



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



May
2006
Issue 408

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3830+/-

Our Next Meeting

NCCC Annual Plan, by N6BV

K7C DXpedition, by AD6E, K6SRZ & NI6T

Date: Monday, 8 May 2006

Time: 6:00pm schmooze, 6:30pm dinner, 7:00pm program

Location: Chevy's Fresh Mex, 979-A Edgewater Blvd.,
Foster City CA 94404 (650) 572-8441

Dinner: Chevys famous fajitas are served fresh off the grill, sizzling hot with roasted veggies. Fajita steak or chicken served with sour cream, fresh pico de gallo salsa, and warm, soft flour tortillas. \$20 via RSVP with PayPal preferred, otherwise cash or check at the door. Please RSVP to [W0YK](mailto:w0yk) by Sunday, 7 May.

NCCC Officers

President: Dean Straw, N6BV

Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Carney, K6EU

Directors

Past President: Mike Heideman, N7MH

Director: Jeff Stai, WK6I

Director: Ed Schuller, K6CTA

Director: Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ

Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Webmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK w0yk@msn.com

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com

Musings from the President

By Dean Straw, N6BV

You've probably watched how a duck moves rhythmically across a pond. His head gently bobs up and down as he glides gracefully across the water, a delicate ripple trailing behind him. Such a peaceful picture, isn't it?

Now, consider the scene below the waterline. That bird is paddling like crazy to make any headway at all against the wind. Serene?

That image reminds me of NCCC -- It all seems pretty serene right now, on the surface anyway. After all, we're in a "resting" mode right now. We've gone through the insanely busy craziness of the fall contest season. We've just elected a new slate of officers and directors to carry on the proud traditions at NCCC. I thank you for your faith in selecting me to be your president for 2006.

We should be proud of our accomplishments as a club last year. We sponsored the 40th running of the California QSO Party, the biggest and most successful state QSO party of them all, by far.

And we can hold our collective heads up high from the results of the main contest we chose to dominate as a club -- the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

We soundly thrashed some strong, determined and talented contest clubs in the 2005 SS. In fact, we've now won the Unlimited Club competition for three consecutive years: 2003, 2004 and 2005, thanks to strong leadership and the all-out dedication of the members of this club. That precious 2005 SS gavel should soon be making

its way to Northern California again from Newington.

We also made some very respectable scores in smaller contests, when enthusiastic individuals rose up to organize teams that flew under the NCCC banner.

Yet recent history tells us that we must not become complacent and rest on our contesting laurels. We got fat and happy in the early years of the new millennium, and then SMC took us to the cleaners in the SS. And despite our best efforts (admittedly in a declining portion of Solar Cycle 23), SMC still holds the SS record for total club points. PVRC is now gunning for the SS gavel, and rumor has it that an even larger club is sniffing around for another contest to conquer.

So your newly elected officers and the members of the Board of Directors are busy behind the scenes. Those little NCCC feet are busy paddling away like crazy below the surface!

A number of things are in process right now. I have asked VP/CC Fred Jensen, K6DGW, to work with the CQP committee, chaired by Kevin Rowett, N6RCE, to take a look at CQP to see if it can be improved. Several commenters have stated "don't fix it if it ain't broke" and I heartily agree. But I'm also a big believer in incremental improvements, because there are very few perfect things in this world. If we can somehow make CQP better -- even more fun, for more people -- without causing any problems then we ought to give it a shot.

I am proposing to the club that we concentrate our energy on three contests. CQP, of course. After all, we sponsor and run CQP. Next, I propose we set out to win both the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the CQP WPX Contest.

Why SS and WPX? Mainly because we can **win** those contests! And we have won those two contests before, and there's nothing more fun than winning. Now, I love the CQWW and the ARRL International DX contests. But until the northeastern part of the USA falls off the edge of the world, or unless Europe moves over a continent or two so that it's closer to California, we're simply not going to win the CQWW or the ARRL DX. Generating a credible number four or

five in the club category is an honorable pursuit, but I submit that it's nowhere nearly as much fun as winning the whole banana!

Now, winning just to win, again and again, can become old and cold. I'll admit that. This club lost the excitement after winning SS for so long in the early 2000s. But winning because we're better trained -- as a **team** -- is where I believe we can keep our adrenaline flowing as a club.

Let me tell you a little story. Out at a multi-multi phone contest last year at N6RO's place, I invited a newbie contest operator to listen in on the parallel headphones while I ran a pileup of JAs on 15 meters. After he had been intently listening for about a half hour there was a brief lull in the action. I pressed F1 to call CQ automatically while I asked him what he thought about what he had just heard. His comment: "Boy, you have good ears." My reply: "Those 'good ears' come from many, many years of listening to Japanese accents in pileups. When I first started out I couldn't make heads or tails out of what they were saying." I also added, "When you've got some real experience under your belt, you'll do as well as I can." And I believe that.

I am proposing that we put more effort as a club in training our members on how to operate, on how to have more FUN operating. At the May meeting we'll be discussing these topics and more. More details to come, as that serene duck paddles his way around the contest pond.

VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

Well ... a phone call from W0YK, followed by a phone call from N6BV, and then an election that evening that I could not attend, and I find myself the NCCC VP/CC for the 2006-2007 contest year. I do want to thank everyone for your confidence in my abilities in this job.

After some thoughts about it, I am really looking forward to the year. Relative to the heavy-hitters in NCCC, I am a total newbie, so there will be a lot of learning involved. Up to 1997, an occasional Field Day was pretty much my contesting activity.

By 1997, I had risen sufficiently high in my employment that I could tell my boss to find

some other weekend for me to be out on the test ranges or in G or JA lands, and I had a blast in CQP that year.

For a few years after, my CQP goal was to out-score Jettie Hill, W6RFF, a good friend and the ARRL SV SM. As I was retiring. Jim WX6V, coaxed me into joining NCCC, and what a cool surprise that has been! I ended up as a crew member for the N6A Alpine County expedition, an event I look forward to for the entire year.

Since I've met only a few NCCC members, here's who you have elected. Born in 1940 in Ventura, I grew up (so to speak, my wife has some alternative theories) in So. Central Los Angeles. Thanks to Art, W6RMK, I became KN6DGW at 13 near the end of 1953 and dropped the "N" the following summer and then joined the Extra ranks in the summer of 1956. A small scheduling mistake on my part led a 2nd Telegraph on that same FCC visit which nailed me a relief operator job at a coastal marine station during my HS senior year, again thanks to my Elmer, Art. Off to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in '57, I worked relief shifts at KSBY, the local (and only) TV station, and graduated in Math in 1962.

At graduation, I suddenly discovered there was a draft and I had never gotten around to obtaining a student deferment. So, rather than carry an Infantry rifle, I enlisted in the Air Force, and became a remarkably unprepared 2nd Lt (kind of like VP/CC?).

A year in Alaska at the arctic circle as the Communications Officer (KL7ETK) was fun and educational, followed by something over 3 1/2 years in the two Vietnams, Laos, and a little in Thailand (HS1FJ) commanding an airborne combat communications team.

Home at the end of '67, I married Andrea and we spent 2 1/2 years in Houston (WA5SNP) assigned to NASA working on trajectory planning and guidance analysis for Apollo. My office in Bldg 30 was one floor above the office then occupied by Tom, K5RC, which we only recently realized.

That was followed by 2 1/2 years at McClellan AFB in Sacramento working on an airborne radar system, where, in early 72, I failed my annual jump physical, and elected a discharge in lieu of another combat tour. I knew by then I'd have made a terrible field grade officer anyway. Various civilian engineering jobs followed in communications and control systems, and, with too many kids and not enough money, I picked

up a Master's degree from Sac State on the GI Bill (500 tax-free bucks a month!). I retired after 13 years with SAIC in November of 2000.

We have four kids, all but one with families of their own. No one in my family has ever had the slightest interest in Amateur Radio, meaning of course I have never had to share my rig. After the kids left, we found we actually had money left over at the end of the month, so we adopted an Equal Hobby Allowance policy between us. Her hobbies are knitting, needlepoint, and gardening. I don't count the gardening because I get to live in a botanical garden as a result of it, but it turns out that needlepoint is about as expensive as ham radio – hard to believe, but very good for my radio budget.

I left most of my hearing in SE Asia, so I gravitate toward CW. SSB in QRM, QRN, and with foreign accents is pretty much a non-starter for me, and Rich, NU6T, often operates my station in phone contests. Gentle prodding from WK6I (and a chance to HMO in SS CW from his station) got me interested in RTTY and I'm improving slowly. My station is modest at best: FT-847 for UHF/VHF and RTTY, TS-850, SB220, vanilla 3-el triband at about 70', and a wire or two for 160-40. I have more HT's than I can keep charged if that's worth an award somewhere. I built a K2/100, and then a KX-1, and the QRP bug got a small foothold although I'm nowhere near as dedicated as K6III, N6WG, and others.

I guess you're stuck with me, and I am learning. I had no idea how much my ham radio coefficient of fun would go up when I succumbed to Jim's prodding and joined NCCC. It looks like the fun has only begun for me now.

Major May Contests:

7QP (6 May 1300Z - 7 May 0700Z): This is the first running of the 7th Area QSO Party which is being coordinated by our own Tom, K5RC. Our ARRL 175-mile circle extends well into Nevada, and we have a number of 7-land members as well, so that weekend would be a great one to get on and help kick-start our 7th area buddies' new contest. Several NCCC'ers from CA are signed up for mobile rovers and county expeditions. As I write this in mid April, Rich NU6T and I are working on an expedition to Eureka and/or Elko counties, neither of which currently have been spoken for. Lots to work out, but we'll see. All the poop is at <www.7qp.org>.

CQ WPX CW (28 May 0000Z -29 May 2400Z): What's to say about the contest with nearly a countable infinity of multipliers? There's no such thing as a "clean sweep" in WPX! This is a contest in which NCCC holds the Club World Record and can win again, despite our location on the left-coast (in WPX, a WD5 is a mult just as an 8Q7 is, and some of our guys operate off-shore for huge scores that they donate to an NCCC Club effort as well). Best of all, it doesn't involve a lot of planning and logistics as our stunning and stellar SS HMO strategy does. Just get on the air, work as many as you can, rack up as many mults as you can, and submit your score with "NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB" in the Cabrillo log.

NS Ladder (Every Thu, 1930-2000 PDT): Our NS Ladder is underway, thanks to N6ZF0 and many others. I've had a standing Thu evening obligation, but I think I've worked it out and will be a competitor (OK ... participant. Competitor will come with practice). Info and scores history at <www.ncccsprint.com>. Somewhere in all the mentoring I've been requesting and getting, I find that I'm the NCS for the After-NS NCCC net on 3830, which should be interesting since I haven't been NCS of any net for many years - brace yourselves!

Not-So-Major May Contests:

We also have Northeast QP and the Indiana QP on that same weekend. NEQP is another regional QP (ME, VT, NH, CT, MA, and RI) and activity is quite high. I've had a lot of fun the last two or three years in NEQP and have two certificates for "2nd in CA," which, of course, may mean that "1st in CA" was also "Next to Last in CA". If Rich and I work out our NV expedition, I'll miss NEQP. If that falls through, I'll probably timeshare between 7QP and NEQP since ideal 7QP times and bands will not conflict badly with NEQP. NEQP: < www.neqp.org > INQP: < www.hdxcc.org/inqp/ >.

Another new regional contest, Mid-Atlantic QP < www.qsl.net/maqso > is scheduled for 13-14 May. I'm hoping that what may be a trend toward regional contests over or in addition to State contests works out, and I'm really rooting for 7QP. The state contests are often fun, but when poorly represented in-state, they get old very fast. And, that would be an advance hint to everyone to be on the air for 2006 CQP.

Kudos and Congratulations:

Everyone has probably seen it by now, but on the outside chance you haven't, our guys AD6E, NI6T, and K6SRZ have a nice picture on page 49 of the May QST at K7C. The story accompanying the picture, authored by KK6EK, paints a somewhat harrowing picture of the expedition. When I heard "Kure," I knew it was somewhere along the little known parts of the Hawaiian Island chain. For some reasons, visions of Maui just popped into my head, but I guess it wasn't quite Maui.

ARRL 2005 CW/PHONE SS results are posted to www.arrl.org/contests and NCCC'ers are prominently arrayed. The SSB Unlimited comments do a very nice job of summarizing Rusty's HMO concept (which most every serious club has broken the code to by now I'm sure), and points out the big benefit to everyone to have "new blood" on the air on Sunday. It also points out that NCCC will be getting the gavel again for our 2005 showing. Congratulations to all the great scores, and kudos to all who did so much to get another win for NCCC.

NCCC Officers Through The Years

By: Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ

A slate of new officers were elected at the April meeting (see page one). Here is an incomplete list of past officers going back to the founding of NCCC...

April 2005 - March 2006

President: Mike Heideman, N7MH
Vice President/CC: Kurt Andress, K7NV
Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Muns, W0YK

Directors: Tom Berson, ND2T
Jeff Stai, WK6I
Matt Thomas, WX5S
Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ
Director Emeritus: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, K6RB
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK
Awards Chair: Bob Frosthalm, KO6LU
CQP Chair: Kevin Rowett, N6RCE

April 2004 - March 2005

President: Tom Berson, ND2T
Vice President/CC: Dean Wood, N6DE
Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Aaker, K6UFO

Directors: Steve Dyer, W1SRD
Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Matt Thomas, WX5S
Tom Taormina, K5RC

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, K6RB
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK
Awards Chair: Kent Henneuse, K6ENT
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

April 2003 - March 2004

President: Steve Dyer, W1SRD
Vice President/CC: Al Maenchen, AD6E
Secretary/Treasurer: Jig Desai, AD6TF

Directors: Dave Curtis, N6NZ
Bill Haddon, N6ZFO
Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ
Tom Taormina, K5RC

ARRL CAC member: Jim Pratt, N6IG
JUG Editor: Diana Henneuse then Rob Brownstein, K6RB
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK
Awards Chair: Kent Henneuse, K6ENT
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

April 2002 - March 2003

President: Dave Curtis, N6NZ
Vice President/CC: Bill Haddon, N6ZFO
Secretary/Treasurer: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

Directors: Rick Tavan, N6XI
John Fore, W6LD
Mike Shapiro, WA6O
Ken Anderson, K6TA

ARRL CAC member: Jim Pratt, N6IG
JUG Editor: Mary Cherry, NA6E then Diana Henneuse
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

April 2001 - March 2002

President: Rick Tavan, N6XI
Vice President/CC: Andy Faber, AE6Y
Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Muns, W0YK

Directors: Bob Wolbert, K6XX
Ken Keeler, N6RO
Dean Wood, N6DE
Kurt Andress, K7NV then Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV

ARRL CAC member Jim Pratt, N6IG
JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT then Mary Cherry, NA6E
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK

CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

April 2000 - March 2001

President: Bob Wolbert, K6XX
Vice President/CC: Ken Keeler, N6RO
Secretary/Treasurer: Kit Kohlmoos, W6ISO

Directors: Ed Schuller, K6CTA
Andy Faber, AE6Y
Rick Tavan, N6XI
Kurt Andress, K7NV

ARRL CAC member: Jim Pratt, N6IG
JUG Editor: George Daughters
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

April 1999 - March 2000

President: Ed Schuller, K6CTA
Vice President/CC: Bob Wolbert, K6XX
Secretary/Treasurer: Tony Becker, AE0M

Directors: Steve Merchant, K6AW
Al Maenchen, AD6E
Ed Muns, W0YK
Tom Taormina, K5RC

ARRL CAC member: Bob Wilson, N6TV
JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

April 1998 - March 1999

President: Steve Merchant, K6AW
Vice President/CC: J.T. Utley, K7CO
Secretary/Treasurer: Al Maenchen, AD6E

Directors: Andy Faber, AE6Y
Ken Silverman, K2KW
Al Crespo, NH7A
Bob Wolbert, K6XX

ARRL CAC member: Bob Wilson, N6TV
JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

January 1975 - December 1975

President: WB6CEP
Vice President/CC: WA6DIL
Secretary/Treasurer: W6KHO

Director: WB6AIN
Director: WB6DSV
Director: W6RGG

Editor, The Contest JUG: Bob Hill W1ARR/6 teamed with W6NLQ

January 1974 - December 1974

President: W6RGG
Vice President/CC: WB6AIN
Secretary/Treasurer: WB6DSV then WA6NLQ

Director: K6DC
Director: W6PAA

Editor, The Contest JUG: Bob Vallio, W6RGG; then Don McClellan, K6EBB; then Bob Hill W1ARR/6 teamed with W6NLQ

January 1973 - December 1973

President: Rusty Epps, W6OAT
Vice President/CC: W. L. Snider, W6HQJN
Secretary/Treasurer: WA6QGW

Director: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Director: Alan Higbie, WA6PMK
Director: Ken Keeler, W6PAA

Editor, The Contest JUG: Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Clerk-typist, The Contest JUG: Don McClellan, K6EBB

January 1972 - December 1972

President: Ken Keeler, WA6DKF
Vice President/CC: Robert Artigo, W6GFS
Secretary/Treasurer: W. L. Snider, W6HQJN

Director: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF
Director: Don McClellan, K6EBB
Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Editor, The Contest JUG: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF; then Bob Vallio, W6RGG in Sept

January 1971 - December 1972

President: Don McClellan, K6EBB
Vice President/CC: Ken Keeler, WA6DKF
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Director: Rusty Epps, K4BVD/6
Director: Jim Neiger, W6BHY
Director: Dave Baker, W6WX

Editor, The Contest JUG: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF
ARRL DX Advisory Committee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

August 1970 - December 1970

President: Jim Neiger, W6BHY
Vice President/CC: Don McClellan, K6EBB
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Director: Ken Anderson, K6CQF
Director: Dave Baker, W6WX

Editor, The Contest JUG: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF
Reproduction, The Contest JUG: Rick Hilding, K6VVA

2005 NCCC Awards

The annual March NCCC Awards dinner was well attended, as always. The Awards Dinner presentation is on the NCCC Web site. Here are some key awards:

- Maxwell Sweepstakes Award: Marc, W6ZZZ**
- Big Gun Award: Dean, N6BV**
- Jughead Awards: Marc, W6ZZZ; Kurt, K7NV**
- 400K Club Awards: N6BV, N7MH, K7NV, WC6H and W0YK**
- KB4000 Awards: W6YX, K5RC**
- KB3000 Awards: N6RO, N6BV, N7MH**
- Rookie of the Year: John, K6MM**
- Most Improved Contester: Ken, NO6X**
- Contester of the Year: N6BV**

2005 NCCC AWARDS DINNER

Photos courtesy Bob, N6TV



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(714) 533-7373

(800) 854-6046

Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

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(818) 842-1786

(800) 854-6046

Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757

(800) 854-6046

Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900

(800) 854-6046

Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496

(800) 854-6046

Rick, N6DQ, Co-Mgr.
Howard, W6HOC, Co-Mgr
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NCCC
1560 Klamath Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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