



**Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club**



Issue 505

June 2014

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

Monday, June 9th, 2014

Time:

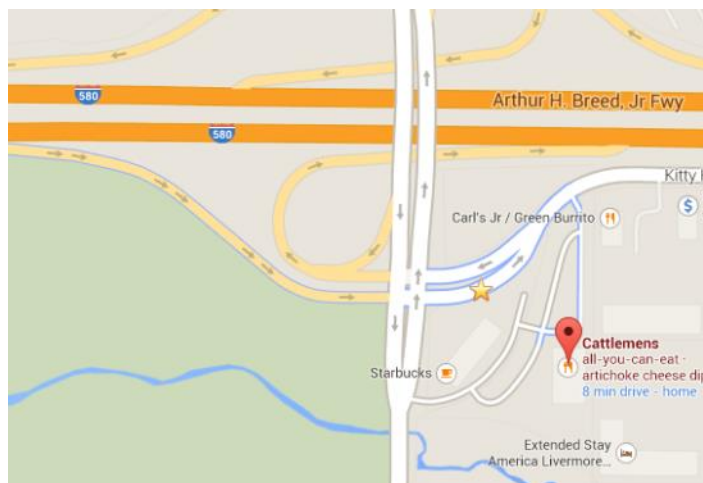
6:00pm Schmooz, 6:30pm Dinner,
7:00pm Program

“Summits on the Air”
by Fred K6DGW

Location: Cattlemen's, 2882 Kitty Hawk
Road, Livermore, CA 94551

To register:

Please RSVP to Tom K6EU
nccc.treasurer@gmail.com



President's Report

This is my first column as your club President.

As you may know, we had a lot of trouble recruiting officers this year. I am certainly not the most qualified person in terms of knowledge of how the club works. But I will try to learn. Already we have had some miscues, such as the room reservationist the last meeting. In light of the difficulties recruiting officers, I am going to try to rightsize the scope of activities of the club to a sustainable level, based on available volunteers.

For example, the Board has agreed to skip the July and December meetings for both the reasons given above and historically poor attendance. We encourage NCCC members to take this opportunity to instead reach out and attend meetings at outlying clubs. In future years, these clubs may organize official joint meetings, but meanwhile, I don't think they would object to visitors. By the way, I am a member of MLDXCC.

If any members wish to organize a picnic in July or a Christmas party in December, they are free to do so. However, any such functions will not be official NCCC meetings.

I had the honor of attending the Dayton Contest Dinner and watching Ed W0YK get inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame.

continued on page 3



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

Officers:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|
| President | Rick Karlquist, | N6RK | richard@karlquist.com |
| Vice President /Contest Chair | Byron Servies, | N6NUL | byron@n6nul.org |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Tom Carney | K6EU | k6eu@arrl.net |
| Past President | Alan Eshleman | K6SRZ | doctore@well.com |
| Director | Tom Hutton | N3ZZ | n3zz.tom@gmail.com |
| Director: | Ron Castro | N6IE | ronc@sonic.net |
| Director: | Don Taylor | K6GHA | k6gha@sbcglobal.net |

Volunteers:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| New Member Mentor | Al Rendon | WT6K | wt6k@arrl.net |
| Charter Member | Rusty Epps | W6OAT | w6oat@sbcglobal.net |
| Awards Chair | Joanna Dilley | K6YL | joanna.k6yl@gmail.com |
| CQP Chair | Chris Tate | N6WM | ctate@ewnetinc.com |
| CQP Certificates | John Miller | K6MM | k6mm@arrl.net |
| K6ZM QSL Manager | George Daughters | K6GT | k6gt@arrl.net |
| K6CQP,N6CQP,W6CQP QSL Mgr | Ed Muns | W0YK | w0yk@arrl.net |
| NCCC Email reflector Admin | Phil Verinsky | W6PK | kb-w6tqg@verinsky.com |
| Webmaster | John Miller | K6MM | k6mm@arrl.net |
| JUG Editor | Ian Parker | W6TCP | w6tcpian@gmail.com |



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM

Freq: 3.610 +/-

NCCC

Monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of each month !

NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, you must fill out an [application for membership](#), which will be read and voted upon at the next monthly meeting. ([PDF application form](#))

To join, you must reside within [club territory](#) which is defined as the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).

One of the speakers gave an amusing introduction to Ed, saying that Ed was never interested in RTTY in the past, and was supposedly goaded into trying it just to show how silly and boring it was. World class operators like Ed really enhance the club.

Congratulations, Ed.

We have a substantial contingent of NCCC'ers participating at WRTC. Be sure to get on during the contest and work these guys. Bob, N6TV, will be busy snapping photos at WRTC, and at the August meeting we will have a recap of the activities.

73

Rick N6RK

My Townhome Shack - Byron N6NUL

I finally managed to get up on my 12 pitch (45 degree) roof, and what did I find? Wasps. So, I do not have pictures to share on how steep and scary it is up there, nor my new antennas. That will come after I get rid of the little buggers. So, instead, Field Day!

Like a lot of hams, I am of several minds when it comes to Field Day. Mostly neutral, sometimes drifting to intense dislike. It does provide an excellent opportunity to prepare for CQP, however, and that is my plan this year! Even if Field Day isn't your thing, if you need practice for a CQP county expedition, it's a great excuse.

My trusty Cabela's Alaknak 12'x12' outfitters tent that our crew uses needs some attention. Some grommets need to be added, and perhaps some velcro strips around a couple of the window shades.

We have wanted to attach some home-made cordura ducting to one of the side windows to improve the effectiveness of a box fan used for ventilation; the velcro would be used to attach the flexible ducting. We have also had some discussion about making portable air coolers in 5 gallon buckets (either blowing across ice, or an evaporation/swamp style), and if we get to it, one or more might be attempted.

Lastly, I want to try out a few easy-to-lift delta loop antennas using aluminum tubes for the top section.

With wire sides and going down to a 600 ohm open wire feeder, it should make a very easy to use setup, even if it is not a beam. We may even try to use it as a top-loaded short vertical with the addition of some radials.

Let the reflector know your plans for Field Day! Always fun to search for KBers to contact.

73, Byron N6NUL
byron@n6nul.org



VP/CC Corner - Let's Have Fun!

Summer is upon us, Field Day approaching, and all will be headed hither and thither for the next few months enjoying the sunshine. It is also a great time to volunteer to help out your fellow NCCC members.

There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available in the NCCC, and many of them are nicely self contained: contest floggers, technical consultation with other members, article writers, presenters, WebEx technicians, and more. The NCCC works best, has more fun, and wins more often when more members participate!

Especially if you are new to the club, volunteering is the best way to get the most out of your membership. If you are not sure how to get involved, email me or any board member and we will help get you started. Here are some ideas:

Planning shack or antenna updates over the summer? Feel the need for some first-class consultation? The NCCC is here to help! Email the reflector (or a board member privately if you prefer) and we'll find a volunteer to provide the advice you require to be successful.

Then, help the rest of us by volunteering to write an article about your shack for the Jug. We'd all be interested hearing about the project.

Taking a trip? With a radio? Take some video, take some photos, take some notes. Then, volunteer to give a talk about your DXpedition at a monthly meeting! No matter how large or small the presentation, our monthly meetings are more fun with more people discussing our mutual hobby.

And don't forget about the contests!

June includes All Asian DX, 2 state QSO parties, and both the ARRL and RSGB Field Day's. And, don't forget, the World Radio Team Championships (WRTC) comes hot on the heels of the next Jug. The NCCC has sponsored 3 tents, and there is going to be a ton of activity!

Lots of fun to be had!

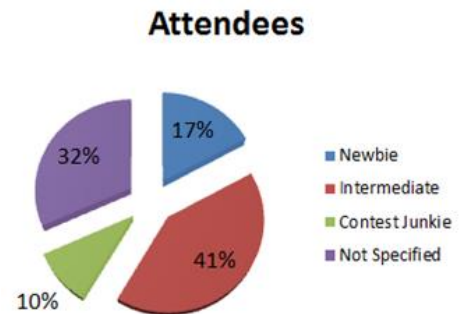
73, Byron N6NUL
byron@n6nul.org

Contest Academy at IDXC 2014

Wow, what an event! For contesters, a highlight of presentations at IDXC 2014 was the Contest Academy in Visalia at the on April 4th. Focusing on both beginners and advanced operators there were 10 great sessions with 11 amazing presenters and panel members, covering eight different topics. Included in the morning session was an interactive learning lab, and Q&A Session, all related to ‘how you can maximize your contest results’.

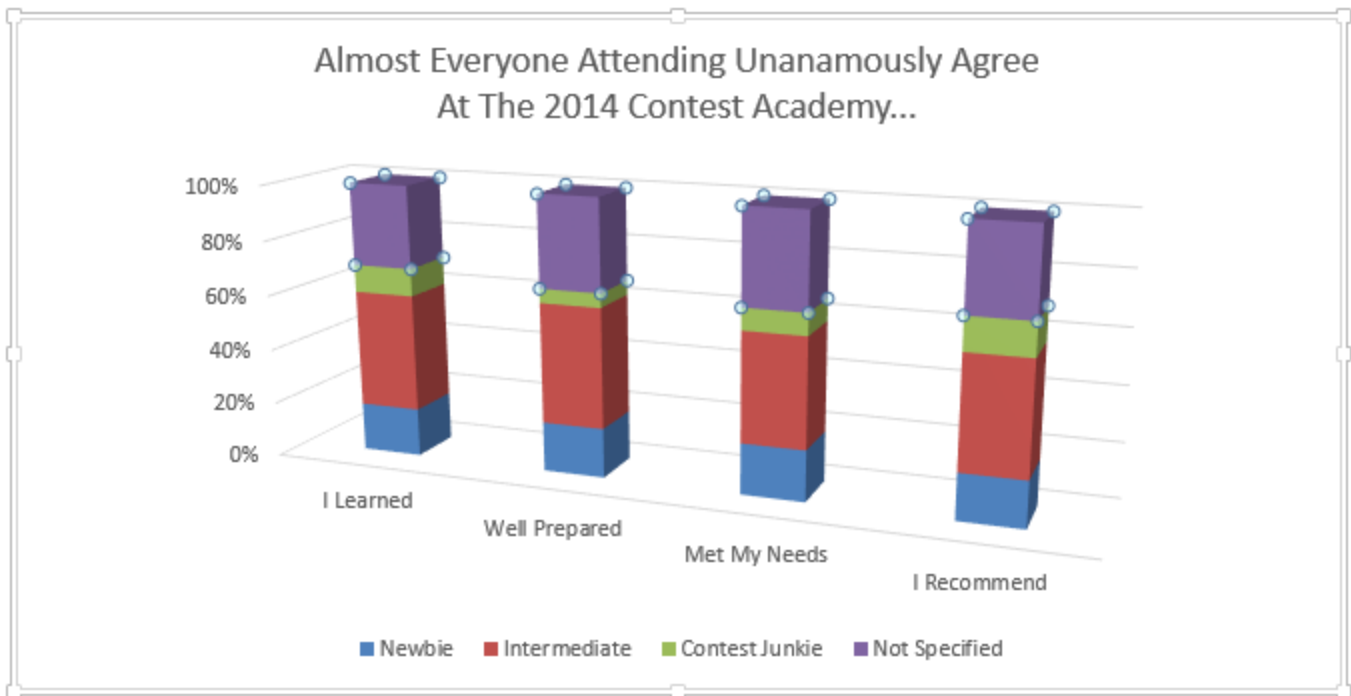
Here’s what you may have missed:

- “Contest Station Layout and Design” – Tom, K5RC
- “Terrain Analysis for HF Contesting” – Dean, N6BV
- “Train your Weaknesses; Compete Your Strengths”– Tom, ND2T
- “Contesting Advantage - Waterfall” – Bob, N6TV
- “dB for Free: An Antenna Exercise for Little Pistols”– Hank, W6SX
- “Contest Logging Software” – John, K6MM
- “Contesting Basics” – Bob, K6XX
- “Contesting With The New SDR Radios” – Stu, K6TU
- “Contesting Live! – Interactive Skill Building” – Hank, W6SX & Kurt, W6PH



Q&A Panel Discussion (a group of our fantastic presenters covering a variety of topics and contesting modes)

This was an amazing group of presenters who collectively scored a 98% satisfaction rating from all the attendees.



I could tell you how great it was, but let the folks who attended tell you:

“dB for Free – Excellent way to encourage smaller stations to contest!”

“Loved it all! Wish I could be in both sessions at the same time. You always learn!”

“Keep brining Dean N6BV back!”

“I wish it would have been all day!”

“Contesting Basics – Excellent points for new contesters.”

“I’ll be back next year to attend the Advanced Sessions! Lots of good information.”

- And many more positive comments directed to each presenter and session.

Here are the general survey results of presented sessions:

So if you are reading this and saying; “wow... I really did miss it” or “These presentations are what I could use to improve my performance” or “I wish I could have been there”, part of your wish has been granted!

As a member of NCCC (and reader of the JUG), we have posted a zip file of the PDF versions of the slide presentation for your viewing. This file resides under the Members Only section of the NCCC.CC web site, so click on this link, login, and download your copy. Note: It’s a big file – 32 Mb – so be patient.

<http://www.nccc.cc/members/misc/ContestAcademy-IDXC2014.zip>

Most importantly next year the NCCC will be hosting a bigger and better Contest Academy at IDXC 2015, in Visalia April 17th – 19th. You can be a part of the folks who present, or the ones who attend. Don’t miss it! After viewing the slide presentations, when you see one of our amazing presenters, say ‘Thank You’ for representing their club, contesting, and sharing their knowledge with the newest batch of Contest Academy graduates.

Contest Academy Co-Chairs
Don K6GHA and Tom KW6S





Contest Calendar—June page 1

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data | 1900Z-2030Z, Jun 2 |
| ARS Spartan Sprint | 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 3 |
| CWops Mini-CWT Test | 1300Z-1400Z, Jun 4 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 4 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 5 |
| NRAU 10m Activity Contest | 1700Z-1800Z, Jun 5 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jun 5 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 5 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jun 5 (Dig) |
| NCCC RTTY Sprint | 0200Z-0230Z, Jun 6 |
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Jun 6 |
| HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest | 1800Z-1829Z, Jun 6 (40m) and 1830Z-1859Z, Jun 6 (80m) |
| 10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest | 0000Z, Jun 7 to 2400Z, Jun 8 |
| DigiFest | 0400Z-1200Z, Jun 7 and 2000Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8 and 1200Z-2000Z, Jun 8 |
| Wake-Up!QRP Sprint | 0600Z-0629Z, Jun 7 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 7 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 7 |
| VK Shires Contest | 0600Z, Jun 7 to 0600Z, Jun 8 |
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | 1200Z, Jun 7 to 2400Z, Jun 8 |
| SEANET Contest | 1200Z, Jun 7 to 1200Z, Jun 8 |
| UKSMG Summer Contest | 1300Z, Jun 7 to 1300Z, Jun 8 |
| ADRAD Kayldall DMR Contest | 1300Z-1900Z, Jun 7 |
| IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW | 1500Z, Jun 7 to 1459Z, Jun 8 |
| RSGB National Field Day | 1500Z, Jun 7 to 1500Z, Jun 8 |
| Alabama QSO Party | 1600Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8 |
| NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint | 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 11 |
| CWops Mini-CWT Test | 1300Z-1400Z, Jun 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 12 |
| RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW | 1900Z-2030Z, Jun 11 |
| NCCC RTTY Sprint | 0200Z-0230Z, Jun 13 |



Contest Calendar—June page 2

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| DRCG WW RTTY Contest | 0000Z-0759Z, Jun 14 and 1600Z-2359Z, Jun 14 and 0800Z-1559Z, Jun 15 |
| Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB | 1100Z-1300Z, Jun 14 |
| Portugal Day Contest | 1200Z, Jun 14 to 1200Z, Jun 15 |
| QRP ARCI QRP Shootout | 1500Z-2100Z, Jun 14 (CW) and 1500Z-2100Z, Jun 15 (SSB) |
| GACW WWSA CW DX Contest | 1500Z, Jun 14 to 1500Z, Jun 15 |
| West Virginia QSO Party | 1600Z, Jun 14 to 0200Z, Jun 15 |
| REF DDFM 6m Contest | 1600Z, Jun 14 to 1600Z, Jun 15 |
| ARRL June VHF Contest | 1800Z, Jun 14 to 0259Z, Jun 16 |
| Run for the Bacon QRP Contest | 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 16 |
| CWops Mini-CWT Test | 1300Z-1400Z, Jun 18 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 18 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 19 |
| NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint | 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 19 |
| RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB | 1900Z-2030Z, Jun 19 |
| SMIRK Contest | 0000Z, Jun 21 to 2400Z, Jun 22 |
| All Asian DX Contest, CW | 0000Z, Jun 21 to 2400Z, Jun 22 |
| Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest | 1200Z, Jun 21 to 1159Z, Jun 22 |
| AGCW VHF/UHF Contest | 1400Z-1700Z, Jun 21 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jun 21 (432) |
| Stew Perry Topband Challenge | 1500Z, Jun 21 to 1500Z, Jun 22 |
| Kid's Day Contest | 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 21 |
| Feld Hell Sprint | 2000Z-2200Z, Jun 21 |
| + WAB 50 MHz Phone | 0900Z-1500Z, Jun 22 |
| SKCC Sprint | 0000Z-0200Z, Jun 25 |
| CWops Mini-CWT Test | 1300Z-1400Z, Jun 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 26 |
| Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest | 1200Z, Jun 28 to 1200Z, Jun 29 |
| His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB | 1200Z, Jun 28 to 1200Z, Jun 29 |
| ARRL Field Day | 1800Z, Jun 28 to 2100Z, Jun 29 |
| 10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party | 0001Z, Jun 30 to 2400Z, Jul 6 |

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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

ID-880H Analog + Digital Dual Bander 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



YAESU
The radio



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- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in • 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



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