



**Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club**



Issue 533

October 2016



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President's Report

Happy October, KB'ers!

The contest season is upon us. I trust all of the summer antenna jobs are complete and all of you have your stations operating on all 8 cylinders. I have an 80 meter sloper to repair, but otherwise everything seems to be in order at W1RH. I'm becoming more and more familiar with the operation of my new Flex 6700 and Maestro, and I have Chris, N6WM, to thank for helping me with the learning process.

NCCC Next Meeting



Location:
Michaels @ Shoreline, Mountain View

Saturday, December 17th
11am to 3pm

More details to follow next month !

The first weekend of this month meant another successful and fun California QSO Party. I believe we have reached the 900 log count and we did have all of our counties active.

For the 8th year in a row, my East Coast M/S contesting partner, Martin AA1ON, traveled to California to operate and we had a blast.

A week prior to the contest, N6TV put the word out that we were still looking for operators in Trinity, Colusa, and Alpine Counties. Our members came through for us with the Tehama group taking one for the team and splitting up to cover Tehama, Colusa and Trinity. Thanks go out to K9YC, N6RNO, WB6HYD, N3RC, N3ZZ, W6GJB, and K6MI for their last minute efforts in getting all three counties activated.

Continued on page 3



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

Officers:

President	Bob Hess	W1RH	w1rh@yahoo.com
Vice President /Contest Chair	Steve Dyer	W1SRD	w1srd@arrl.net
Treasurer	Dick Wilson	K6LRN	treasurer.nccc@gmail.com
Secretary	Ian Parker	W6TCP	secretary.nccc@gmail.com
Past President	Rick Karlquist	N6RK	richard@karlquist.com
Director	Rusty Epps	W6OAT	w6oat@sbcglobal.net
Director:	Rich Cutler	WC6H	wc6h@yahoo.com
Director:	Ron Castro	N6IE	ronc@sonic.net

Volunteers:

New Member Mentor	Al Rendon	WT6K	wt6k@arrl.net
Charter Member	Rusty Epps	W6OAT	w6oat@sbcglobal.net
Awards Chair	Gary Johnson	NA6O	gwj@wb9jps.com
CQP Chair	Kevin Rowett	K6TD	k6td@arrl.net
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
Webinars	Chris Hoffman	KG6O	choffma@gmail.com
JUG Editor	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com
jug@nccc.cc			



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM

Freq: 3.610 +/-

NCCC

Visit the meetings page of the NCCC website [here](#) for details of the next meeting

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).

Alpine County was another last minute effort. With the assistance of K6DGW, who provided site information on the Monitor Pass location Fred and his team operated from for several years, one of our new members, Tyler K6TLR, took it and ran with it. He and his uncle (K6DRL), both experienced four wheelers, stopped by my house and picked up a FT-857, generator, tribander, 40 meter dipole, power supply and mast, and then drove to Monitor Pass and set up camp at 8,500 feet elevation. They got it all going, surviving a night time temperature of 19 degrees and a snow storm near the end of the contest, giving many out-of-state contesters the ALPI mult. NCCC and the CQP committee thank Tyler and Darrel for activating Alpine.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the fabulous CQP team, led by John, K6MM. Special thanks also go out to Bob, N6TV, for coordinating the county activation effort. Now, it's all in the hands of the log checking group.

The preliminary results of the 2016 NAQP Three Club Challenge are out, and it's not a pretty picture for NCCC.

2016 Preliminary Results as of 13 October

Event	NCCC			PVRC			SMC		
	Points	Participants	Score	Points	Participants	Score	Points	Participants	Score
January CW	2,613,462	53	138,513,486	6,197,146	137	849,008,934	3,871,699	92	356,196,308
January SSB	1,336,834	55	73,525,870	2,580,225	125	322,528,167	1,613,223	92	148,416,470
February RTTY	1,395,020	36	50,220,720	643,177	53	34,088,393	1,625,311	76	123,523,636
July RTTY	742,392	40	29,695,680	514,968	59	30,383,119	1,323,229	61	80,716,969
August CW	1,989,909	59	117,404,631	2,724,142	106	288,759,052	2,606,274	86	224,139,564
August SSB	1,411,501	52	73,398,037	1,483,254	114	169,090,991	1,631,664	77	125,638,146
Total	9,489,118	295	482,758,424	14,142,912	594	1,693,858,656	12,671,400	484	1,058,631,093

There has been quite a bit of discussion, following the posting of the results, regarding a way to "equalize the footing" between the three clubs, based on membership. It was stated in one email that PVRC has 750 members, NCCC has 500 members, and SMC has 310 members, therefore giving PVRC the edge in the competition. I'm not sure if the SMC and PVRC membership numbers are correct, but I do know that that the number quoted for NCCC is not correct. Indeed, our membership is actually around 250, based on Ian's (W6TCP) multi-month cleanup of our membership list. The proposal would give the clubs with fewer members a multiplier to "equalize the footing". Personally, I have mixed emotions with this suggestion and I doubt there will be a change in the rules. NCCC has shown that we can win the Challenge if we really want to, but it means the participation of nearly all of our 250 members.

In the downside of the solar cycle, I do question the ability of our club to win the challenge, which makes me wonder if it would make more sense to form competitions between West Coast clubs, such as SCCC.

Some will suggest that NCCC is just not interested in NAQP. I disagree. In my opinion, HF contesting is fun, no matter what the contest is, but the amount of fun for those of us on the West Coast may follow the solar cycle. The peak of the cycle means lots of HF fun and more member participation. The bottom of the cycle means less HF fun and participants need to work harder for the points, which may mean reduced participation.

I'll let you form your own conclusions. For me, while HF contesting at the peak of the cycle is always a rush, contesting is still a rush in the down cycle.....improving strategy, improving the low band antennas, lowering noise levels, etc.

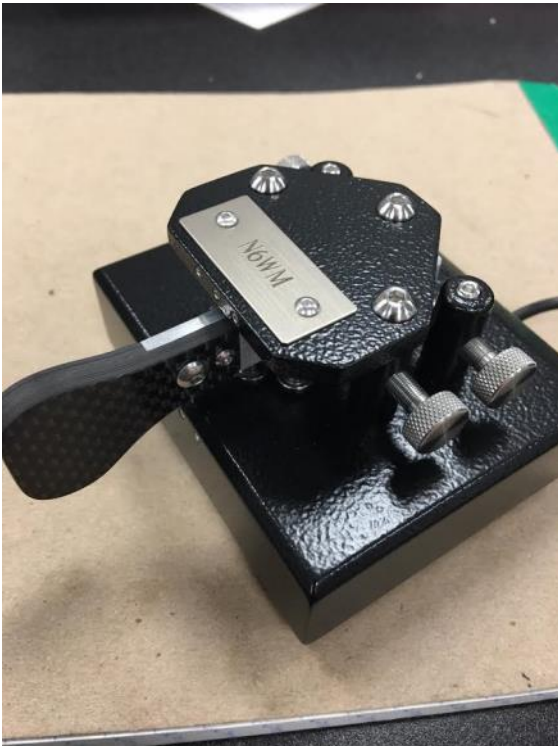
NCCC will, again, not be focusing on Sweepstakes this year. We just do not have enough member interest to compete in the Unlimited Club category. Instead, MLDXCC will go for another gavel in the Medium Club category and I presume that PL259 will do same for the local club category. We will, however, be rallying the troops for the RTTY Roundup and WPX RTTY.

The results, so far, in the NCCC internal club competition are looking interesting. The latest contest scores to be added to the cumulative totals will be CQWW SSB. I hope to post the totals on the website in a few weeks.

As I write this, the officers and a few volunteers are working on the details for our December Holiday party. Stay tuned.

Enjoy the contest season, KB'ers!

N3ZN Key



When I was at N6RO for CQP, Steve K6AW brought a single lever N3ZN key for his use. taking a close look at the craftsmanship I was very impressed and Contacted Tony.

After discussing with him I decided to purchase a new ZN-SL single lever from him.

It arrived today and all I can say is great things about the craftsmanship and quality. I am very impressed. mechanically its outstanding.

Tony N3ZN was great and I really felt he took good care of me. I would recommend taking a look at his stuff if you are in the market for a new CW key.

Really top quality stuff.

Chris N6WM

California QSO Party

K6M—Modoc County

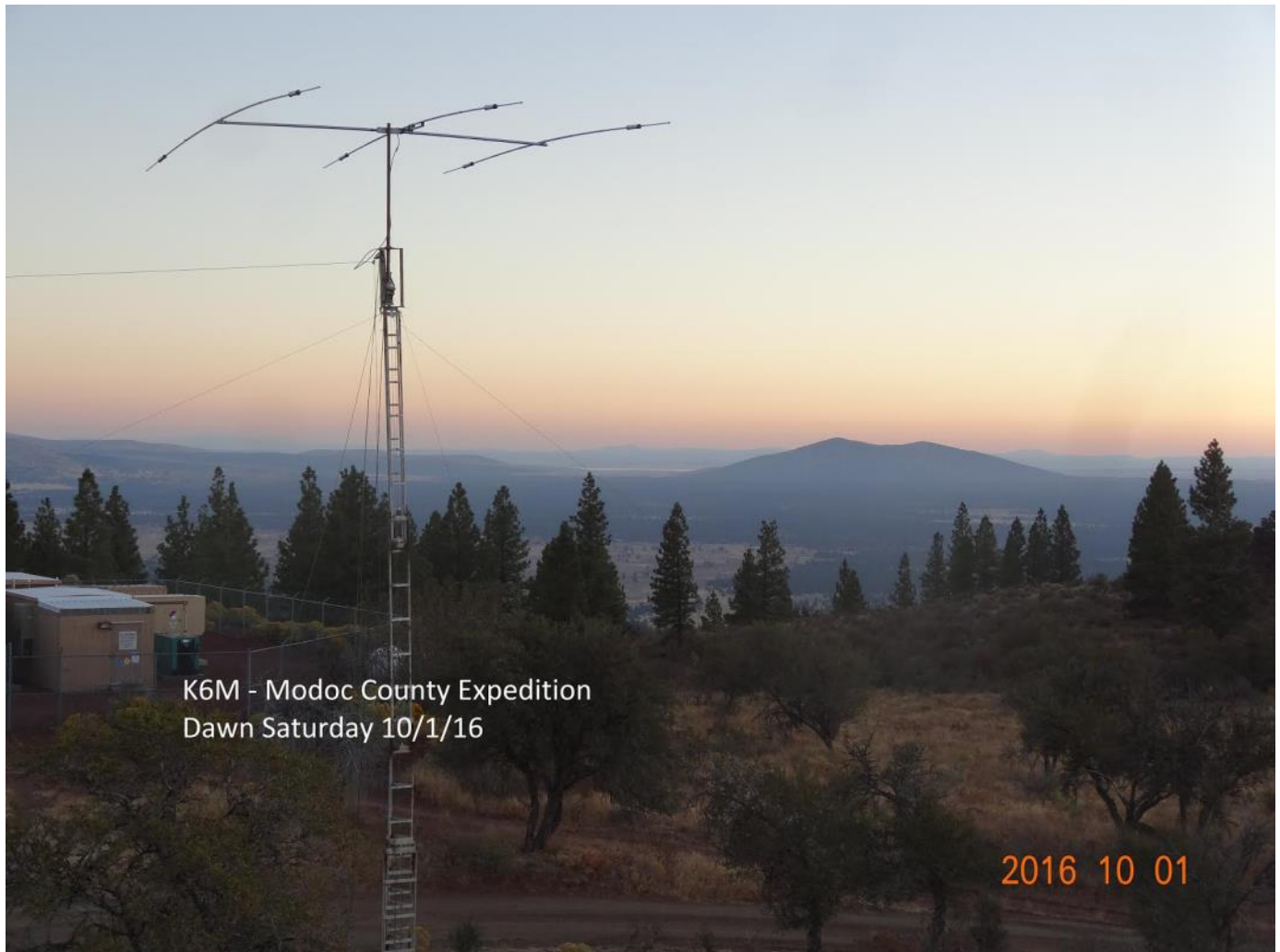


Operators: K4XU NX1P AA5TL AE7EU N7NPQ KU7F W7YOW KS7V. KA5ZLQ, Mrs AA5TL, was our photographer.

The Central Oregon DX Club has been making the 200 mile trek from Bend to light up Modoc county in the CQP every year since 1999. As we like to say, Field Day is not a contest, it's just practice for the CQP! We operated from the Modoc National Forest Timber Mountain fire lookout facility. It has a small barn, a pit toilet, two 15A line power circuits, and the 35 foot lookout tower itself. W7YOW, one of our operators actually served as a lookout here for several years.

We left Bend Oregon at 7AM and stopped for the ritual breakfast at Gordy's truck stop. From there we caravanned south, through Klamath Falls and then southeast into CA and Modoc County. The last 4 miles are on a very wash boarded dirt road. We had AA5TL's 5th wheel trailer, W7YOW's truck camper, and a motorhome loaned by usual participant WN7K. AE7EU and KU7F came down late in the evening because they both still work for a living.

This year we ran two 500W stations: Paula's KX3/KPA500(modified)/KAT500 on CW and Dick's K3/KPA500 for phone. The phone station used a TH-3 on the trailer tower. It was only cranked to 45' because of the 50 mph winds. The CW station used a TH-3jr on a 30 ft pole 250 ft due south of the trailer tower. This spacing provides enough isolation to run the two stations on the same HF band. A 40m 2 element inverted V beam is supported between the trailer tower and a 45' military mast. This mast also supported the 80m inverted V. A 40m dipole sloping south from the lookout tower rail was used on CW. The 160m antenna was a 200' inverted L also hanging off the lookout tower's south railing at 35'. We tried a new anchor point south of the tower this year. Not a good plan. Unknown to us, about 0645Z (midnight) a deer ran into the L's anchor rope and broke it, causing the wire to intermittently touch the tower. Only 18 QSOs on top band this year. For LF receive, there is a 300' Beverage going East.



The summit of Timber Mountain is shared by the NFS fire lookout, a telephone microwave relay tower, a multi-company cellphone tower, and a third 60' tower for NFS and BLM VHF repeaters. Over the years we have had to deal with switch-mode power supply QRM. As their gear has been upgraded over time and new tenants added, the noise problem has actually decreased. In past years we put the 80m inverted V on a pole 20' above the lookout's deck. Because fire lookout operations ended at 6PM on Friday this year, the tower was locked up and we were forced to put the 80m inverted V on the military mast. But we were rewarded with a much lower 80m noise level. Apparently there's something in the manned fire lookout that makes 80m noise.

When we arrived, a weather front was approaching, and while the temperature remained about 55°, the wind was gusting to 50mph. Saturday's weather was partly sunny and mid-50s. Sunday morning broke with a gray sky, rain/snow showers and 35°. As the morning progressed the LF antennas were taken down. Paula had to leave for Brookings at noon so we were down to one transmitter for the last three hours. We kept it on CW to keep the points/hr as high as possible. We still needed Delaware for a sweep. At 2020Z N3DXX answered our CQ and we had it.

As the 2016 CQP ended at 3 PM, we immediately started cranking down the trailer tower. The snow was starting to stick and we were wondering what the road conditions would be like going down the mountain. The whole operation was packed and ready to go by 3:30.



Looking back, two weeks after the event, it was another fun time at Modoc. It was not the worst weather we have ever experienced. We had fun, ate well, and trained two new ops. Our club's next effort is to crank up the 7th Area QSO Party. The CODXC manages this event and in its twelve year existence it has become the second largest QSO party in the country, right behind the CQP. 7QP is the first weekend in May, and with 259 counties to cover, it offers an excellent opportunity for rare county expeditioning or mobiling. Hint hint.

K6M Summary:

Band	CW Qs	Ph Qs
160:	18	
80:	250	59
40:	336	111
20:	493	345
15:	253	207

Total: 1350 772 Mults 58 Total Score 318,478

Our thanks to the NCCC for running the CQP.

73, K6M Team, Modoc County

California QSO Party

Next Month.....Serious Logging problems @ N6G, Tuolumne





**SUMMER
BBQ**

Radio Oakley - N6RO



Photos provided by John K6MM, Gary NA6O, Roger N3RC
and Ian W6TCP



WA6O, K3EST, KI6NJW



W6PH, NA6O



N6RO, N6KLS, W1RH



K6LRN, NM7H, K6MR







Hank W6SX & Rhonda

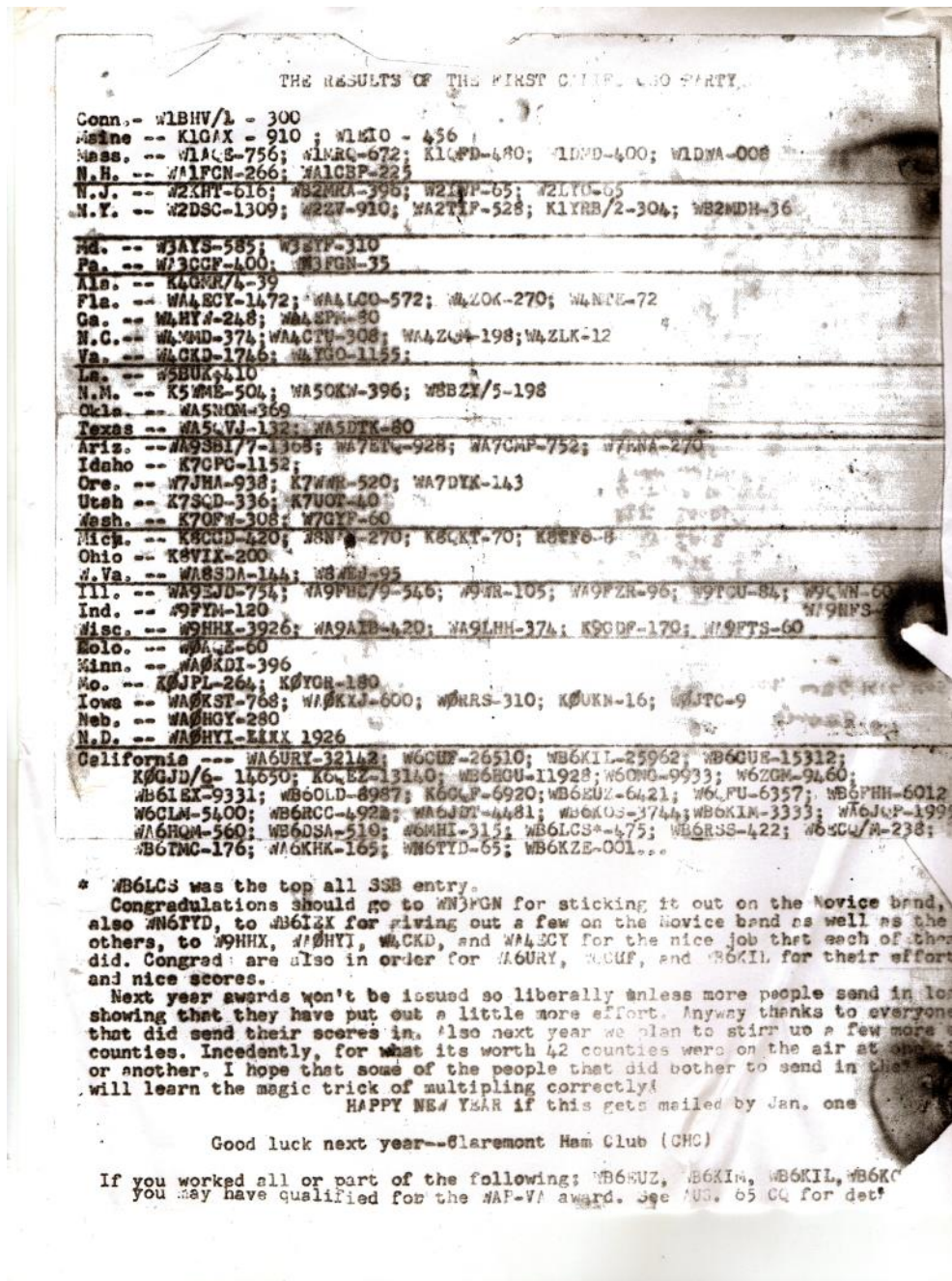
See you all next year !



CQP #1 October 1966

Bob, WA1FCN recently sent me a copy of the results from CQP #1 which took place way back in October, 1966, and was sponsored by the Claremont Ham Club. This was eight years prior to the time when NCCC became involved with CQP. Since we just finished CQP #51, I thought Jug readers might enjoy seeing how that first one compares to this latest one. The visual quality of the write-up for #1 is very poor, so I have retyped it as an MS Word document which probably will be easier to read (it might be fun to include both versions in The Jug). I tried to leave the original text as it was ... misspellings and all. Remember, CQP #1 was completely organized and run by a bunch of teenagers from Claremont.

Rusty W6OAT



THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST CALIF. QSO PARTY

Conn. - W1BHV/1 - 300

Maine - K1GAX - 910; W1EIO - 456

Mass. - W1AQE-756; W1MRQ-672; K1QFD-480; W1DMD-400; W1DWA-008

N.H. - WA1FCN-266; WA1CBP-225

N.J. - W2KHT-616; WB2MRA-396; W2IWP-65; W2LYO-65

N.Y. - W2DSC-1309; W2ZV-910; WA2TIF-528; K1YRB/2-304; WB2MDH-36

Md. - W3AYS-585; W3EYF-310

Pa. - WA3CCF-400; WN3FGN-35

Ala. - K4GMR/4-39

Fla. - WA4ECY-1472; WA4LCO-572; W4ZOK-270; W4NTE-72

Ga. - W4HYW-248; WA4EPM-80

N.C. - W4MMD-374; WA4CTU-308; WA4ZQM-198; W4ZLK-12

Va. - W4CKD-1746; W4YGO-1155;

La. - W5BUK-410

N.M. - K5WME-504; WA5OKW-396; W8BZY/5-198

Okla. - WA5NOM-369

Texas - WA5QVJ-132; WA5DTK-80

Ariz. - WA9SBI/7-1368; WA7ETQ-928; WA7CMP-752; W7ENA-270

Idaho - K7CPC-1152;

Ore. - W7JHA-938; K7WWR-520; WA7DYK-143

Utah - K7SQD-336; K7UOT-40

Wash. - K7OFW-308; W7GYF-60

Mich. - K8CCD-420; W8NNV-270; K8QKT-70; K8?FO-8

Ohio - K8VIX-200

W.Va. - WA8SDA-144; W8WEJ-95

Ill. - WA9EJD-754; WA9FBC/9-546; W9WR-105; WA9FZR-96; W9TCU-84; W9QWN-60; WA9NFS-??

Ind. - W9FYM-120

Wisc. - W9HHX-3926; WA9AIB-420; WA9LHH-374; K9GDF-170; WA9FTS-60

Colo. - W0AQE-60

Minn. - WA0KDI-396

Mo. - K0JPL-264; K0YGR-180

Iowa - WA0KST-768; WA0KXJ-600; W0RRS-310; K0UKN-16; W0JTC-9

Neb. - WA0HGY-280

N.D. - WA0HYI-1926

California --- WA6URY-32142; W6CUF-26510; WB6KIL-25962; WB6GUE-15312;

K0GJD/6-14650; K6QEZ-13140; WB6HGU-11928; W6ONG-9933; W6ZGM-9460;

WB6IEX-9331; WB6OLD-8987; K6CQF-6920; WB6EUZ-6421; W6QFU-6357; WB6FHH-6012

W6CLM-5400; WB6RCC-492?; WA6JDT-4481; WB6KOS-3744; WB6KIM-3333; WA6JQP-1995

WA6HQM-560; WB6DSA-510; W6MHI-315; WB6LCS*-475; WB6RSS-422; W6ECQ/M-238

WB6TCM-176; WA6KHK-165; WN6TYD-65; WB6KZE-001...

* WB6LCS was the top all SSB entry.

Congratulations should go to WN3FGN for sticking it out on the Novice band, also WN6TYD, to WB6IEX for giving out a few on the Novice band as well as the others, to W9HHX, WA0HYI, W4CKD, and WA4ECY for the nice job that each of them did. Congrats are also in order for WA6URY, W6CUF and WB6KIL for their effort and nice scores.

Next year awards won't be issued so liberally unless more people send in logs showing that they have put out a little more effort. Anyway thanks to everyone that did send their scores in. Also next year we plan to stir up a few more counties. Incidentally, for what its worth 42 counties were on the air at one time or another. I hope that some of the people that did bother to send in their logs will learn the magic trick of multiplying correctly!

HAPPY NEW YEAR if this gets mailed by Jan. one

Good luck next year—Claremont Ham Club (CHC)

If you worked all or part of the following: WB6EUZ, WB6KIM, WB6KIL, WB6KOS
you may have qualified for the WAP-VA award. See AUG. 65 CQ for details.

I see this was written before personal computers and spell checking...

It'd sure be nice to translate all of the old calls into present callsigns. Several looked very familiar...

WB6LCS is AB6BH

W6CUF is W6CF now SK

WB6KIL is K1KI

W6ZGM SK

WB6OLD is KR6X

K6CQF is K6TA

WA1CBP SK

K1QFD SK

WA2TIF was W1RZF now SK

WB6HGU is K6OY

WB6EUZ is NN6CH

WA6HQM may be K0CSD

WB6RCC may be JG1IRX"

Looking through the list of #1 participants, I recognized W6CUF, WB6HGU, W6ZGM and K6CQF as present, or now-deceased, NCCC members.

John, K6MM, is going to post the 1966 CQP results on the CQP website (www.cqp.org) if anybody wishes to find it again.

73 de Rusty, W6OAT

PACIFICON 2016

ARRL Pacific Division Ham Radio Convention



Pacificon "A" Team Dave, K6KNS & Norm, N6JV

Northern California Contest Club had a table at Pacificon (October 14 to 16th) The NCCC table was a great place to meet and greet, answer questions about our club, about contesting! Handouts were given to prospective members and a number of questions answered.

Thanks to everyone who manned the NCC Table this year !

CW Training with a Contesting Component

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

Beginning in the Spring of 2012, the CW Operators Club (CWops) has been offering beginner, intermediate and advanced courses in CW skills, and each has important contesting components. The program is called "CW Academy" and with its approximately 40 volunteer advisors, the program trains over 300 students per year.

The Rationale

CW Academy was first posited after CWops first president, Pete Chamalian, W1RM, tried the Rookie Roundup CW event for the first time. Pete found that a few of the rookies were doing a good job but most of those who played were sorely lacking in CW skills and contesting skills. So, Pete first suggested that CWops come up with a mentoring program to help floundering CW types attain solid CW skills.

False First Steps

Originally, the club tried to maintain a spreadsheet whereby those who wanted mentoring, and those who could provide it, were organized by days, times, and band accessibility. It failed miserably. Too many variables, and it did nothing for the beginners who could not learn on-the-air before first learning the characters and QSO protocols.

That first effort was begun in the Spring of 2011 and resulted in small but notable successes with a handful of aspirants.

Rethinking the Problem

What CW Academy was faced with was significant demand for this service, but prospective students were spread across the country and the world. Trying to field some kind of actual meeting places and training rooms was dead on arrival. People were simply too spread out.

Instead, someone did some out-of-the-box thinking. Jack Ritter (SK), W0UCE, had had decades of experience training CW types in the Navy. He had some pretty ground-in ideas about what worked and what didn't work. But, more important, he had an idea for how to overcome the problem of advisor and student dispersal. Jack said, "Let's try using OOVOO." OOVOO is a free, on-line, audio and video group call entity. Using a computer, a webcam, and OOVOO's application, one could gather advisors and students into discrete groups creating, in effect, virtual training rooms. Everyone in the group could see and hear everyone else in the group. What's more, everyone had a keyer and side-tone that could be picked up by the webcam's microphone. So, it was truly like having a physical training room in which each student and advisor could talk and send/receive Morse.

Giving It Structure

By far, our largest proportion of student signups was in the beginner category. This was a big surprise because so many of these folks had come up the ranks from no-code licensing. We assumed we would mostly see hams whose careers dated back to the days of code speed requirements. We were wrong. That's not to say that we did not get a lot of those type hams, too. It is just to say that the majority were newer vintage who "wanted" to learn Morse and never found themselves in a situation where they had to learn it.

Given our scant advisor numbers at the time (12 advisors), and a realistic limit of five students per advisor per class, we found ourselves with a one-year backlog in signups after deciding to hold three, 8-week courses per year (January-February, April-May, and September-October). Now in its fourth year, we still have a one-year backlog despite a through-put of 300 students per year!

The courses were developed for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Beginners were those who either had not learned any or all of the characters, or included those who said their speeds were 10 wpm or less. Intermediates were those with speeds of 11 to 15 wpm and some on-air experience, and advanced were people having speeds of 15 to 20+ wpm with significant on-air experience. Our goals were to, in eight weeks, have beginners who could headcopy QSO-type messages at 15 wpm; contest-type exchanges at 20 wpm; and training on QSO protocols with an introduction to contesting and DX pile-up operation.

The intermediates were expected to see at least a 5 wpm improvement in their ability to copy and send along with more training in contesting and DXing. And, the objective for the advanced group was headcopying/sending of QSO-type messaging at 25 or higher wpm plus call sign and contest exchange copy and keyboard entry at speeds of 30 or higher wpm.

About a month before each new semester begins, signups are organized by level and time zone. The CW Academy manager, Jerry, AC4BT, then assigns each advisor a group of up to five students per course. Some advisors teach two groups, back-to-back, so these advisors could have up to 10 students. In rare cases, advisors do more than two groups.

During the month leading up to each semester, advisors reach out to their assigned students and provide them with preliminary information and resources for the course. Where a signup cannot commit to that semester's timing, Jerry provides replacement prospects from his long QRX list. These are based on date/time of signup, and time zone. The object is to try and keep the dance cards fully loaded.

About the Courses

All three levels courses are well structured. Each course has a text – Practice Instructions and Homework Assignments – that breaks down the eight weeks into 16 sessions that correspond to two weekly group-calling meetings with their advisors. There are assignments for six out of seven days per week over the eight weeks, and students practice the assignments before they meet with their advisor. Thus, the advisor's role becomes more advisory than teaching. The students learn on their own and advisors point out areas of improvement and methods for making those improvements.

The beginner course spends the first five or eight weeks learning the characters, numbers, pro-signs, and Q codes. The remaining three weeks are devoted to learning proper QSO methods and protocols, and an introduction to contesting and DXing. At the end, these students are ready to get on the air and begin having fun, albeit, at speeds in the 15 to 20 wpm range.

The intermediate and advanced courses focus on QSO headcopy skills development and contesting skills development. Using our own proprietary QSO files, the students listen to QSOs from CQ to SK, jotting down nothing by minimal notes like “579, Dallas, Joe.” At first, they learn what we call first exchanges (RST, QTH and name) and second exchanges (WX, rig info, age). They are also taught how to wrap up a QSO. Later they hear more conversational QSO files where they simply sit back and “grok” what’s coming at them. During the twice weekly online sessions, students and advisors engage in interactive exercises that reinforce what they’ve been practicing.

The intermediate and advanced students, in addition to the QSO files and headcopy skills are also assigned RufzXP and Morse Runner assignments each week. The goal, there, is to get them used to copying and entering typical contest-type exchanges into logging programs. In addition, the intermediate group begins participating in actual on-air CWTs (the one-hour sessions held at 1300, 1900 and 0300Z each Wednesday) after the fourth week; and the advanced students begin right from the first week. Since CWT average speed is usually over 30 wpm, both intermediate and advanced students are advised to do S&P mode operation so they have the time to get the info before calling. Toward the end, both groups are advised to blend in some “running” operation, too.

Work In Process

CW Academy is a work in process. Each semester, the advisors share with one another over their own listserv new ideas and discoveries that seem to really improve results. That was how the contest and contesting tools were first introduced. A few advisors had tried it and saw significant symbiosis between contest and headcopy skill progress.

One big change that occurred last year was a switch from OOVOO to Skype group calling. OOVOO may have grown too quickly because we began to see bandwidth contention issues and quality issues that became a problem. Skype has been a smoother ride so far.

An Initiative Aimed at Younger Prospects

CWops is poised to roll out what it calls “Youth CW Academy.” This program is aimed at prospects between 11 and 19 years old. They are slated to be grouped with age peers, so one would expect to find a group of 11 to 13 years old, or 14 to 16 years old, or 17 to 19 years old. The goal, again, is to train them in groups of up to five, and get them QSOing with one another. Upon graduating the beginner program, the plan is currently to have donated equipment on hand as “loaners” for kids who sign an agreement to put in some minimum number of hours on the air each month. So long as they meet their commitment, the equipment is theirs to use. If they begin falling short, it must be returned to CWops.

For lack of a more definitive vision, the vision for Youth CW Academy is to begin seeding the CW portion of the HF bands with groups of young folks, who know CW, who know one another, and can begin resurrecting a novice-band-type environment, as it was in the 1950s, and, hopefully, to begin rejuvenating our hobby.

More Info?

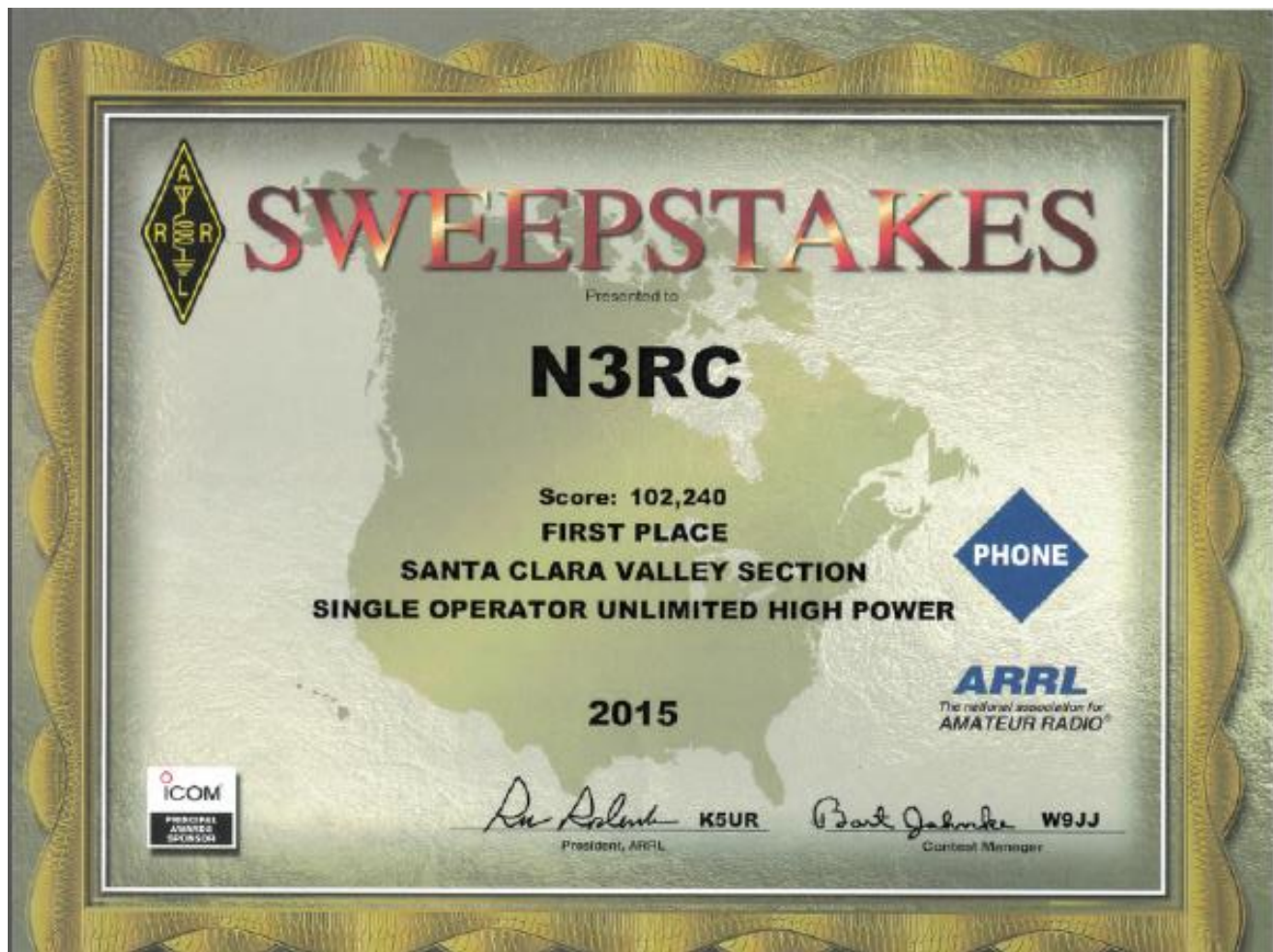
If you visit the CWops website (www.cwops.org) you’ll find a tab for CW Academy. Follow it

to the CW Academy area and explore the resources pages and files. Take a look at a Practice Instructions and Homework Assignments book. Listen to a QSO file or two. These QSO files are to be revamped, significantly, with a big set of new files that are being vetted during the current semester.

Getting Involved

With a one-year backlog that seems to keep in lock step even as our advisor corps keeps growing, we would love to have more advisors. You do not have to be a CWops member to join the CW Academy corps. There is a signup you can fill out in the CW Academy area of the website. All new advisors are given training and an orientation before advising their first groups. It is a great way to give back to ham radio, and a great way to help bring more people into CW contesting.

Sweepstakes—First Place SO/HP



Congratulations to Roger N3RC Just got certificate for top SS SSB HP Assisted from Santa Clara,





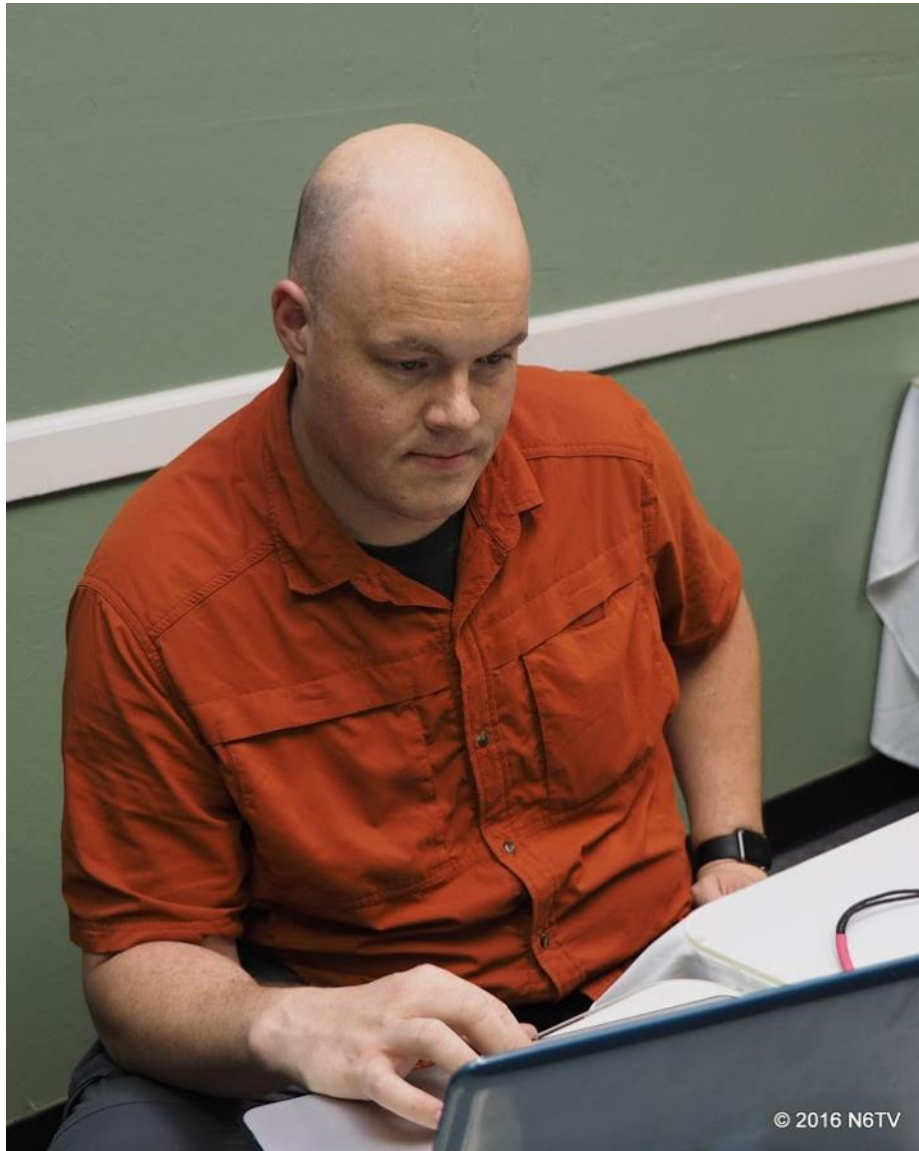


Photos by Bob N6TV

Chris KG6O

Chris is moving to W7 land with his family later this year. Chris was the Webex/AV Guru for many years and will be a big loss to NCCC

Thank you Chris and 73 !



Awards Chair

Welcome Gary NA6O, NCCC Awards Chair.

Gary Johnson, NA6O has taken over the Awards Chair role from Joanna K6YL. The NCCC BOD would like to thank Joanna for all of her efforts!

Gary is working with the various NCCC members to review and go over the job requirements. If you have any suggestions for new (or old Awards), please contact Gary. See page 2 for Gary's email address.

Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines

This reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting.

This includes contests, station building, dxpeditions, technical questions, contesting questions, amateur radio equipment wants/sales, score posting, amateur radio meetings/conventions, and membership achievements.

This does not include personal attacks, politics, or off-subject posts which will be considered a violation of the Guidelines.

Violations may result in removal of the violator from the reflector and possibly from club membership in good standing.



Member Planet

Transition to member planet is underway. If you haven't completed the sign in process please do so as soon as you can. If your unable to find the invite, please contact Ian W6TCP at w6tcpian@gmail.com

JUG Articles Wanted!

Without your help we cannot reproduce a quality newsletter so please consider submitting a suitable article!

We welcome any and all relevant articles for inclusion in the JUG.

Deadline is 7 days before month end. Preferred format is MS Word, Arial 12 point and pictures should be full resolution. Send your material to Ian, W6TCP at w6tcpian@gmail.com Don't worry

Point Generator Profile

By Bob, W1RH

Lacking a candidate this month, I'm filling in with my own profile.

Name/Call Sign:

W1RH

Past calls:

WN6EUQ, WB6EUQ, AA1KY, J3/W1RH, J37VG (M/S Call)

Location:

Lotus, near Placerville, CA

How much property do you have?

10.5 acres

Describe your antenna system:

Two towers on a mountain. The two towers are separated by about 300 feet horizontal with one about 200 feet down the slope. Both towers have a view to die for from about 355 degrees to 200 degrees. The top tower is about 100 feet down from the top of the mountain. Japan and much of the Pacific is blocked, but everything else is wide open. The site looks about 1000 feet straight down in the direction of the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Caribbean, and South America.

Tower #1 has a Force12 C19XR and a KLM 40 meter rotatable dipole.

Tower #2 has a Cushcraft A3S

80 meter sloper

40 meter sloper

80 meter full wave loop

40 meter full wave loop

Cushcraft R5 Vertical

East Beverage (which does not play well).

Future:

Will be phasing another A3S on the lower tower, fixed at 70 degrees.

Shopping for something different on the top tower that will include a 40 meter beam. Perhaps a SteppIR DB36 or 18 or a JK stack.

What's in your shack?

Flex 6700 w/Maestro

Two FT-1000 MP's

Johnson Matchbox

Several antenna switches

Alpha 91B

Alpha 76PA

All rotors are Yaesu

What are your previous QTH's?

Hopkinton, MA (near Boston)

Madera, CA

San Diego, CA

If you're working, what is your career? If not, what was your career?

I work for CBS. Currently Director, Engineering / Operations / IT for KOVR and KMAX, in Sacramento.

Previously in same position, with CBS, in Boston for WBZ-TV/AM, WSBK-TV, WODS-FM, WLWC-TV.

Several other TV and Radio stations on the resume.

Married? Kids? Grandkids?

Married to Karen. One son (N1UVA). One daughter (KB1DZM). Son's fiance has a license. Daughter's boyfriend is Tyler, K6TLR.

How many DXCC entities have you worked?

328

What's your favorite contest?

On the East Coast, CQWW and ARRL DX. On the West Coast, NAQP, WPX (all of them), RTTY Roundup.

Any tips for contesters?

Spend your money on antennas first, radios second, shack third.

What would you like to see changed in NCCC?

This is a terrific club....with a great history, organization, and newsletter. This is the club that sponsors the largest QSO party. We just need to all take one for the team and win the contests we focus on. It means participation of all members, whether or not the contest is one of your favorites.

Any other hobbies besides ham radio?

I have a small vineyard (a bit less than an acre currently) and make wine with a good friend who has about 6 acres of grapes. We grow mostly Rhone varietals, but also do a lot of Zinfandel and Sangevese.

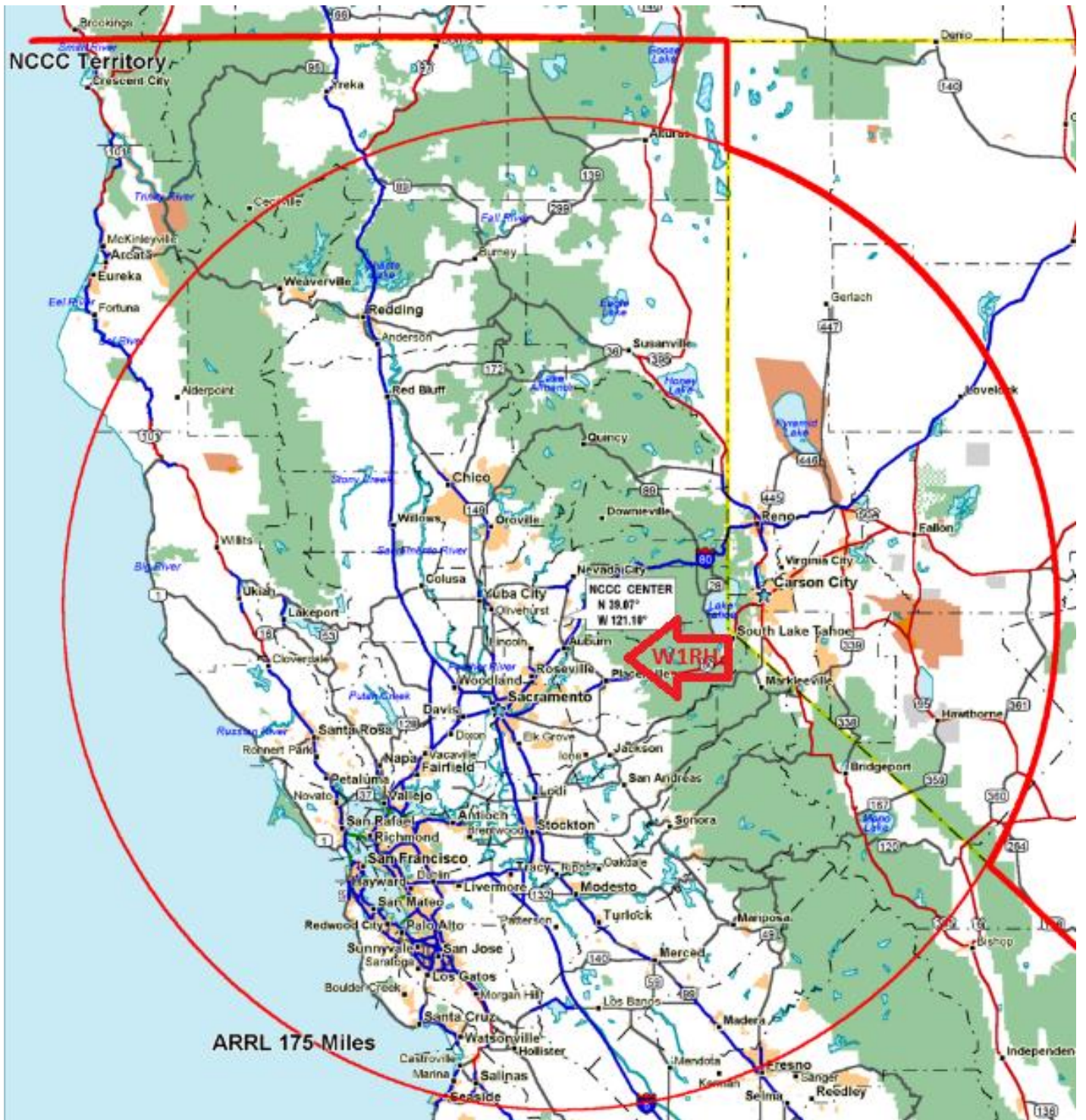


W1RH Top Tower



W1RH Shack





TUBE OF THE MONTH

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

TRIGATRON

One of the common uses for vacuum tubes is as a switch. Some common types have been modified to switch at high speeds as was needed in early vacuum tube computers. RADAR is still a user of high power vacuum and gas tubes for switching voltage to magnetrons. One odd tube developed and still used by the British for switching, is the trigatron. The RAF had problems with their RADARs at high altitudes. What they came up with isn't actually a vacuum tube. It would be more correct to call it a pressure vessel. After many experiments, a mixture of 93% argon and 7% oxygen was pumped into the envelope at a pressure of about 65 PSI. Two of the three electrodes within the envelope would conduct when the trigger electrode was pulsed. This example of the CV100 we have shown here would control up to 250 KW at a voltage of 24 KV.



Vacuum tubes are like light bulbs and when dropped, they break with a pop as the tube implodes. Not very dangerous. The trigatron is another problem. When it breaks, it explodes. To protect the operator from flying glass, they made a machine similar to what they use to make socks for people. The thread seems to be nylon line and a coating of lacquer. Very nice stitch work.



Contest Calendar— November page 1

Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 2
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 2 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 2 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 3
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 2
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Nov 3 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 3 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Nov 3 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Nov 3 (Dig)
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 4
IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 5 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 5
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 5 to 1200Z, Nov 6
RSGB International Sprint Contest, SSB	1700Z-2100Z, Nov 5
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 5 to 0300Z, Nov 7
IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 6 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 6
EANET Sprint	0800Z-1200Z, Nov 6
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 6 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 6



Contest Calendar— November page 2

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 8
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 9
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 9 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 9 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 10
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 9
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 11
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 11
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 12 to 1300Z, Nov 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 12 to 2400Z, Nov 13
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 12 to 1200Z, Nov 13
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 12 to 0200Z, Nov 13
CQ-WE Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 12 (CW/Digital) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 13 (Phone) and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 13 (Phone) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 14 (CW/Digital)
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 16
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 16 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 16 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 17
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 17



Contest Calendar— November page 3

NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 18
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 18
YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 18
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 19 to 2359Z, Nov 20
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 19 to 1000Z, Nov 20
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 19 to 1200Z, Nov 20
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 19 to 0700Z, Nov 20
Feld Hell Sprint	1700Z-1859Z, Nov 19
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 19
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21
Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	1300-1500Z, Nov 20 (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 20 (80m)
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 23
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 23
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 23 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 23 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 24
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 24
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 30
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 30 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 30 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 1
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 30

HAM RADIO OUTLET

14 STORE BUYING POWER!

ICOM



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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New Store!