



The DXer

August 2011

The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club

President's Letter

August 7, 2011

By Richard Crouch, N6RC



NCDXC SUMMER PICNIC!

Saturday, August 13
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

At the Patriots Corner Group
Picnic Area in Shoup Park
400 University Ave in Los Altos

Food and Drinks
DXCC Card Checking
More Information on Page 3

Greetings fellow DXers!

Since poor propagation this week has been the norm (albeit I heard that yesterday and today have been a lot better), I thought I would include in this letter the latest propagation forecast from K7RA. Hopefully everyone has managed to work STOR. The conditions haven't been great, but I know they are hearing us better than we are hearing them, because when I went to verify my 20m CW QSO, I noticed that they had me in the log on 17m also even though I hadn't logged a QSO on that band. I did call them on 17m CW, but never heard them come back to me!

You can subscribe to the K7RA forecast bulletin on the ARRL website.

Before jumping into the Propagation Report, let me say how much I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic on this coming Saturday. Remember that there will be no club meeting the following week. The next regular club meeting will be on September 15th at Holders in Cupertino.

Best of 73's and see you Saturday!
Dick
N6RC

NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING IN AUGUST

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2011 NCDXC Summer Picnic

Directions: When you enter the park, you will see the Garden House in front of you. The Patriot Area is the smaller shady area to the left of the Garden House. This is the same spot where the picnic was last year.

We will be serving Burgers, Hot Dogs, maybe Chicken plus the trimmings. Sodas and other drinks will be provided by the club. Alcohol of any form is not permitted. Members are free to bring a dish (hopefully to share) if they wish.

The official handoff to the 2011-2012 Northern California DX Club Officers will take place at the picnic.

Russ, K6KLY will be checking DXCC cards! You must include proof of ARRL membership (copy of ARRL membership card or QST label), fill out the DXCC form, sort the cards properly and include DXCC payment. You can also put your credit card number on the form and let ARRL HQ figure out how much to charge you. Mailing fees vary depending on what you want. No 160m or deleted country cards. More information is available at <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-faq>. Sorting requirements can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-application-process>. *If you have an LOTW account, you must login, go to the Awards tab, and prepare and print the application on the LOTW web page and bring it to the picnic with your cards.*

Russ can also check cards for WAS and VUCC.

Propagation de K7RA

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 31 ARLP031

From Tad Cook, K7RA

Seattle, WA August 5, 2011

To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP031

ARLP031 Propagation de K7RA

Solar activity increased markedly this week, with the sunspot number rising to 130 on Monday, August 1, the highest since a reading of 131 on April 14, 2011. Average daily sunspot number more than doubled this week compared to last, rising nearly 54 points to 99.3.

On Thursday I received a Significant Event Report from Rob Steenburgh, KA8JBY, Space Weather Forecaster at NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center:

“A trio of significant active regions produced a series of radio blackout (solar flare) events in the past few days. To date, three radio blackouts reaching the R2 (Moderate) level have been observed. Earth-directed coronal mass ejections have been associated with each of the biggest radio blackout events on August 2-4. Solar radiation enhancements have also occurred in conjunction with each of these events, with the solar radiation storm event threshold being

exceeded to reach the S1 (Minor) level in conjunction with the August 4 event”.

“Three coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are currently en route to Earth, with the commencement of geomagnetic storming expected early to mid-day on August 5 with the arrival of the CMEs associated with the August 2-3 events. The third of the string, seemingly the fastest CME, may catch up with the first two in the next 12-18 hours, compressing the plasma and enhancing the embedded magnetic field. Storming levels are expected to attain G3 (Strong) conditions. The current Solar Radiation Storm may experience a kick with the shocks, and attain S2 (Moderate) thresholds”.

“Some level of geomagnetic disturbance is expected to continue through August 7 as the series of CMEs affect the Earth. Continued activity is likely from these regions as they continue to rotate off the visible solar disk over the next 7 days. The Space Weather Prediction Center will continue to monitor this event as it unfolds”.

Thanks, Rob!

A NASA video shows a couple of the CMEs. Check http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sunearth/news/News080411-dblpunch.html.

The latest forecast on Thursday night has planetary A index for August 5-9 at 50, 30, 20, 15, and 10, then 8 on August 10-12, then 5, 8, 10, 15, 12, 10 and 8 on August 13-19. Solar flux predicted for August 5 is 115, 110 on August 6-7, 100 and 95 on August 8-9, then 85 on August 10-12, then 100 on August 13-16.

The planetary A index at 50 is quite high.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts active conditions on August 5-7, unsettled to active August 8, quiet to unsettled August 9, and quiet conditions August 10-11.

July is over, so let's look at some of the numbers. The average daily sunspot number for the month of July was 67.2, up from 55.5 for June. The moving three month average of daily sunspot numbers for May through July, centered on June was 61.5. The 3-month moving average centered on January through June was 35.3, 55.7, 72.3, 74.4, 65.9 and 61.5.

Vince Varnas, W7FA of Portland, Oregon wrote on July 30: “For the last week the STOR DXpedition to South Sudan has had very weak signal strength here in the Portland area, particularly at night on the 17 meter band (18 MHz). Generally they are S-3, at best”.

“At 0209 UTC on July 30 there was a M9 solar flare from a big sunspot. At 0522 UTC I heard and worked the STOR station on CW with much, much louder signal strength, both directions. (They were at the noise or slightly above a few hours earlier. When I worked them on SSB on July 26 at 2303 UTC they were about S-4.) They were S-8 to 9 on the S-meter. The difference in signal strength between ‘normal’ and last night was about 30 db. Since it is a scientific fact that solar flares can and do enhance the reflectivity of the F layer, my conclusion is that this is what produced the markedly stronger signals from STOR”.

Thanks, Vince.

Sergej Ignatov, UZ2HZ of Kremenchug, Ukraine asked about a link to the Penticton source for thrice-daily solar flux readings, as the link he was using no longer works. Yes, they changed servers again, so the URL has changed. Try ftp://ftp.geolab.nrcan.gc.ca/data/solar_flux/daily_flux_values/fluxtable.txt in your web browser. The column you want is third from the right, the observed flux values, and the local noon (2000z) readings. Although readings are taken three times per day, the noon reading is the official solar flux for the day, also shown at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DSD.txt> in whole number resolution.

As geomagnetic conditions change over the next few days, you can check <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DGD.txt> for the planetary K index, updated every three hours. You can also check out <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html> every day after 2100z for an updated daily forecast of solar flux and planetary A index.

Joe Molon, KA1PPV of Stamford, Connecticut writes: "Well it happened again. Not much happening southbound but this time the door to Europe was wide open.

I had heard about the M Class flare and decided to check up on solar conditions because I knew it might get really good before it goes into the toilet. I saw a SF of 116 with an A Index of 3 and a K Index of 1 and that is all I needed.

In one hour I logged IZ5RVG, DL2OCE, IC8TEM, IZ5MXA and EB5DZC.

Not that unusual for someone running 100W into a beam but, as usual, I did it the hard way with 1.5 watts all on 20 meters. Got 599 on all except for the last when the noise crept up.

I was using my Small Wonder Labs PSK kit for 20m with 1.5W into a Diamond BB7V 25 feet AGL. The propagation Gods opened the gate and I walked right through. Wow! It was great to get everyone that I tried for. That never happens in QRPLand. Good DX. Yep! It's about time! Now watch the power grid get knocked out tomorrow when the CME shows up!"

Thanks, Joe! Sounds like fun.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/k9la/index.html>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for July 28 through August 3 were 84, 88, 101, 128, 130, 98, and 66, with

a mean of 99.3. 10.7 cm flux was 107.3, 111.7, 112.7, 118.6, 124.9, 121.6, and 119.9, with a mean of 116.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 16, 8, 9, 3, and 3, with a mean of 6.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 10, 7, 6, 3, and 3, with a mean of 5.

SOUTHERN SUDAN 2011



DXpedition to the Republic Of South Sudan is QRT

With 121,286 QSO's in the online log, the STØR DXpedition is over today. 27,994 unique call-signs, 176 DXCC entities and 40 CQ Zones were logged! The last QSO, #121,286, was logged on August 10 at 0701z. Many NCDXC members are in the log.

Mode breakdown:

CW 55,458

RTTY 18,132 (a new world record)

SSB 47,696

Congratulations to Paul, N6PSE and the DXpedition team for a superb DXpedition!

STØR Operation Approved for DXCC Credit

Subject: Operation approved for DXCC credit

From: "Moore, Bill, NC1L (ARRL Awards Branch)" <nc1l@arrl.org>

Date: Fri, August 5, 2011 2:04 pm

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit:

STØR - South Sudan

Current operation

73 es DX!

Bill Moore NC1L

ARRL DXCC Branch Manager

DXLab Update for Republic of South Sudan

Information for updating DXKeeper, SpotCollector and WinWarbler to recognize the Republic of South Sudan is available at <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/dxview/DXCC/DXCC-2.3.8.htm>. In addition to the database update, make sure that the programs themselves are up-to-date in the Config button of DXLab Launcher.

Membership Renewals Were Due On July 1

If you have not already done so, please remit your membership renewals. The easiest way is to use our Paypal link. Go to <http://www.ncdxc.org> and select the Membership button. Check or cash payments can be made at our September 15 meeting. Checks can be mailed to: Northern California DX Club, P.O. Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608.

Membership dues are \$24 per year. Dues for an additional family member are \$15 per year.

NCDXC Archives

During the last week of May, Dick, N6RC, delivered all of the boxes with the NCDXC archives to my QTH. As of the end of May I am now the custodian of the NCDXC archives; pictures, trophies, minutes to club meetings, and most interesting are the back issues of the DX'er. When they first arrived, I placed everything into new boxes, and clearly labeled them as property of the NCDXC. On June 4th I was admitted to Stanford Hospital for a kidney transplant operation, so my efforts with the archives has taken a back seat until recently.

I'm sure everyone has seen the terrific work that John, K6MM has put into the NCDXC web site and is aware of his efforts to place as many copies of the DX'er on line as possible. I am helping John by scanning all the DX'er from the archives, so they will be up on the web site in the near future. So far, I have 1948, 1949 and 1950 scanned and ready to go. You really must read some of the editorials from 1948 about operating habits back then. Likewise, for those of us who have been a member of the NCDXC for many, many years, it's great to read about some of the early DX'ers that we met when we first joined the NCDXC. Desktop publishing was a whole different system back then. However, they did include actual photographs in each issue showing a member and his station. I'm sure you will enjoy the early DX'ers when they are published on the web. There is also some fascinating history about DX and living in the Bay Area.

If you have anything of historical interest to the NCDXC and no longer wish to keep or store, please feel free to bring it to me so it can be placed in the archives. I'm sure there are pictures of members, their stations, the annual meeting in Fresno/ Visalia that can find a home in the archives. If you have such an item, I have special permission from my doctors to attend the picnic, and can pick up archive items this coming Saturday. Otherwise, feel free to contact me by e-mail so we can arrange a pickup. See you all at the picnic!

73,
Ross, K6GFJ

DX News From ARRL Headquarters - August 4, 2011

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MALTA, 9H. Walter, ON7PX is QRV as 9H3PW running QRP power until August 12. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N. Fernando, WP4FE is QRV as 9N1FE from Banepa while on work assignment in a mission hospital. He is active in his spare time, generally on 20 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

BOLIVIA, CP. Rene, DF9GR is QRV as CP6/DF9GR until August 20. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via bureau.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT3. John, IZ2DPX will be QRV as CT9/IZ2DPX from August 7 to 21. Activity will be on all HF bands, and possibly 6 meters. QSL to home call.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6. Jordi, EA3PT will be QRV as EA6/EA3PT from Menorca, IOTA EU-004, from August 8 to 21. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. He may be active mainly on 17 meters. QSL to home call.

DENMARK, OZ. Ric, DL2VFR will be QRV as OZ0FR/p from Aero, IOTA EU-172, from August 6 to 19. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW. He may also visit the Skjoldnes and Soby Havn Lighthouses for a few hours. QSL to home call.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been QRV on 20, 10 and 6 meters using SSB around 1800z each day. QSL to home call.

BENIN, TY. A group of operators will be QRV as TY1KS from August 6 to 15. Activity will be on all HF bands, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY with two stations active. QSL via IZ7KHR.

MEXICO, XE. Andrea, IZ2LSC will be QRV as XF3/IZ2LSC from Isla de Mujeres, IOTA NA-045, from August 9 to 15. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via bureau.

ANTARCTICA. Gerard, ZS6KX is QRV as ZS6KX/7 from the SANAE IV Base. Activity has been on 20 meters using SSB between 1400 and 1700z. QSL to home call.

NCDXC Members Only Area

In addition to the Membership Certificate, BoD Minutes and other items, the Members Only area contains the NCDXC Real Time Roster, which is very handy for contacting other club members.

When you select the button for the Members Only area, a popup will request your User name and Password. For the User name, enter your call sign in upper case. The password is the same as before. If you are a current member and have lost your password, email a request, and include your call sign, to Phil, W6PK (needpassword at ncdxc.org).

2010-2011 Northern California DX Club Officers:

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W6TI DX Bulletins:

ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 0200 UT every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

Pacifcon October 14-16, 2011

Marriott Santa Clara

2700 Mission College Boulevard

Santa Clara, CA 95054

www.pacifcon.org

About the DXer:

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(listadmin at ncdxc.org)

Database Admin: Phil Verinsky, W6PK

(needpassword at ncdxc.org)

Club address:

NCDXC

Box 608

Menlo Park, CA 94026-0608

Club URL: <http://www.ncdxc.org>

Club Repeater: W6TI/R

Frequency/offset: 147.360 Mhz +, pl 110.9

Trustee: Richard Crouch, N6RC

Control Operator: Richard Crouch, N6RC

Maintenance: Peter Grabosky, W6OOL

Club simplex: 147.54 MHz (suggested)

Thurs. Net OTR: 8 pm local time.

Net Manager: Russ Bentson, K6KLY

Electronics Flea Market

The next flea market is on Saturday, Aug 13.

www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule

See You At The August 13 Picnic!