JUG

Publication of the Northern California Contest Club

NCCC

March 2009
Issue 442

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3610+/-

Program
"Annual Awards Dinner"

Date: Monday, 9 March 2009
Time: 6pm schmooz, 6:30pm dinner, 7pm program
Location: Tied House, 954 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA

Dinner choice:

- Fish & Chips
- Pasta Primavera
- 1/2 lb. Burger
- BBQ Turkey Burger

Includes salad, drink (soda, tea, or lemonade), tax and tip for $20. A no-host bar is also available. RSVP to K6EU by Friday, 6 March.

NCCC Officers
President: John Miller, K6MM
Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Jim Brown K9YC
Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Carney, K6EU

Directors
Past President: Bob Tellefsen, N6WG
Director: Tom Taormina, K5RC
Director: Dean Wood, N6DE
Director: Tom Berson, ND2T
Honorary Director: HRusty Epps, W6OATH

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Zero Beat
By John Miller, K6MM

February and March afford some great contesting opportunities – something for everyone. NAQP RTTY, NA Sprint RTTY, ARRL International DX (CW & SSB), State QSO Parties (ID, OK, VA, WI), BARTG HF RTTY, and CQWW WPX SSB. These are all great skill-building contests. I hope you'll be able to take some time to get on the air and make some noise.

ARRL International DX Contest

CW = 0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
SSB = 0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10M

Classes:

1. Single Op All Band (QRP/Low/High)
2. Single Op Single Band
3. Single Op Assisted
4. Multi-Single
5. Multi-Two
6. Multi-Multi

Max power: HP (1.5KW), LP (150W), QRP (5W)

Exchange:
W/VE: RST + (state/province)
Non-W/VE: RST + power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO

Multipliers:

W/VE: Each DXCC country once per band

Non-W/VE: Each state, District of Columbia, VE province/territory once per band

Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: March 23, 2009

E-mail logs to: DXCW@arrl.org

2009 ARRL International DX Pins

The ARRL Contest Branch is again offering pins for the 2009 International DX Contest.

The sharp four-color design will prominently display the year 2009. To earn the International DX Contest pin, all you need to do is complete 100 QSOs in either the CW or Phone contest weekends. There are not separate pins for each mode. You may contact the same station on different bands.

The cost is $7 (US) in the US, its possessions and Canada, and $10 for others (postage included). Your pins will be shipped once all logs for the contest have been processed and verified by the log-checking team for publication in QST.

To purchase your pin, send a copy of the first page of your Cabrillo log file along with your payment to: DX Contest Pins, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Pins are only guaranteed for orders received by April 3, 2009. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery after the order deadline.

CQ WW WPX Contest - SSB

March 28–29, 2009

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10M

Classes:

SO High (All Band or Single Band)
SO Low (All Band or Single Band)
SO QRP (All Band or Single Band)
SO High Assisted (All Band or Single Band)
SO Low Assisted (All Band or Single Band)
Multi-Single
Multi-Two
Multi-Multi

Max power: HP (1.5KW), LP (100W), QRP (5W)

Exchange: RS Report + Serial Number
Work stations: Once per band

Contact Points:

Different Continents: 3 pts per QSO on 10, 15, 20M and 6 pts per QSO on 40, 80 and 160M

Same Continent, Different Country: 1 pt. on 10, 15, and 20M, and 2 pts on 40, 80 and 160M

Same Country: 1 pt. regardless of band

Prefix Multipliers: Counted once per band

Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: May 1, 2009
E-mail logs to: ssb@cqwpx.com

Successful Webinar: NA Sprint CW

On February 3, we held another successful Webinar for NCCC members.

This time, Bob, N6TV, was our presenter. He put together a nice tutorial about operating in the NCJ-sponsored NA Sprint. About 20 KBers showed up for a thorough discussion on how to maximize NA Sprint CW scores and enjoyment. The resulting turnout from our club (35 participants) was

one of the highest ever. You can review Bob's slides here:

http://tinyurl.com/NASprintWebinar

Additional Webinars for 2009 will be announced very soon.

Elections Are Coming

Annual elections will be held at the April 13 meeting, when we will elect a new Board of Directors.

Whether it's being President, VP & Contest Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, or one of the three Director positions, this is your opportunity to step up to fill a leadership slot in the Club.

It's not only an opportunity to help to continue to provide vision and strategy for the future, but also an opportunity for your own personal development. Get involved – NCCC will benefit and so will you!

Your Club Needs YOU on the NCCC Board!

February Meeting Highlights

More than 60 members attended the NCCC meeting on January 9. Our main speaker, Jim (K9YC) prepared an informative presentation entitled "Wire Antennas for Limited Space". His slides can be found on his website here: http://audiosystemsgroup.com/LimitedSpaceAntennasPPT.pdf

Contest Academy

This year for the first time at the International DX Convention (IDXC) in Visalia, NCCC is sponsoring a Contesting seminar, which we've chosen to name: "Contest Academy".

Inspired by a strong growing interest in Contesting at IDXC, NCCC will provide what we hope will be a valuable learning experience for attendees. Our primary goal is to cover the basics of Contesting, drawing from NCCC's 38-year reputation as a recognized participant and leader in amateur radio contesting.

We have selected program topics, which hopefully will be of interest to all participants, and will be presented by some of NCCC's most experienced contesters.

Contest Academy will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The cost is $10, which includes a Contest Resource Kit.

You can read more about CA on the IDXC website here: http://dxconvention.org/?page_id=204

NCCC is honored to be selected to provide this first contesting seminar as part of the 2009 IDXC program. If successful, we hope that this topic and NCCC will become an integral part of future IDXC conventions, to help bring DXing and Contesting closer together.

Summary
That's it for this month. I'll see you in the next contest!

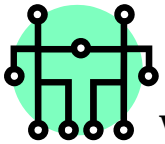
73, John K6MM

March Meeting

By John, K6MM

http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html

Check the website for details of our next meeting, Monday, March 9, 2009 at the Tied House (Mountain View). This is our Annual Awards Dinner – don't miss it!



Welcome Aboard!

Let's all welcome these new members who were voted in at the February meeting:

1. **K2RDX** – John Mezak – San Jose
2. **K6IP** – Armand Sun - Fremont

Contests For March 2009

By John K6MM

There are some great contesting opportunities this month. RTTY, CW, SSB, 160M, Sprint, -- take your pick. For a one-page summary of all major contests throughout the year, go to: http://www.nccc.cc and click on "Major Contest Calendar" at the top of the page.

For a complete 12-Month Contest Calendar go to: http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

To download ARRL's Contest Corral, go to: http://www.arrl.org/contests/#corral.

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW – Feb 21 to 22

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB -- Feb 27 to Mar 1

NAQP, RTTY -- Feb 28 to Mar 1

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB -- Mar 7 to 8

Oklahoma QSO Party -- Mar 8 to 9

Idaho QSO Party -- Mar 8 to 9

NA Sprint, RTTY -- 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 9

Wisconsin QSO Party -- Mar 9 to 10

Virginia QSO Party -- Mar 15 to 17

NCCC Sprint Ladder -- Mar 7, 14, 21, 28

BARTG HF RTTY Contest -- Mar 22 to 24

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB -- Mar 29 to 30

VP/CC

By: John Brown, K9YC

Computer Logging and Logbook of the World

I don't know about you, but I can think of a lot better things to do with my time and money than making out and mailing QSL cards, especially when I'm expected to add as much as $4 to the envelope to get a card in return.

If I had the money it takes to send a few hundred DX cards, I'd much rather invest that money in the ham shack (or maybe even pay off the mortgage), and I'd much rather put the time it takes to fill out those cards into working a contest or improving my station. This, combined with the state of the economy, has generated an upsurge of interest in Logbook of the World, and we often hear from members are looking for ways to use it most efficiently.

When I got back on the air in 2003 after a long absence, I was using computers to simplify every element of my business and personal life and make better use of my time, so computer-based logging seemed like the only sane way to go.

It didn't take long for me to find ***DXKeeper***, part of the ***DXLab*** freeware suite of programs published by Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ (and for which he recently won an ARRL award for Technical Excellence)! It loaded painlessly on my computer, and I started using it for general logging. It turned

out to be very easy to use, and I've never looked further, but I have added Dave's ***Commander*** software to control the radio and pull its frequency into the log.

And I use ***DXView***, which plots any DX callsign on a world map, gives me azimuth and distance, and tells me the bands and modes on which I've worked and/or confirmed each country.

ADIF is the standard file format for log file interchange, and DXKeeper exchanges ADIF files with most other logging programs, including DX4Win, Logger16, DXBase, Logic, TurboLog, WinLog32, and MMTTY. I've used it extensively with WriteLog and N1MM. After each contest, I ***Export*** a file from WriteLog or N1MM, and ***Import*** the file into DXKeeper. ***DXKeeper*** tracks most popular ham operating awards, including WAS, WAZ, IOTA, and VUCC.

Almost from the introduction of LOTW, DXKeeper has supported it, and over the years, that support has become easier to use and more versatile. Every few weeks, I ***Upload*** all new QSOs, including any contest logs, to LOTW. And periodically, I download QSLs from LOTW, so that DXKeeper can keep track of awards. Each of these operations is very simple, requiring little more than a few mouse clicks (although the computer will grind away for a few minutes, transferring the data and updating the log).

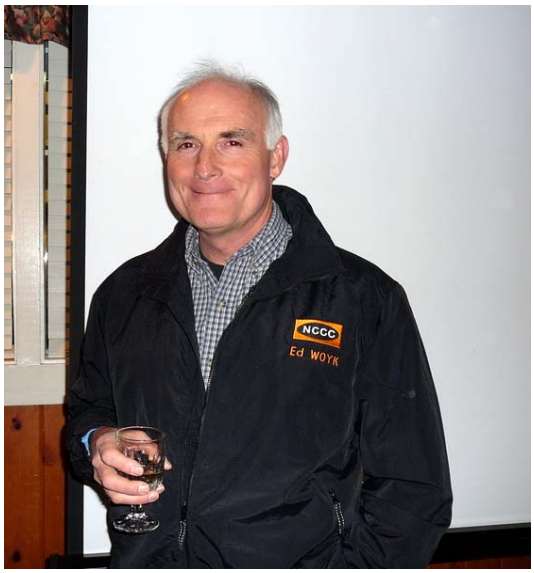
Many hams around the world either don't have an Internet connection. That's no problem – DXKeeper can talk to LOTW software on your computer, that then generates a .TQ8 file that can be mailed or emailed to ARRL!

Before there was LOTW there were paper cards and eQSL, and DXKeeper does both very well. After I've uploaded to LOTW, I also upload to eQSL, and every few months I have DXKeeper print up QSL labels and stick them on cards to go to the Bureau. DXKeeper also prints address labels and complete QSL cards! The label-generation software is easy to use with several sizes of blank labels that are easy to find in stores, and can easily be tweaked for any other size that you might need.

DXKeeper is certainly not the only ham logging software, and it may not even be the best, but it works very well for me. Others hams, including a few who are active DXers, have recommended DX4Win, shareware that sells for about $90 and includes a CW keyboard. The Ham Radio Deluxe Suite includes very nice software for remote control, an excellent sound card software for digital modes (RTTY, PSK31, WSJT, and CW), and a nice mapping utility that can draw a *great circle* map or a grid-square map centered on any QTH, including yours. HRD's logging software is not in the same league with DXKeeper, but it might be after a major rewrite that's due later this year All of this software is easy to find and easy to install. Just Google on DXKeeper, Ham Radio Deluxe, or DX4Win. It's also well supported and has been quite bug-free.

(Another "freeware" logging software package is Logger 32 by K4CY. You can find it at www.logger32.net . It is easy to create ADIF files and upload them to LOTW. It also supports QSL labels, has a keyboard-driven "keyer," and lots of other features. – ED)

Who Was At Holder's in February?



NCCC
John K6MM

12 Store Buying Power!

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- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM*
- HF/6M @ 100W, 2M @ 50W 70CM @ 20W
- 107 alphanumeric memories
- CTCSS encode/decode w/tone scan
- AM, FM, WFM, SSB, CW, RTTY w/DSP
- And much more!

IC-746PRO All Mode Transceiver

- 160-2M* @ 100W
- 32 bit IF-DSP + 24 bit AD/DA converter
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Improved 3rd order intercept point
- CW memory keyer
- And much more!

IC-756PROIII All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W
- 32 bit IF-DSP
- Adjustable SSB TX bandwidth
- Digital voice recorder
- RX: 30 kHz to 60 MHz
- Quiet, triple-conversion receiver
- Low IMD roofing filter
- 8 Channel RTTY TX memory
- And much more!

IC-7800 All Mode Transceiver

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

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