teams say "there is always next year". Soon it will be time to make next year's reservations at the Holiday Inn.

The bands have been pretty quiet lately, but there is some activity. I just took a break to work KH2JU

on Guam on 20m. He had a great signal and I couldn't resist giving him a call. Last night (May 4th), 6m was open to the Pacific NW and I had a nice QSO with W7GJ in MT around 9:40 PDT. I also worked a VE6. It looks like the ES season is getting started for the summer. Keep an ear on the "magic band" at 50.125 when you are puttering around the shack.

As I mentioned last month, at the May meeting I will try something new when we go around the room and introduce ourselves. If you have a short (2 minutes or less) show and tell, present it then. This could be anything from a recent award that you received to a QSL card, new ham shack toy or a short ham radio story.

Let's see how this works and maybe we can make it a regular event. If you have something that we couldn't fit in and will take more time, please let me know in advance (by May 14th) and I will try to schedule it into the meeting.

For now, 73 and good DX!

- Craig, AE6RR



## DX Information

**AZERBAIJAN, 4J.** Members of the Azerbaijan Radio are QRV with special call 4K1V in commemoration of "Victory-64" until May 19. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via UA3FDX.

**CROATIA, 9A.** A group of IOCA members are QRV as 9A0CI from Palagruza Island, IOTA EU-090, until May 16. They also plan to activate Mala Palagruza and Kamik Od Tramuntane as 9A/home calls. QSL via DE0MST.

**BELARUS, EU.** In commemoration of "Victory-64" stations EV5V, EV6ZK and EV8DP are QRV until June 20. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via UA3FDX.

**FRANCE, F.** In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe, station TP60CE is active until May 10. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via F5LGF.

**ENGLAND, G.** Members of the Bittern DX Group are participating in the National Mills on the Air and are QRV as GB1WM until May 10 from Weybourne Mill in Weybourne, North Norfolk. Activity is on all HF and VHF bands, including some digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

**WALES, GW.** Members of the Barry Amateur Radio Society are QRV as GB100BP until May 31 in celebration of 100 years of British Petroleum. QSL via GW0ANA.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI.** Ronny, OT4R, will be QRV as HI7/home call during his holidays from Punta Cana, IOTA NA-096, from May 9 to 30. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

**BELGIUM, ON.** Members of the "Trudo Radioamateurs Club" in Haspengouw are QRV using the special callsign ON100PES until the end of 2009 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Belgian Antarctic expedition led by Adrien de Gerlache. QSL via ON-4TRC.

**BANGLADESH, S2.** Ramon, DU1UGZ is now QRV as S21XR until June 20. QSL to home call.

**SWEDEN, SM.** A team of eight operators will be QRV as 7S6W from IOTA EU-043 from May 14 to 17. Activity will be on 80 to 2 meters with four stations. QSL via SM6WET. In addition, Bernd, DL8AAV is QRV as SD1B/7 until June 12 from Oeland Island, IOTA EU-037. QSL to home call.

**MICRONESIA, V6.** Operators JA7HMZ and JH7IOS will be QRV as V63DX and V63CW, respectively, from Pohnpei, IOTA OC-010, from May 11 to 16. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home calls.

**VANUATU, YJ.** Mike, YO8CYN is QRV as YJ0EM until May 25 and is active in his spare time. He is generally active on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

*From the ARRL May 7th DX News.*

# VK9GMW - MELLISH REEF

By Craig, AE6RR



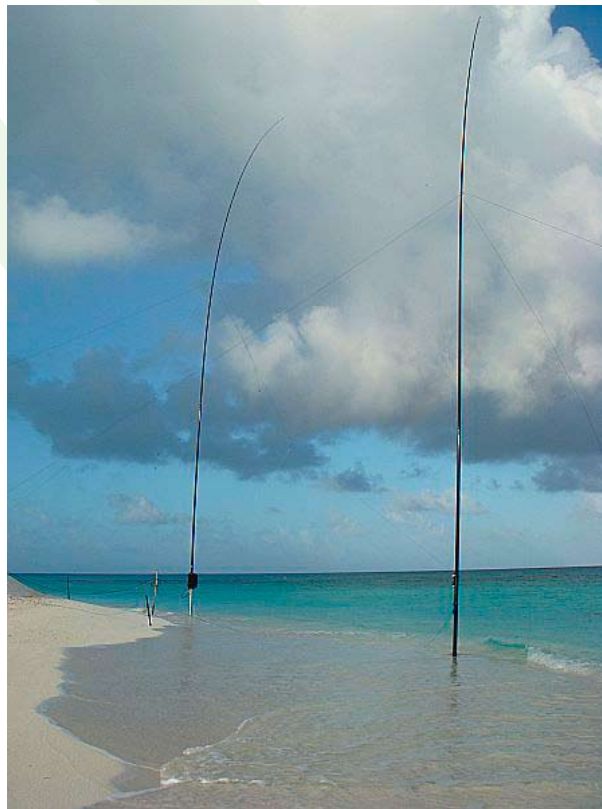
The VK9GMW expedition to Mellish Reef was done by George Wallner, AA7JV and Tomi Pekarik, HA7RY. These guys, just the two of them sailed off into the Corral Sea in a 17 meter power boat loaded to the gunnels with bladders of Diesel fuel. Unfortunately, they must have had a stowaway; Murphy was there!

The first thing that Murphy did was summon a Typhon or the remnants thereof. They made it as far as Marion Reef where they spent eight or nine days waiting out the weather. While they were there, they discovered that their K3 had been damaged, Murphy again. Thanks to Wayne, N6KR of Elecraft, they were able to fix it.

When they tried to raise the anchor, they discovered that Murphy had wedged it firmly in the coral and the entire bow pulpit broke off of the boat. Time for more repairs.



Finally on March 27th they arrived at Mellish Reef and started to set up camp, only to find out that Murphy had made off with some critical parts of their tent! They made a lean-to of sorts with the remaining parts and started to setup the radio and the transmit antenna. This antenna did work very well. They experimented during the days with various receive antennas and the birds experimented with them at night. I am sure that Murphy made them do it.



One night they had such a storm that they had to cannibalize parts of the beverage (antenna that is, the beer was long gone) to repair the tent. By the end, the beverage was mostly laying on the sand and un-terminated at the far end. What would Murphy want with that terminator?

One day Murphy tripped Tomi and his laptop went for a swim, but they recovered it by drying it out on top of the generator. They finally developed a routine where George would go out during the day and play with Murphy to keep him out of mischief and Tomi would make QSOs.

Here is George's daily routine in his words:  
"I started the day at 4 AM on 160 m for EU, would QSY to 80 around 6. At 6:45 Tomi would take over and I would swim to the boat at 7, with log extract on a memory stick, in the back pocket of my shorts, in two zip bags (about a 0.3 mile swim).  
I would post the log and the news update from the boat, do some maintenance, spear a fish, cook lunch/dinner and go back to the island around 2 or 3.  
We would eat, I would do some maintenance on the antennas and the tent (the pennant and the beverage had to fixed almost every day because of birds).  
I would go to sleep at 5:30 PM and be up for 160 at 7:30 PM until around midnight.



As you can deduce, Tomi did almost all of the operating except the 160 meter QSO-s; about 17,000!"  
This was an incredible accomplishment by two guys with a small boat in the middle of the Corral Sea during Typhoon season! Those of us that grabbed a few QSOs were glad to get them and they gave a lot of the deserving a Q on 160, 2028 of them! They have a total of 20,057 QSOs in the log.

They made it safely back to Australia on the 16th, packed their equipment, shipped it and headed home. This DXpedition has inspired the Northern California DX Club to create a special award. The NCDXC President's Special Award for the most outstanding small DXpedition of the year! The award will consist of a plaque and a check for \$250.

These guys have given us a lot of fun and I am sure that they also had fun, when Murphy was sleeping of course!

- Craig Bradley, AE6RR

## HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response."

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce <[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf)>.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."


# CLUB MEETING

THURSDAY  
MAY 21st



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

Featuring the presentation  
“An Introduction To Working  
Amateur Radio Satellites” by  
Don Anastasia, AA6W

Our Meeting Location:   
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3rd Prize: 3 large  
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4th Prize: Crimping Tool.

5th Prize: 9 LED Flash Light.

6th Prize: Multi Purpose Pocket Tool.

7th Prize: Roll of Rescue Tape.

Door Prize: Key Chain Flash Light.

## The K7RA Solar Update (Excerpt from ARRL letter)

A Solar Cycle 23 spot appeared for two days -- April 29-30 -- in an area that soon rotated out of view. Sunspot numbers were 15 and 12, but for the last seven days, we haven't seen any spots. This may end soon -- we get the advance word because of the STEREO mission, which is gradually able to see more and more of the sun not visible from Earth. On May 5-6, the STEREO B satellite was able to see an eruption from an active region around the eastern edge of the Sun, outside of our view. If sunspots emerge, they will be Solar Cycle 24 spots, due to their relatively high latitude.

Sunspot numbers for April 30-May 6 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.4, 68.5, 68.3, 68.6, 68, 68 and 68.7 with a mean of 68.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 5, 5, 4, 2 and 6 with a mean of 4.3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2 and 6 with a mean of 2.7.

Tuesday morning, May 5, Red Haines, WO0W (his call is easy to confuse -- it is W-Oh-Zero-W) of La Crescent, Minnesota, wrote that HF conditions had improved over the past few days. He noted that he was hearing more of the worldwide NCDXF beacons on 14.100 MHz than recently, and that x-ray flux had also increased. Red mentioned that x-ray flux (an index of energy from the sun in the x-ray portion of the spectrum) is a better real-time indicator of the current state of the ionosphere than daily sunspot numbers or solar flux: “X-ray energy is a primary cause of ionization, which supports HF propagation.” ...

(For more of this excellent article please view it in its entirety at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/08/10810/?nc=1>)



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