



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



September
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Issue 460

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3610+/-

Guests are always welcome at the NCCC! Please join us.

Next NCCC Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2010
"2010 California QSO Party"

Date: [Monday, September 13, 2010](#)

Time: 6:00pm schmooz and dinner, 7:00pm program

Location: China Wok Restaurant, 512 Sacramento Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 (707) 645-2008

Directions: <http://tinyurl.com/2f892nb>.

Dinner will be the Chinese Buffet including soft drink (soda, tea, or lemonade), tax and tip for **\$20.00**. Crispy noodles, hot/sour soup, mongolian beef, lemon chicken, braised green beans, honey walnut prawns, ginger scallion fish.

Please RSVP to [K6RM](#) no later than Saturday evening, September 11, 2010.

You can pay in advance via PayPal: paypal@nccc.cc

You can also pay cash at the door.

NCCC Officers

President: Jack Brindle, W6FB, jackbrindle@earthlink.net

VP/CC: Chris Tate, N6WM, ctate@ewnetinc.com

Sec/Treas.: Barry Pfeil, K6RM, barrypfeil@sbcglobal.net

Directors

Past President: Jack morgan, KF6T, jackmorgan.usa@gmail.com

Director: Alan Maenchen, AD6E, ad6e@arri.net

Director: Bob Wolbert, K6XX, k6xx@ihwy.com

Director: Hank Garretson, W6SX, w6sx@arri.net

Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT, w6oat@sbcglobal.net

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JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com



FB's Message

By Jack Brindle, W6FB

Sweepstakes Is Coming!!! Sweepstakes Is Coming!!!

Summer has been great this year in Northern California. Moderate temperatures and clear skies have made for excellent outdoor weather. This has meant great opportunities to work on our tans at the beach or in our gardens, and to take in the many great sites of our state.

Unfortunately as summer now gives way to the fall, many of us come to the realization that we still need to do work on our antennas and stations. To borrow a phrase from the National Hurricane

Center, it is now time to rush our station preparations to conclusion.

Contest season is upon us. We have already participated in the summer NAQP contests, and the CW NA Sprint is coming up fast. The NCCC-Sponsored California QSO Party is just a few weeks away, too, followed quickly by the CQWW and, soon, the ARRL November Sweepstakes. Without a doubt there is a lot of contesting about to happen, and we NCCCs are going to be up front leading the way!

If you find yourself a bit behind with your station improvement projects, it is definitely time to finish them. If you need some help, this is the right place to be. The NCCC has many generous members who are willing to help out in various areas.

The club's antenna committee is available to help get antennas in the air where they will do the most good. We have many experts who are very willing to give advice and help with shack improvements to help you get to the next level. Need help with improving your contest skills? This is the place to be. So if you need help, or just have a question, speak up! The best place to ask is on the NCCC email reflector, but the excellent NCCC web page at <http://www.nccc.cc/> can also direct you to members who are ready and willing to help.

The cost? That's the best part. It is included in your membership. Great members, super friends, and outstanding testers: that's what sets us apart as the premier contesting club anywhere.

With Sweepstakes just weeks away, we are busy crafting strategies and plans to once again bring the gavel back to Northern California. VP N6WM has assembled a committee to work on strategic plans for not just this year, but next year's contest as well. There are plenty of opportunities to help contribute to this year's planning, with all tasks important. If you would like to help, please contact any of the club officers to sign up.

Before Sweepstakes comes the California Contest Party. CQP preparations are well under way, including plans for many CQP Expeditions. Many members are deep into planning where and how they will operate the contest. It is quite a bit of work to assemble a portable station, take it to a rare county, and get on the air for as many QSOs as possible.

While it is rather late to select a great location for this year's effort, Dean, N6DE, has put together a pair of videos that should be of great help in selecting *next year's* QTH. The videos are available on-line in two formats: WMV and MP4. The newer MP4 format is just the thing for Macintosh and portable device (iPhone, iPad, Droid, etc.) users. Check it out at: <http://www.cqp.org/Videos.html>.

Thanks for the great work, Dean!

So let's all hurry up and get ready. Get your stations finished, then test them out and hone your skills in the early contests and the Thursday evening NS Sprints. Then, when we are all ready, we will all work together to again bring the gavel home and again set the standard for Sweepstakes contesting!

VP/CC

By Chris Tate, N6WM

Greetings Kbers!

Well, time seems to slip by quickly, and this year is no different. We find ourselves just a few weeks from CQP, and shortly thereafter, the winter contest season. I am sure many of you are scrambling with antenna/tower/shack projects trying to get things ready to go.

In my case, we have so many projects at K6LRG and N6RO that it seems overwhelming to complete during the available timeline. If you need help with your projects, make sure you communicate the need to the NCCC leadership, so we can get you the assistance you need to get your station ready to go. There is a lot of this help going around right now, so if you need it, raise your hand!

40th anniversary event, approaching fast

Well, with CQP around the corner, its worth mentioning that our 40th anniversary event is also there as well. We have had several of the larger stations pull 1 X 1 calls and every club member is encouraged to call CQ with the /40 designator after their call. This is something new and interesting, and could serve as a great warm up for CQP and the greater contest season. So, get out on the air, call CQ, give the world the chance to work 40 members of the greatest contest club in the world!

Sweepstakes approaches. Are you ready?

In keeping with the theme of this article, one has to mention that it is never too soon to think about our next effort in this battle. We have put together a committee to investigate strategy on a multitude of levels, but need you to start thinking about how *you* are going to operate this contest. Think about securing another station for a split operation, if your station is available; think about putting it in a resource pool so we can staff it with an operator. The NCCC has decided to pursue several contests, but first we must take on and win the November Sweepstakes club competition. So think ahead, and make your plans. We will be in touch soon to pull it all together!

A rookie success from KB land

With the second running of the Rookie Round up behind us, and quickly scored, I would like to extend congratulations to all the rookie Kbers who took the time to get on the air, as well as the senior Kbers, who got on the air to assist them and hand out some points. With the top score coming in for this contest turned in by KJ6ELO@W6YX, and a great effort by KE1BYL among others, the NCCC and the bay area has already had an impact on this new contest. Congrats to all rookies and good luck in the CW running of this contest in December!

And, as I usually sign on the 3830 reflector after every contest, 73 and see ya' next time!

Chris, N6WM

Some CQP Musings

The California QSO Party is different than most others. The NCCC has set rules in place that make it advantageous for Californians to work non-CA stations rather than focus too much on working one another. The primary mechanism is 58 multipliers that includes only one CA mult. So, CA operators have an incentive to work the other 57 before concentrating on other CA stations.

For non-CA stations, I would recommend that you spend all or nearly all of your time doing search & pounce (S&P). Simply put, the rare CA counties will be running (calling CQ) and you won't work 'em if you call CQ. If past years are any model, you won't run out of CA stations to work, so there's no need to go to CQing until very late in the game.

For CA stations, the opposite is true. There's no reason to be doing S&P until your rate while running falls to low double-digit proportions. Even tiny pistol stations will work a lot more stations by running than by doing S&P. Trust me on this one.

In deciding whether to do CQP as a single or multimode contest, the odds are better that you'll end up in the top 20 if you do it multimode. In other state QSO parties, with these persistent lousy conditions, you may have found that phone was largely non-productive. That should not be the case in CQP. There should be a decent amount of activity in both modes to keep anyone – in-state or out-of-state busy.

From a point perspective, you get 50 percent more per QSO with CW (3 versus 2 points). So, if you work 100 CW and 100 phone, you get 300 for CW and 200 for phone. If you have a sustained rate of 200 on SSB and 75 on CW, you are better off working phone longer. On the other hand, if your CW rate is 100 and phone rate is 175, then CW is giving you more bang.

If you start on phone at the opening bell, and switch to CW on the half hour, you'll spend an equal amount of time doing each mode. This is a good multimode starting strategy but be prepared to modify it if there is decidedly more activity in one mode than the other.

For in-state ops, don't worry about mults. They'll find you. For out-of-state participants, look for pile ups. Those are the rare mults. Try to work them, if you can, but don't spend too much time. Remember, though, that some of them will be mobile and that mult will only be up for grabs while they are within that county's lines.

This is also NCCC's 40th anniversary year, and they will be giving nice awards to those who work 40 members before and during CQP. So, that's a one-time award that is worth playing for in CQP

73,

Rob K6RB

New JUG format

You no doubt noticed that this JUG looks a little different than previous JUGs. The reason is I have adopted a single rather than double-column format. When documents are printed, it is usually easier to read multicolumn versus single column formats. The eye has a shorter line to follow. That's why newspapers and most magazines have columnar formats.

With electronic media, though, while multicolumn formats should still be easier to read, they are a pain in the butt because you end up having to scroll down, then back up, etc. So, I'd like to try this format for a bit to see if it makes it easier to read this and future JUGs. Feel free to give me your input on it.

Rob K6RB

CW Enthusiast's Weekend

A couple of weeks back, Rick (N6XI) and Tom (K5RC) organized a CW enthusiast's weekend in Reno. To put it in perspective, beginning in August 2008, some West Coast FOC members organized a mid-August weekend that began in the Bay Area and had its second weekend, last year, in Orange County. Since then a new CW enthusiasts club has emerged (CWops), and some of its founders are also members of FOC. One of the unique and commendable aspects of FOC, by the way, is its emphasis on social gatherings of its members. They often do impromptu breakfasts at Dayton and Visalia, and have weekends in the US, UK and Europe. The CWops group decided to do a similar thing in Reno but opened it to all CW enthusiasts. Some NCCCers were on hand: Rick (N6XI), John (K6MM), Fred (K6DGW), Tom (K5RC), Rob (K6RB) along with several spouses.

The group stayed at Reno's Peppermill Resort and Casino where a hospitality suite and K3 (N6XI's) were available for operating. In addition, they met for dinner on Friday, for airplane rides over Lake Tahoe on Saturday morning, for dinner on Saturday, and visited K5RC's super station and the Nevada City Radio Museum on Sunday. It seemed unanimous that everyone enjoyed themselves, and I'm sure there will be another mid-August, CW enthusiasts dinner weekend, next year, too.

Rob K6RB



The shack at K5RC/W7RN



Tom (K5RC) and Midge (K7AFO)



Lake Tahoe from N6XI's airplane.



View of Boca Reservoir from the back deck of N6XI's house.



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