



**Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club**



Issue 514

March 2015

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Guests are always welcome at the NCCC!

Please join us.

NCCC Meeting

Monday 9th March 2015

Location:-

Tied House Brewery 954 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA

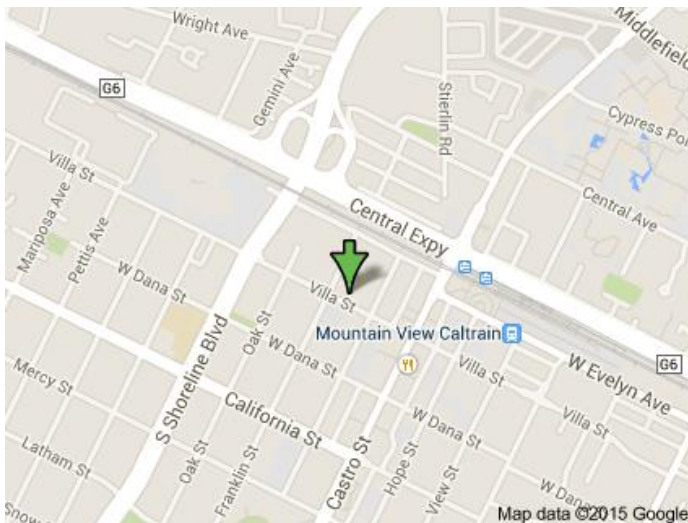
Time:

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

Program

Annual NCCC Awards Meeting"

Come To Claim Your Own Award(s) and/or
Enjoy Seeing Others Receive Their Awards.



President's Report

By-laws amendment

As of this writing, we have an election in progress for a by-laws amendment that would split the office of secretary treasurer into separate secretary and treasurer positions. Unfortunately, there were a number of drafting errors, that in the opinion of the sponsor and various knowledgeable people are fatal flaws. The board is asking for everyone to vote "No" on the current petition so that a new corrected version can be presented to the membership.

Even if you are in favor of the office split, which the board is, you should vote "No" on the current amendment.

The reason for the change is to make it easier to recruit officers. The secretary treasurer job is enough work for two people. An argument was advanced that if this change is approved, we have to recruit two officers, not just one. Yes, but it should be easier to find two officers with reduced work loads.

Watch for announcements on the upcoming by-laws amendment. We are trying to get it done in time for next months elections, but the timing is really tight, so we can't guarantee that we will make it in time.

New officers

Speaking of officers, I will be searching for a new president.

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
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JUG Editor	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com
jug@nccc.cc	Fred Jensen	K6DGW	k6dgw@arrl.net
	David Ashworth	NC6P	nc6p@yahoo.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).

If you can recommend anyone, including yourself, for president, let me know. I will be contacting as many possible candidates as I can identify.

This is your chance to have an influence on the direction the club is going in. I think it is clear that we can't continue with business as usual leading to a downward spiral. However, there is no clear consensus about what to do about it. I hope I can identify a candidate with fresh ideas and good leadership abilities.

Awards

I see that we don't have a lot of RSVP's for the annual awards meeting. For the people not attending, I am not sure if they represent people not getting awards, or if they don't care about awards, or are happy getting them in the mail. It calls into question how much interest there is in awards. Byron and Joanna have tried to modify the awards to be more inclusive of the small stations and/or newer operators.

Visalia

If you can help man the NCCC table in the hallway and/or help with the hospitality suite, contact me.

2014/2015 Contest Dues

If you have already paid your NCCC dues for the 2014/2015 contest year, thanks. The club appreciates your support.

If you have not paid dues, a gentle reminder due were due last July and are currently past due. Now would be a good time to pay your dues as we are approaching the March meeting where NCCC awards will be presented. Per long standing policy, awards are only given to those members who have paid dues for the current year.

Not sure if you have paid dues? Check the roster on the club WEB site.

Dues payment can be sent to the club treasurer or via Pay-Pay pp address (paypal@nccc.cc)

K6EU
1545 Elwood Dr.
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Tom K6EU

Elecraft K3 Jitter—Bob N6TV

As many of you may know, the Elecraft K3 has a terrible CW jitter problem (bad CW timing) on TX if you transmit faster than 37 WPM, unless you enable CW QRQ mode. This problem exists even if you use semi-breakin mode instead of QSK. For more background on the issue, see:

<http://lists.f5mzn.org/pipermail/support/2013-November/083384.html>

Note that most operators choose not to enable CW QRQ mode, regardless of the benefit, because enabling CW QRQ mode disables RIT, Passband tuning, and Split operation.

I am fortunate to be a beta tester for the new Elecraft KSYN3A synthesizer boards for the K3, which was recently announced. This new hardware virtually eliminates the CW jitter problem, and it also improves receiver performance (see the Sherwood Engineering Receiver Performance Table at <http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>). You can now send decent CW at high speed and still have RIT and PB tuning available. Diversity reception is also improved, since only one synthesizer is used to drive both receivers when selecting Diversity mode.

First, for the QSK operator, an upgrade to K3 firmware 5.14 or later is strongly recommended, as this alone eliminates all of the annoying loud pops and ticks heard between dots and dashes in prior releases (some of which were loud enough to potentially cause ear damage in pileup situations). The new v5.14 firmware completely eliminates this longstanding issue. No new hardware is required. QSK operation is at long last a very pleasant mode on an Elecraft K3. Be sure to select NEW QSK mode by using the menu CONFIG: CW WGHT, then tap [3] until "New QSK" is displayed.

Here are some recordings of the local sidetone (headphone audio) at high speed, made during the ARRL DX CW.

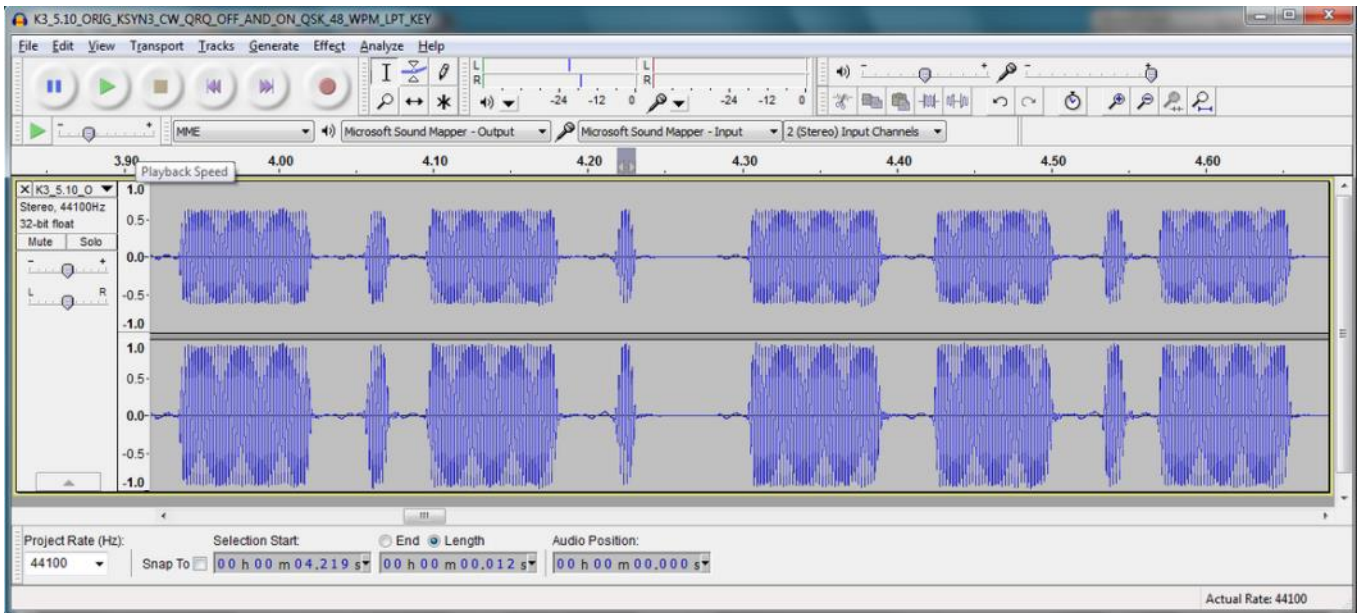
<http://bit.ly/KSYN3sidetone> (old boards, new firmware)

<http://bit.ly/KSYN3Asidetone> (new boards, new firmware)

I've also posted some recordings I made with a separate receiver. This first one demonstrates the high speed CW jitter problem when using the original KSYN3 board. CW is 48 WPM via external keying, QSK mode (but it sounds just as bad with semi-breakin). In the middle of the recording I switch to CW QRQ mode, which cleans everything up, but at a high cost (no more RIT or PB tuning):

<http://bit.ly/KSYN3>

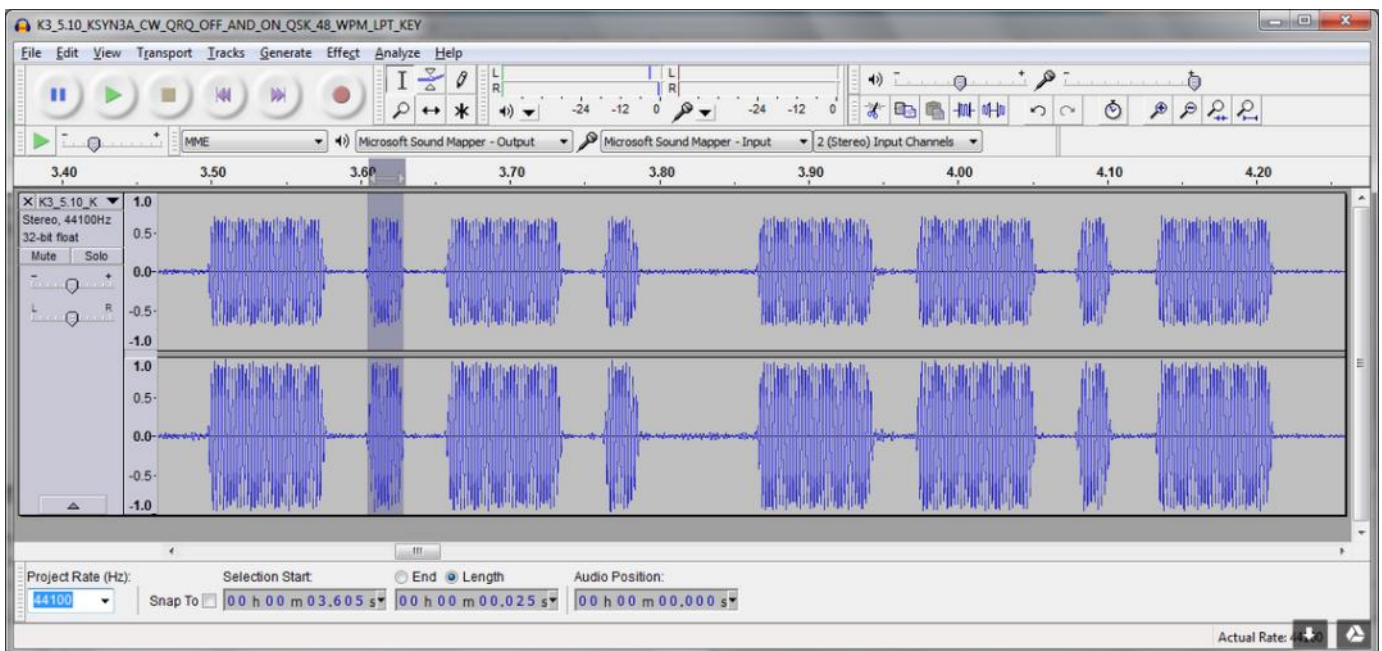
At 48 WPM, each dot (and the space between them) is supposed to be $1200/48 = 25$ ms long, but some are only 12 ms long (per Audacity), and the timing variation is easy to see when you zoom in on "CQ



The second recording was made of a K3 transmitter with two new KSYN3A boards (again, listening on a separate receiver).

http://bit.ly/KSYN3_A

Even with CW QRQ OFF, things are looking pretty good:



I can barely hear the difference now, with CW QRQ ON or OFF (CW QRQ ON still sounds a little better, but not by much).

I say this is a nice piece of work by Elecraft Chief engineer N6KR. The new KSYN3A boards are \$189 each and pretty simple to install. If you have the subreceiver, you need two boards, one for the main, one for the sub. If you plan on operating any CW above 37 WPM, which is common on expeditions, you really should get them.

73, Bob, N6TV



Contest Calendar— March page 1

NSARA Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 1 and 1800Z-2200Z, Mar 1
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 1 to 0059Z, Mar 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 3
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 3
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 4
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 4 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 4 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 5
AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	2300Z, Mar 4 to 2300Z, Mar 5 and 2300Z, Mar 7 to 2300Z, Mar 8
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Mar 5 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 5 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Mar 5 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Mar 5 (Dig)
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 6
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 6
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
Wake-Up!QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Mar 7 and 0630Z-0659Z, Mar 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, Mar 7 and 0730Z-0800Z, Mar 7
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	1800Z-2059Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and 2100Z-2359Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and 0800Z-1059Z, Mar 8 (High Band) and 1100Z-1359Z, Mar 8 (High Band)



Contest Calendar— March page 2

UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 11
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 12
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 13
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 13
Nauryz DX Contest	0800Z-1359Z, Mar 14
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
All Africa International DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
F9AA Cup, SSB	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 14 to 0200Z, Mar 15
QRP ARCI Spring Digital Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 14
EA PSK63 Contest	1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0759Z, Mar 15
QCWA QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 1800Z, Mar 15
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	1800Z-2200Z, Mar 15
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16
Bucharest Contest	1800Z-2059Z, Mar 16
CLARA HF Contest	1700Z, Mar 17 to 1700Z, Mar 18 and 1700Z, Mar 21 to 1700Z, Mar 22
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 18



Contest Calendar— March page 3

CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 18 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 18 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 19
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 19
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 20
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 20
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 20
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	1000Z, Mar 21 to 1000Z, Mar 22
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 22
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Mar 21 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Mar 21 (432)
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 22 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 22
Feld Hell Sprint	1700Z-1859Z, Mar 21
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 25
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 26
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 27
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 27
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 27
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 28
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359Z, Mar 29

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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



IC-7100 | All Mode Transceiver

- HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions



ID-5100A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

- Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch • FM Analog/DV Repeater List Function

ID-51A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible



TH-F6A | 2M/220/440

- Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories • Li-Ion Battery

KENWOOD



TS-590SG | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- Equipped with 500 Hz/2.7 kHz roofing filter as standard • ALC derived from TS-990S eliminating spike issues • Antenna output function (shared with DRV connector) • CW - morse code decoder function



TM-D710G | 2M/440 Dualband

- V+V/V+U/U+U operation • Built-in GPS • Built-in TNC for APRS & DX-Cluster operation • 50W 2M & UHF • 1,000 memories • Dual receive • Green or amber backlight colors • Latest APRS firmware w/new features • Sky Command II remote functions



TM-V71A | 2M/440 Dualband

- High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops • Invertible front panel • Choice of green/amber for LCD panel • 104 code digital code squelch



TM-281A | 2 Mtr Mobile

- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



FT-60R | 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

YAESU
The radio



FT-991 | HF/50MHz/2M/440 Transceiver

- 160 M-440MHz - SSB/CW/FM/C4FM Digital/AM/RTTY/PSK • 100 W (2M/440: 50 Watts) • 3.5" TFT full-color touch panel operation • High speed spectrum scope • Roofing filters: 3kHz & 15kHz • 32-bit high speed floating point IF DSP



FTDX1200 | 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- Triple Conversion Receiver With 32-bit Floating Point DSP • 40 MHz 1st IF with selectable 3 kHz, 6kHz & 15 kHz Roofing Filters • Optional FFT-1 Supports AF-FFT Scope, RTTY/PSK31 Encode/Decode, CW Decode/Auto Zero-In • Full Color 4.3" TFT Display



FT-450D | A100W HF + 6M Transceiver

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



FTM-400DR | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



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