



# The DXer

February 2012

**The Official Publication Of The Northern California DX Club**



Students in Ethiopia Taking Amateur Exams  
Story on Page 3

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

“Software Defined Radios”  
by Stu Phillips, K6TU

Thursday February 16

**New Earlier Meeting Time**

5:30pm - 7:00pm Dinner/Social

7:00pm Club Meeting

at Holder's Country Inn

998 S. De Anza Boulevard

San Jose, CA

### **Raffle Prizes**

LDG AT-600Pro Memory Tuner

Alpha Delta 4B Antenna Switch

MFJ 24 Hour Quartz Wall Clock

MFJ Clear Tone Speaker

### **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.

## **President's Letter**

**By Russ Bentson, K6KLY**

### **Russ's Short Path**

It's February and time for the ARRL DX CW contest on the 18th & 19th. This has always been a productive contest getting new band countries in the logs. Also on February 25th & 26th is the CQWW 160 phone contest. This one is not a big producer of new countries unless you are just getting on 160. Next is the ARRL DX SSB contest on March 3rd & 4th. This one is also a big producer of contacts for US operators. With the sun spots up this should be real fun for phone operators.

I would like to invite all members to check out our new DX spotting reflector. Go to the club web site, the members only tab, then the spotting reflector. This reflector is only for club members, and does not connect to any other reflector. In this way our members can get a head start on chasing DX stations being heard in Northern California before the big reflectors get the spots. Phil W6PK put this together in response to member requests I received. Thank you Phil.

Russ's tip of the month: If you are on 160 meters, and having interference from AM radio stations, including a raised noise floor, try a filter from ICE "Industrial Communications Engineers" model 402X. This filter is rated at 300 watts, so you install

*(continues on page 3)*

# MARCH IS ICOM MONTH AT HRO



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### IC-9100 The All-Round Transceiver

- HF/50MHz 144/430 (440) MHz and 1200MHz\*<sup>3</sup> coverage • 100W on HF/50/144MHz, 75W on 430 (440) MHz, 10W on 1200MHz\*<sup>3</sup> • Double superheterodyne with image rejection mixer



### IC-7800 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 200W • Four 32 bit IF-DSPs+ 24 bit AD/DA converters • Two completely independent receivers • +40dBm 3rd order intercept point



### IC-PW1 HF + 6M Amplifier

- 1.8-24MHz + 6M Amp • 1KW amplifier • 100% duty cycle • Compact body • Detachable controller • Automatic antenna tuner

### IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM
- 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display



### IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



### IC-7200 HF Transceiver

- 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP
- AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control

DSP INSTALLED included with your purchase



### IC-718 HF Transceiver

- 160-10M\* @ 100W • 12V operation • Simple to use • CW Keyer Built-in • One touch band switching
- Direct frequency input • VOX Built-in • Band stacking register • IF shift • 101 memories



### IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS)
- CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/ tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

D-STAR READY



### IC-2820H Dual Band FM Transceiver

- D-STAR & GPS upgradeable 2M/70CM • 50/15/5W RF output levels • RX: 118-173.995, 375-549.995, 810-999.99 MHz\*\* • Analog/digital voice with GPS (optional UT-123) • 500 alphanumeric memories



### IC-7700 Transceiver. The Contesters Rig

- HF + 6m operation • +40dBm ultra high intercept point • IF DSP, user defined filters • 200W output power full duty cycle • Digital voice recorder



### IC-2300H VHF FM Transceiver

- 65W RF Output Power • 4.5W Audio Output • MIL-STD 810 G Specifications • 207 alphanumeric Memory Channels • Built-in CTCSS/DTCS Encode/Decode • DMS

D-STAR READY



### IC-92AD Analog + Digital Dual Bander

- 2M/70CM @ 5W • Wide-band RX 495 kHz - 999.9 MHz\*\* • 1304 alphanumeric memories • Dualwatch capability • IPX7 Submersible\*\*\* • Optional GPS speaker Mic HM-175GPS

### IC-880H D-STAR

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver



### IC-V80 2M Handheld Transceiver

- 2M @ 5.5W • Loud BTL audio output
- Military rugged • Classic 2M operation



### IC-80AD D-STAR

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation

D-STAR READY



### IC-31A UHF Digital Transceiver

- 5W Output Power • FM Analog Voice or D-STAR DV Mode • Built-in GPS Receiver • IPX7 Submersible • 1,252 Alphanumeric Memory Channels



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it between the radio and the amplifier. This filter reduces all signals below 1.7 mhz and passes all signals above 1.8 mhz and below 30 mhz. Check it out on the ICE web site or see their ad in QST.

Our next club meeting will be February 16th at Holders in Cupertino on DeAnza Blvd. I want to remind every one to get on the Web site in the members only section and vote for the DXpedition of the year. Please vote by February 20th. Also N6SJ is taking nominations for Member of the year, and DXer of the year. You can Email him at [n6sj@earthlink.net](mailto:n6sj@earthlink.net) . These awards will be given out at Visalia.

Lastly, it's time to get your reservations in for Visalia. Check it out at [www.dxconvention.org](http://www.dxconvention.org). This year it will be on April 20th, 21st, & 22nd.

On Friday the 20th there will be a DX University. If you are new to DXing and have not been DXing for at least one solar cycle, this set of classes will help you and is worth the extra money. Check it out at [www.dxuniversity.com](http://www.dxuniversity.com) .

73s  
Russ, K6KLY



**Intrepid-DX Group-Youth Development in Ethiopia**  
**By Paul Ewing, N6PSE**

Our most recent Amateur Radio Youth Development/DXpedition activity has just concluded from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia here in December 2011.

Following our August, 2011 DXpedition to Juba, South Sudan as the STOR, team member David-K3LP made a visit to Sid May-ET3SID in nearby Addis Ababa. While visiting Sid, David learned

of the need for Amateur Radio Youth Development in Ethiopia. Sid had been able to set up an amateur radio club station at Addis Ababa University; however there was not a means within Ethiopia for the University students to get their license and to become active from the club station.

David learned that the Ethiopia process for testing and approving new licenses made it virtually impossible for Ethiopian's to obtain a license from their country. He did learn however, that there is a reciprocal licensing process for holders of foreign licenses to become licensed in Ethiopia if they also have a Residence Permit. When David returned home from Ethiopia, he set about forming a team of Volunteer Examiners (VE) of which I was included. David brought his team of Al Hernandez-K3VN, Bill Beyer-N2WB and I, to Addis Ababa in December, 2011.

The plan was to test and certify the University students, to fix/repair aspects of the stations at ET3AA/ET3SID and to operate as much as possible in our spare time from the University station-ET3AA and from ET3SID at Sid's home. We did not seek publicity or donations for this effort because we were unsure how effective we could be or how much time we could devote to operating from Ethiopia. Our primary goal would be to get the students tested and on the air.

In the weeks before our arrival, David-K3LP had worked with Sid May-ET3SID to prepare 62 students of the Addis Ababa University to sit for the US Technician, General and Extra Amateur exams, which we administered each morning during our visit. Of the 62 students tested, five of them earned their Extra Class license, 36 earned their General Class licenses and 16 earned their Technician Class licenses. Only five of the tested students failed to earn a license. A total of 163 exams were taken on December 10, 11 and 12, 2011.



Students Taking Their Tech Exams



Students Taking General and Extra Exams

The five Extra Class license holders, including Sid-ET3SID and one General Class License were prepared by David in late December to become Volunteer Examiners (VE) so that a long legacy of Amateur Radio can continue at Addis Ababa University. As of January 18, 2012, each of the six (Sidney T. May- AB3OZ, Hailemeleket Negussie - AB3OX, Brook G. Yohannes - AB3OY, Nigussu Solomon - AB3PB, Shiferaw Yinessu - AB3PA and Dagmawit Solomon - KB3WWY) have been approved as ARRL VE's.

As of today, David is working with Sid to prepare initially, the five students License and Residence application forms required by the The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - Ministry of Communication Information Technology. David has agreed to pay the application fees for each student.

In addition to arranging for the testing and licensing of the students, David agreed to pay all license fees associated, which will be approximately \$1000 USD with Federal Express fees plus a 60% import tax on the electronic equipment. David has also donated about \$4000 USD in equipment and supplies to the ET3AA Addis Ababa Club Station, including a new Toshiba laptop computer for logging, an Ameritron amplifier, Heil headset, low band antennas, ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook and Antenna Handbook, suit case full of new tools, 1000' RG-8X new coax cable, connectors, two WinKeyer USB, MFJ Power/SWR Meter, Bencher Key, fuses, three 30 amp switching power supplies, etc..

We were joined in Ethiopia by Darko-J28AA, Igor-UY5LW and Yaroslav-UW7LL who would all be quite active on CW from the ET3AA station. Before our departure to Ethiopia, Sid informed us that some repairs were needed at both the ET3SID and ET3AA stations. Both stations had amplifiers, however they were not working. Environmental noise is a big problem in Ethiopia and we would need to take steps to help solve the noise problem. We worked on the amplifier at ET3SID but we were unable to get this amp operational, thus we operated with 100 watts and only in SSB mode. The pileups were surprisingly large. We worked Europe in the afternoon and early evenings and we enjoyed working the USA throughout the night. The noise level decreased dramatically about 2:00 AM our time and we found that was the best time to work across North America. The ET3AA station is located on top of the Engineering building at the University campus. Its main antenna is a large log-periodic that was recently removed from the old US Embassy in Addis Ababa. From this location, we were able to operate CW/SSB and we found the noise situation to be much less of a problem. We also installed antennas for the low bands, however the night time S9 noise situation at the University made the low bands rather poor.

We enjoyed spending time with the University students who enjoyed watching us operate from their club station. As soon as the University students passed their US license exam, they were then able to operate from the ET3AA station and they did so with great enthusiasm and much delight!

We really enjoyed doing Amateur Radio Youth Development in Ethiopia. We are very grateful to Sid-ET3SID for giving us this opportunity to help him maintain a legacy of amateur radio in Ethiopia. I personally am very grateful to David-K3LP for organizing this effort and for his generosity in giving his time and donations to the students at the University of Addis Ababa.

Paul S. Ewing-N6PSE



Antennas at ET3AA



N6PSE Operates As ET3AA



ET3AA Club Members Watch As ET3SID-Sid  
Receives an Award From K3LP



Proud VE Team

## **DXpedition of the Year Award**

To NCDXC Members:

NCDXC has created a new annual DXpedition of the Year award. We have reviewed all of the DXpeditions for 2011 based on a criteria of how successful they were in working NCDXC members. You can vote on-line for your choice as DXpedition of the Year. Please vote for only one DXpedition. Voting closes on February 20th, 2012. This award will be made at the IDXC in Visalia in April, 2012.

Please vote at the Members Only page at [www.ncdxc.org](http://www.ncdxc.org). If you need your members only area password, please send an email to [needpassword@ncdxc.org](mailto:needpassword@ncdxc.org).

Thank you-

Russ Bentson-K6KLY

President, NCDXC

## **Nominations Open for Club Member of the Year and DXer of the Year**

To NCDXC Members:

Nominations are now open for NCDXC Club Member of the Year and NCDXC DXer of the Year. This year we have split the previous Club Member of the Year award into two awards. DXer of the Year will recognize a member who has made significant DX operating achievements in 2011. Club Member of the Year will recognize a member who has provided significant service in support of our club. These two awards will be presented at the International DX Convention in Visalia at the Saturday Banquet on April 21st.

Please submit your nominations by March 1st to awards committee chairman N6SJ either via USPS or email:

Steve Jones  
2100 Bear Gulch Rd.  
Woodside, CA 94062

or [n6sj@earthlink.net](mailto:n6sj@earthlink.net)

There are a lot of deserving NCDXC members out there, so send your nominations in now!

### **NCDXC DX Cluster**

NCDXC Has A New DX Cluster for Members Only. Spots to this cluster are sent only to NCDXC members, not to other clusters. This is a good way for members to help each other work DX! For more information see the members-only page at [www.ncdxc.org](http://www.ncdxc.org) . For assistance please send email to [sysop at ncdxc.org](mailto:sysop@ncdxc.org) .

Thank you to Ross, K6GFJ, Mike, K6MKF and others for testing and advice!

## HKONA Leaderboard NCDXC League

1	K5RIM	22	21	N3RC	6
2	W6NWS	22	22	W6OP0	5
3	K5AMP	22	23	K5DY	5
4	K5TA	21	24	W6BSY	5
5	K5MM	21	25	W6EB	4
6	K5K0	19	26	NE5EE	4
7	K5XM	19	27	W6PK	4
8	KC5AUX	17	28	N6NU	3
9	N7NG	16	29	K5ML	3
10	K9YC	15	30	W6WZ	3
11	W6CYX	12	31	A65RR	2
12	K2RD	12	32	W00FAA	2
13	W60AT	11	33	K5TT	2
14	K5MKF	10	34	W65ABC	2
15	W6RK	9	35	K5PU	1
16	W6DR	9	36	K5KAY	1
17	N5BM	7	37	N6NET	1
18	K53IK	7	38	W6BX	1
19	KX6C	6			
20	K5KLY	6			

## NCDXC DX Ladder

February 13, 2012

Entities Have Been Confirmed With LOTW-QSL or QSL Cards  
Current and Deleted Entities Are Included

Call Sign	DXCCs	Slots	160m	80m	60m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m
K6TA	377	2826	210	301	1	340	299	374	321	350	295	330	3
W6OAT	372	2642	129	289	0	337	253	363	310	355	271	332	3
K6RIM	366	1895	20	139	0	249	208	355	220	284	185	228	7
K6ANP	364	1389	59	165	0	225	68	336	65	242	30	196	3
N6JV	360	2860	190	267	0	324	321	357	330	348	310	329	84
AJ6V	354	1281	16	120	0	156	2	288	6	205	1	165	0
W6CYX	351	1479	103	165	0	198	105	258	103	220	110	217	0
W6KM	350	-	0	65	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0
K6KLY	348	2251	89	175	0	276	227	334	267	248	218	316	101
KC6AWX	348	2070	22	125	0	258	216	344	289	308	221	280	7
W6EKR	348	1509	0	123	0	146	0	338	211	316	141	234	0
W6NWS	343	1908	142	198	0	290	122	330	162	293	94	277	0
N7TW	340	1046	0	131	0	98	4	328	20	226	6	232	0
K6KO	335	1825	127	203	0	258	212	294	202	210	127	190	0
N6RC	332	848	1	115	0	161	4	257	7	160	1	142	0
N3RC	330	1597	45	135	1	187	128	297	184	271	104	240	3
K6MM	316	1351	35	106	0	187	116	295	151	212	98	143	6
K2RD	300	1347	63	130	0	197	44	274	96	232	88	217	4
N6NU	297	990	18	96	0	164	83	219	83	173	39	109	2
W6EKR/M	297	613	0	5	0	4	0	196	61	230	13	104	0
W6DR	282	911	63	77	0	107	33	243	38	185	11	148	4
K9YC	276	1456	111	167	1	210	126	238	140	180	123	150	9
W6RK	264	916	16	72	0	173	99	219	80	142	15	97	1
NE5EE	238	528	0	8	1	27	0	187	82	127	43	53	0
W6OPO	234	518	1	11	0	70	8	194	32	120	7	74	0
N6BM	230	562	0	16	0	47	11	174	87	155	17	55	0
W6PK	216	366	0	9	0	35	0	176	5	94	0	47	0
K6MKF	215	492	1	5	0	18	2	131	42	129	39	122	2
AE6RR	213	545	3	32	0	53	19	181	59	110	19	65	2
K6ML	157	241	0	2	0	13	4	52	30	99	16	20	3
WT6X	131	323	1	24	0	62	15	100	50	30	16	23	1
N6NKT	108	180	0	4	0	18	2	70	12	43	5	23	2
WD0FAA	98	156	4	4	0	35	3	33	2	53	1	17	2

### How To Update Your DX Ladder Numbers

- **Entries in the ClubLog NCDXC DXCC League** are imported into DX Ladder if member is registered at <http://www.clublog.org> and member log is uploaded.

- **Members who prefer not to register at ClubLog** can email DXCC, slot and band counts to dxer at ncdxc.org (slot and band information is optional). Data should be updated at least once per year. Please begin with DXCC data, followed by slots, 160m, ... and end with 6m, and separate each count with a tab.
- Current and deleted entities, confirmed by LOTW-QSL or QSL cards, are counted.

#### **ClubLog Hint**

- Question: I joined the NCDXC League in ClubLog and uploaded my log. I can see the QSOs in my account, but they do not show up in DX Ladder.  
Answer: Try going to the Settings page in Clublog and then select the Callsigns tab. The "Show in leagues?" option should be set to Yes.

### **ARRL & CQ Sign Agreement to Provide ARRL's Logbook of The World Support for CQ's Awards**

(Hicksville, NY and Newington, CT - Jan. 24, 2012) – CQ Communications, Inc. (CQ) and ARRL – the national association for Amateur Radio, have signed an agreement to begin providing support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic confirmation system.. The agreement was announced jointly today by ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, and CQ Communications President Richard Ross, K2MGA.

CQ's awards will be the first non-ARRL awards supported by LoTW and will be phased in, beginning with the CQ WPX award. Additional CQ awards will follow. The ARRL's LoTW system, an interactive database recording contacts between radio amateurs was created in 2003 and has been adopted by 47,500 radio "hams" worldwide. It already has records of 400 million contacts and grows weekly. The target date for beginning LoTW support for WPX is April 1, 2012. Amateurs will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard LoTW credit fees and CQ award fees will apply.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that this step gives radio amateurs throughout the world an inexpensive and convenient means of gaining credits toward CQ's popular operating awards. "LoTW has significantly increased interest and participation in the ARRL's DXCC, Worked All States and VUCC awards programs. We anticipate a similarly positive response to the addition of the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to spend more time operating and less time chasing QSL cards."

CQ President Richard Ross, K2MGA, said he is very pleased to be able to move forward with Logbook support for CQ awards. "We have had excellent results with electronic confirmations for several years," he said, "and I am glad that we are now able to begin expanding that convenience to those participants in our award programs who use Logbook of the World. We look forward to a smooth launch for WPX, and to the expansion of LoTW support to include the rest of our award programs as well."

ARRL ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) is the national association for Amateur Radio in the United States and publisher of its membership journal QST. CQ Communications, Inc. ([www.cqcomm.com](http://www.cqcomm.com)) is publisher of CQ Amateur Radio and several other magazines. There are currently over 700,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the USA and approximately 2.5 million worldwide.

# Meeting Notes of January 19, 2012 NCDXC Regular Club Meeting

Called to order at 7:00 PM

## **Members present:**

K6KLY, N6PSE, N6SJ, K6GFJ, W6EB, K6MM (ex-Officio), W6OPO, K6YP, AE6RR, W6OOL

## **Votes Taken/Motions made during Regular Meeting:**

None

## **New Club Members:**

None

## **Announcements:**

The regular meeting social hour will now start at 5:30PM. Holder's has agreed to this.

K6MM/K6TD will once again Co-chair the 2013 IDXC convention in Visalia.

DXpedition of the Year survey is now active on the website.

Nominations are being taken for Club Member of the Year, and DXer of the Year.

Phil-W6PK needs articles for the DXer.

## **Regular Business**

N6BV gave a presentation on HF Propagation

**Question of the Night:** How many of you-by show of hands keep our logs in a computer? By show of hands most members at the meeting do use computer logging.

## **Review of Action Items**

1. None

1. .

## **Adjournment**

1. The club meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

## Propagation de K7RA

ZCZC AP06

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 6 ARLP006

From Tad Cook, K7RA

Seattle, WA February 10, 2012

To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP006

ARLP001 Propagation de K7RA

Solar activity was down again this week. In fact this is the third consecutive week in which sunspot numbers were lower than the prior week. In Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP003 we reported an average daily sunspot number of 116.9 for January 12-18, 98.7 the next week, followed by 62 last week and now 40.4 during the latest period. The solar flux forecast - which roughly tracks sunspot numbers; we don't have access to any short term sunspot number forecast - has also been lowered steadily over recent weeks.

On Tuesday, February 7 the daily sunspot number was 24, the lowest since mid-August 2011, when it was 0 and 13 on August 14-15.

Looking at the lower frame on the Solar Data Plotting Utility from WA4TTK (see <http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.asp> for a copy), it appears that we are down from a peak of activity late last year. You can see the same trend at <http://wm7d.net/hamradio/solar/> toward the middle of the page, on the graph showing sunspot and flux values over the past year.

In mid-January the solar flux forecast for February 17-21 was 165, which was important because the ARRL International CW DX Contest is on February 18-19. More sunspots and higher solar flux would mean higher usable frequencies, increasing the chance that 10 and 15 meters would give good results.

By January 24 the prediction was down to flux values of 155 on February 11-13, 150 on February 14-19 and 145 on February 20-23.

Then on February 4 the forecast went down again, with predicted flux at 125, 130 and 155 on February 11-13, 150 on February 14-19, and 145 on February 20-23. The next day the forecast said 125 on February 11, 130 on February 12-13, with the rest of the forecast unchanged from a day earlier. Two days later on February 7 was another downward revision, with flux of 100, 105, 110 and 115 on February 11-14, and 110 on February 15-24.

A day later on February 8 it changed again, with solar flux at 100 on February 9-11, 105 on February 12, and 110 on February 13-24. The latest forecast (February 9) is revised upward, with solar flux of 105 and 115 on February 10-11, 120 on February 12-13, 125 on February 14, 130 on February 15-16, 120 on February 17 and 110 on February 18-24.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on February 10, 5 on February 11, 8 on February 12-13, 5 on February 14-22, 8 on February 23, and 5 on February 24 through March 1.

Jon Jones, N0JK of Wichita, Kansas reports a couple of 6 meter spots. On February 8 he heard XE2O/b (EL05) for over 2 hours, from 2330 UTC to after 0130 UTC on 50.068 MHz on E-skip. He also had E-skip to Texas and Arizona.

Stations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area (W5LUA, WD5K, WU0R, etc) worked FK8CP (New Caledonia, in the South Pacific) on 6 meters around 0200 UTC February 9 via a trans-equatorial E-skip link.

Last week Jon reported hearing the C6AFP beacon (Bahamas) on 50.04 MHz on January 30 around 1700 UTC.

Russ Mickiewicz, N7QR of Portland, Oregon sent a link to an article in IEEE Spectrum about risks to power grids from solar storms. Read it at <http://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/>. Look for the [the-smarter-grid/a-perfect-storm-of-planetary-proportions/0](#) link.

Randy Crews, W7TJ of Spokane, Washington has an observation about recent solar conditions: "This bottom is the longest I can remember since I was licensed in 1964. Usually we have about 12 months of very low activity and the solar flux punches up over 100 in about 12-15 months from the cycle bottom. This time it took two-and-a-half years, from the August 2008 low until February 14 2011. This time last year the solar flux had not yet crossed 100. February 14 was the real breakout, as chartists would say. Past solar cycles have bottomed with a sunspot number of about 10-12. The sunspot number at the bottom of the past cycle was approximately 1.5! It's been a long, long dry spell for the higher bands. Looking forward to the 150 values!"

Randy also notes, "Of all the winter months, February conditions are unique. February is a combination for winter and spring propagation, with increases in daylight of 3 minutes per day (at 49 degrees N. Latitude) and still having very low D Layer absorption. Daylight is approximately 10 hours in duration, and the grayline paths are almost a carbon copy of those in October. Propagation will change

almost daily as spring approaches. It is an excellent time of the year to DX or Contest.”

Don't miss the excellent and thought provoking article about propagation in the March 2012 issue of QST, “Three Wrong Assumptions About the Ionosphere,” by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ. Eric reminds us that the ionosphere is not spherical or smooth, and he explains how propagation through it is not reciprocal, or the same coming back as it is going out.

And finally, the headline on the AP wire article read “Plane Crash Held Caused by Sun Spots. Ghost Wave Blamed for Disaster.” But the date was December 1938, the peak of sunspot Cycle 17. Read it at <http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=2TVPAAAAIBAJsjid=U00DAAAAIBAjpg=6339,4097417dq=sunspothl=en>.

If you look at the 20th century solar data at <http://wm7d.net/hamradio/solar/historical.shtml>, you can spot the peak of Cycle 17, two before the big one, Cycle 19, in the late 1950s.

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

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page 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://myplace.frontier.com/~k9la/>.

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 February 2 through 8 were 85, 39, 43, 37, 27, 24, and 28, with a mean of 40.4. 10.7 cm flux was 118, 111.1, 107, 102.7, 112, 107.2, and 97.2, with a mean of 107.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 6, 6, 6, 4, 12, and 10, with a mean of 6.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 4, 7, 6, 5, 10, and 9, with a mean of 6.3.

NNNN  
/EX

## **DX News From ARRL Headquarters - February 9, 2012**

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

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Erich, OE4AAC will be QRV as 3B9/OE4AAC from February 14 to 21. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using only CW. QSL to home call.

TOGO, 5V. Franco, I1FQH is QRV as 5V7V from Kpalime Village until February 17. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

BHUTAN, A5. Iain, G4SGX will be QRV as A52JF from February 11 to 15. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL direct to home call.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators Drew, N2RFA, Gene, K2KJI and Ivars, KC4PX will be QRV as C6ABB, C6ALC and C6APX, respectively, from Cable Beach on New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, from February 13 to 23. Activity will be on 80, 20, 15, 12 and 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31 and JT65. QSL direct to home calls.

MOROCCO, CN. Members of IARU Society Association Royale des Radio-Amateurs du Maroc are QRV with special callsign 5C2P until February 14. This includes being an entry in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest. QSL via IK2PZC.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. John, N5JB will be QRV as E51NJB from February 13 to 21. Activity will be in the HF bands using mostly CW. This includes being a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON, FP. Al, W6HGF is QRV as FP/W6HGF from Miquelon, IOTA NA-032, until February 20. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. This includes being an entry in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest and the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Sigi, DK9FN and Peter, DG1FK will be QRV as H40FN and H40FK, respectively, from Nendo, IOTA OC-100, from February 11 to 24. Activity will be on CW and various digital modes, respectively. QSL H40FN via HA8DD and H40FK via DG1FK.

SVALBARD, JW. Torkel, LA6VJA will be QRV as JW6VJA from Spitsbergen, IOTA EU-026, on February 11 on the low bands. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Soso, JA4JWD will be QRV as KH0/JA4JWD from

February 12 to 16. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using SSB, digital modes and some CW. QSL to home call.

BRAZIL, PY. A group of operators will be QRV as PX7C from Itamaraca Island, IOTA SA-046, in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via PY7CRA.

MOUTH ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been active using RTTY on 15 meters between 1400 and 1600z. QSL to home call.

PALAU, T8. Takeshi, JH1WGP is QRV as T88WG from Koror Island, IOTA OC-099, until February 15. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL to home call.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, XW0ZJZ plans to be QRV in the CQ WW WPX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry from Vientiane. Before the contest he will be active on a few HF bands. he is here until February 20. QSL via E21EIC.

### **K6TS - SK**

K6TS, Thomas F. Jones, an ardent CW operator and former member of FOC, the First Class CW Operators Club, has become a silent key. W6IJ (K6FOC), Tommy Farr, says Tom was a career Navy man and worked for the Sandia Lab in Livermore, California and adds he “was a very pleasant fellow, with an easy smile, who enjoyed a full life,” including loving children and loving wife, Modene. They were married 67 years and 7 months. “He had friends around the world.” Thomas died Saturday, January 21, after a long fight with emphysema. He had been more or less bedridden since early November. There was a family- only graveside service.

*From the DailyDX*

### **WorldRadio Founder Armond Noble, N6WR - SK**

Armond Noble, N6WR, the founder and publisher of WorldRadio magazine became a silent key on February 1 in Sacramento, California.

# Announcing: DX University

First Session: The Holiday Inn, Visalia, California  
Friday 20 April, 2012

## Press Release Nr 1

For Immediate Release

Enhance your DXing adventure! At last, here is your opportunity to directly benefit from the skills and experience of some of the world's best-known DXers.

We all know about the wonderful success of Contest University (CTU), developed in recent years by K3LR and others, and rolled out internationally. Over 1,000 contesters have attended. DX University (DXU) is the twin, providing high-caliber offerings for beginning and experienced DXers alike.

The all-day program will take place on the Friday of Visalia weekend, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Among the lecturers are AA7A, G3SXW, K4UEE, K9LA, N7NG, W3UR, W6OAT, W9KNI and XE1KK, many of whom are inductees of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Learn the secrets of operating techniques for working DX, optimizing stations & antennas for DXing, about propagation, information sources, awards, and ethics, remote operating, QSLing and much more. You will also get the DXpeditioner's view of how DXers should operate to get into the log.

Student places are limited. The early registration fee is only \$50, including lunch and breaks. Sign up beginning January 2, 2012 at:

[www.dxuniversity.com](http://www.dxuniversity.com)

Further information from Wayne Mills, [N7NG@arrl.net](mailto:N7NG@arrl.net) or Roger Western, [G3SXW@btinternet.com](mailto:G3SXW@btinternet.com)

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# ELECRAFT

## *DX University*

*International DX Convention  
Visalia, California - April 20 2012*



# ***IARU E-LETTER***

*The International Amateur Radio Union*  
**IARU Electronic Newsletter**  
**January 2012**

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## **In this Issue:**

### **Special WRC Report Number One**

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The International Telecommunication Union (“ITU”) World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12) started 23 January 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the “big show” for spectrum allocation matters and a very important meeting if you are an amateur radio operator anywhere in the world. Every 4 or 5 years a WRC takes place. The last one was in 2007. Approximately 3,000 people will attend WRC-12. These are government officials, telecommunication industry people and others, like the IARU, who have an interest in the use of the radio spectrum. The agenda items discussed during WRC-12 were established at the previous WRC in 2007. In the past 4.5 years there have been many committee meetings within the ITU to try to arrive at solutions that will satisfy each of the agenda items. In the case of some of the agenda items, several possible methods to satisfy the agenda item have been identified. It is up to the WRC to select the most appropriate method to satisfy the agenda item, that is, to arrive at an worldwide solution to the issue presented in the agenda item.

There are a number of agenda items for WRC-12 that have some impact on amateur radio, immediately or sometime in the future. Each of the agenda items is assigned to a committee and also sub-working groups. Within each of these sub-working groups the agenda items are discussed in detail, the proposals from regional telecommunication organizations are analyzed, and the discussion proceeds toward developing a consensus on the agenda item. It seems to the casual observer to be a slow, tedious process but it works quite well in developing consensus, assuming the parties are at least a little bit flexible in their views.

**AI 1.23.** The agenda item that has been discussed widely within the amateur community over the last 5 years is agenda item AI 1.23. In 2007, the agenda item was stated as follows: “to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.” There are a number of suggested ways to satisfy this agenda item that are being discussed at the WRC: 1. A secondary allocation of up to 15 kHz to the ARS on a worldwide basis between 472 kHz and 487 kHz. 2. Two non-contiguous worldwide secondary allocations to the ARS at 461-469 kHz and 471-478 kHz, totalling 15 kHz. 3. A CEPT proposal for a worldwide secondary allocation of 8 KHz from 472 to 480 kHz. 4. No change.

It appears from the first several days of committee meetings that many of the member states attending the WRC are in favor of granting the amateur radio service an allocation but the details remain to be established. The member states that are in favor of No Change (NOC) have stated that they are primarily concerned with possible interference to Non Direction Beacons that currently operate in the spectrum under consideration. It is still early in the process to determine if the amateur service will succeed in gaining an allocation in this portion of the spectrum.

**AI 1.10.** This agenda item is as follows: “to examine the frequency allocation requirements with regard to operation of safety systems for ships and ports and associated regulatory provisions, in accordance with Resolution 357 (WRC-07).” This agenda item might have impacted the IARU goal of achieving a secondary allocation under AI 1.23. However, with the dropping of the AI 1.23 Method for an amateur allocation between 493 and 510 kHz, there should no longer be a conflict between maritime service objectives for AI 1.10 and amateur service objectives for AI 1.23.

**AI 1.15.** This agenda item is as follows: “to consider possible allocations in the range 3-50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications, taking into account the results of ITU-R studies, in accordance with Resolution 612 .” ITU committee meetings leading up to WRC-12 have identified the following bands to be studied under this Agenda Item: 3.5 – 5.5 MHz, 8 – 10 MHz, 12 – 14 MHz, 24 – 30 MHz, 39 – 45 MHz. These have been refined to particular candidate sub-bands including 5.060-5.450 MHz, 13.870-14.000 MHz, 24.000-24.890 MHz and 29.700-30.000 MHz. The IARU position is that oceanographic radar applications are incompatible with the amateur and amateur satellite services in the range 3 to 50 MHz and should not be allocated in bands already allocated to the amateur and amateur satellite service, including 5.250-5.450 MHz in which a growing number of administrations are providing for some access by amateurs on a domestic basis.

**Footnotes.** At each WRC, there is an agenda item that deals with footnotes contained within the Radio Regulations. Generally, this is a situation where an administration (a country) has “opted out” of the decision of a WRC and therefore creates an exception to the table of frequencies in the Radio Regulations. For example, a country may say that it will not use a certain service in a portion of the spectrum that has been designated for that service by the WRC. Therefore, a footnote is created in the Radio Regulations for that portion of the spectrum indicating a designated use is not available in that country even though it may be available in many other

parts of the world. There are a number of examples of footnotes that relate to amateur radio. One of IARU's tasks during each WRC is to try to get administrations to remove their country's name from footnotes that prevent amateurs in that country from using spectrum that is available for amateur radio usage in other countries.

There are other agenda items which the IARU has determined to be a low threat to the amateur radio and the amateur-satellite services but those items will be closely watched by the IARU Team at the WRC-12 to make sure they do not negatively impact amateur radio.

WRC-12 started on Monday, 23 January and will conclude on Friday, 17 February. During this four week period, as the working groups and sub-working groups go through the agenda items I will report any significant developments in subsequent electronic newsletters.

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### **Distribution Of This E-Letter**

This electronic newsletter is sent to many IARU member-societies headquarters around the world. Individual amateurs should encourage their IARU national society to forward the newsletter to its own members. The newsletter can also be read and downloaded from the IARU web site at [www.iau.org](http://www.iau.org).

If you are an ARRL member, you can subscribe to this E-Letter directly on the ARRL web site. When you log into the ARRL web site, go to the page where you can edit your profile and choose the electronic newsletter options that are available.

If you have any information that would be appropriate to publish in this electronic newsletter, please contact me at [w6rod@iaru.org](mailto:w6rod@iaru.org).

Rod Stafford W6ROD  
IARU Secretary

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## **Upcoming Meetings:**

March 15: "3D2R Rotuma 2011 DXpedition"  
by Paul Ewing, N6PSE.

April: No meeting due to Visalia IDXC.

May 17: "Strategies for Successful QSLing"  
by John Eisenberg, K6YP.

June 21: "RTTY DXing" by Ed Muns, W0YK.

## **Fill Out Your QSL Cards For The Buro**

Dick Letrich, W6KM collects members' QSL cards at the meetings for the Buro. A copy of proof of current ARRL membership is needed. NCDXC pays the ARRL fees and shipping costs.

## **Articles Needed!**

Articles help to make the DXer interesting. Please consider contributing an article, be it short or long. Plain text or your favorite word processor are fine. Send to the editor (dxe at ncdxc.org).

## **About the DXer:**

The DXer is published monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

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## **2011-2012 Northern California DX Club Officers:**

President: Russ Bentson, K6KLY

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Email List Postmaster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
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Club DX Cluster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
(sysop at ncdxc.org)

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

**See You At The February 16 Meeting!**