

The Contest JUG



Newsletter of the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
Post Office Box 2025
Castro Valley, California 94546

Not All Junk Mail Goes 3rd Class

No. 30
November 1974

President: W6RGG. VP/Contest Chmn: WB6AIN. Sec/Treas: WA6NLQ. Directors: W6HQN, W6OAT, W6PAA.
Shapely Co-Eds: WLARR/6 and WA6NLQ.

PREVIEW OF COMING DISTRACTIONS

Nov. 15	NCCC club meeting, American Savings & Loan Assn., Hayward, 7:30 (preceded at 7 by meeting of Board of Directors)
16-17	ARRL Sweepstakes (phone)
23-24	CQ World Wide DX Test (CW)
Dec. 7- 8	ARRL 160-Meter Contest
14-15	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
20	NCCC Christmas Party, Rick's Swiss Chalet, Palo Alto

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS (AND IS ALSO LEARNING TO BEG, ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD). The following flatulent fanfaronade comes your way courtesy of W6RGG:

By the time you read this, the CW SS will be a thing of the past. Those of you who made a score commitment at the Oct. meeting have hopefully beaten your own goals, and those who weren't there will have a chance to do so for the phone SS (Nov. 16-17). We have thrown down the gauntlet to WDXC and WVARC for this year's SS, so you still have time to get in on one mode and add your score to the club total.

My thanks to W6OWQ and all who assisted him for a fine job at the Pacific Division Convention and WO6PDC. I don't know how many new members we'll gain because of the operation, but I'm sure the exposure was of benefit to the club.

As NCCC continues to grow, the need for a permanent meeting-place and regular meeting night is becoming more evident. Based on the geographic distribution of our membership, the most central area would seem to be in southern Alameda County. Inasmuch as new Red Cross rules preclude the consistent availability of their facilities in Oakland, I have moved the November meeting to Hayward (as noted elsewhere in this issue).

The Hayward QTH is available to us on a continuing no-charge basis, and I have reserved it for us for the third Friday of the first six months of 1975. There is ample free parking, a conveniently-located beer-&-pizza place and a nearby cocktail lounge.

It has been suggested that Monday night is a better night for club meetings as there would

be no conflict with contest dates and the Monday following a contest is a good time to collect scores and exchange tall tales. This same Hayward location is available to us on the 2nd or 4th Monday of each month. The Monday Night Quarterbacks among us may take issue with this. Do I hear any suggestions?

WR6ADM, the club repeater, is holding forth on 449.2 MHz input (your transmit) and 444.2 output (your receive). This machine was generously donated by WB6OOL with the provision that we use it or lose it. Recent check-ins have been K6EBB, W6HQN/6, WA6LHN, W6OWQ and W6RGG. W6OAT has a rig and says he will be on soon, as does W6BIP. W6OWQ has rigs available for about \$25. Several members have donated much of their time to get the machine on the air, and Pete gave it to us to use, so let's get some more of you on 450 and see how it works.

Another option is the newly-inaugurated Tuesday night NCCC net: 3838 kHz at 8 PM (local). For those who can't or won't get on 450, this may do the trick. It would seem to lack the privacy of a repeater, however, as 75 has a million ears.

One clarification is in order re the NCDXC "full contest participation" policy alluded to in this column last month. Said policy is that all of their members are encouraged to participate in as many contests as they wish -- not that the NCDXC was going to make a big effort in all future contests. (Ed. Note: That was a result of an editorial misinterpretation and was not RGG's fault. He is perfectly capable of making his own mistakes without extra help.)

See you the 15th. 73, Bob, W6RGG.

MEETING MISCELLANY. By turning over this page, you will actually find out how to get to the Nov. 15 club meeting in Hayward. ATTENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Please arrive by 7 so that RGG can hold a pre-meeting meeting with you.

Among the topics to be covered at the general meeting: CW SS post-mortem; enthusiasm-generating session for the phone SS; discussion of upcoming CQ WW DX Test (CW); membership drive; January elections (this being the last formal meeting before same).

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB -- ATTEND MEETINGS!

SEVEN UP! Another crew of contesters took the plunge during October and joined the NCCC. The Magnificent Seven:

K6AYA Ronald B. (Pat) Patterson
23214 East Lone Tree Road
Escalon, CA 95320
(phone 209-838-2317)

W6KHI Dennis W. Ross
2079 15th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
(phone 564-9683)

W6NJU Gary A. Stilwell
7632 Woodland Lane
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
(phone 916-961-6659)

W6RNF Gregory L. Jenkins
1626 14th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
(phone 731-4577)

K06RS Russell R. Spalding
540 Sylvan Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

W6UZX Johannes M. (Jim) Ruys
3860 Pestana Way
Livermore, CA 94550
(H: 447-3771 W: 477-1100 x-7326)

K6ZM Philip E. Frazier
44 Toyon Terrace
Danville, CA 94526

Welcome aboard, OM's -- we hope you'll enjoy your association with the Club.

CHANGES TO AUGUST ROSTER:

WA6DIL 1912 San Vincente Drive
Concord, CA 94519

WA6SII 1085 Tasman Drive #214
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
(H: 734-0969 W: 961-7145)

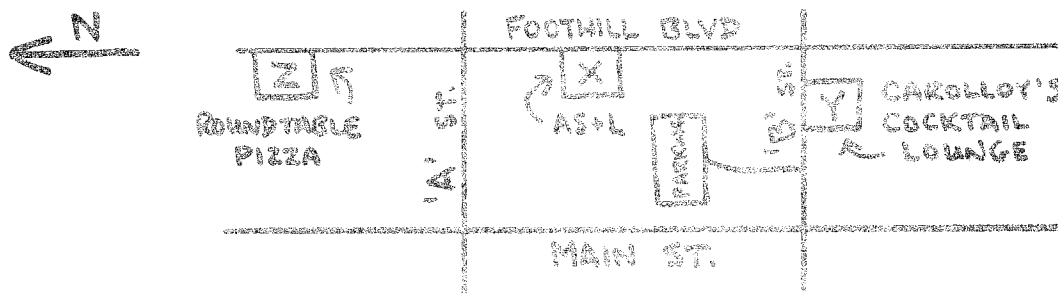
K4TKM/6 2681 South Court
Palo Alto, CA 94306

A new updated roster has been prepared by W6OAT and will be available in quantity at the Nov. 15 meeting. If you're unable to attend same, send a long SASE to WA6NLQ (Stu Carp, 2970 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705) and he will ship you a copy.

CW SS, EARLY RETURNS. With only a few precincts reporting in at this early hour, we have the following approximate QSO totals: WA7NIN (W6OAT, opr.) 1072, W6NUT 1037, K6CQF (W6PAA, opr.) 1026, K6EBB 950, W6MAV (WB6AIN, opr.) 815. Highest QSO total known thus far: 1177, by W6RR, expert exponent of the Marshall Plan. Complete roundup at the meeting.

ANNUAL NCCC CHRISTMAS AND AWARDS BANQUET. Circle Dec. 20 on your calendar. That's the night of our annual Christmas Gala and Awards Banquet, being held this year in the Alpine Room of Rick's Swiss Chalet, 4085 El Camino Way, Palo Alto. No-host cocktail hour starts at 7 P.M., with dinner to be served at 8 P.M. The menu will be your choice of Broiled 10-Oz. New York Steak for \$6.25, or French-Fried Jumbo Prawns for \$4.75. Both selections include your choice of special tossed green

NCCC CLUB MEETING -- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 -- 7:30 P.M. (7 P.M. for Board of Directors)



IMPORTANT!

Enter AS&L
from REAR
ENTRANCE
ONLY!

From Hwy 17 (Nimitz Fwy) heading SOUTH: Take Oakland-Tracy Fwy exit in San Leandro; EAST to MacArthur Fwy/Foothill Blvd; SOUTH on Foothill Blvd to #22533. From Hwy 17 heading NORTH: W. Jackson St, exit in Hayward; W. Jackson St. NORTHEAST till it becomes Foothill Blvd; proceed to #22533. From Hwy 50/I-580 (MacArthur Fwy) heading EAST (actually SOUTHEAST): Take Foothill Blvd exit at Oakland-Tracy Fwy interchange; go directly to #22533. From Hwy 50/I-580 heading WEST: Exit Foothill Blvd at Oakland-Tracy/MacArthur Fwy interchange; SOUTH on Foothill Blvd till a small voice cries "#22533!" From Hwy 238 (Mission Blvd) heading NORTH: Stay on Mission Blvd till it joins with W. Jackson St. to become Foothill Blvd; from there it's only a minute or two to #22533. Did we mention the street number?

salad with chef's dressing, or soup du jour, plus long-grain rice or potatoes, fresh vegetables, French rolls and butter, pie or ice-cream or sherbet, and coffee. Tax and tip are not included in the prices given.

WLARR/6 will accept your reservations for this year's extravaganza. You may reach Bob at work at (415) 635-9666 x-461, or at home at (415) 549-3963, or see him in person at the Nov. 15 meeting. Please get your preference to him no later than Dec. 13.

Bring your XYL and/or girlfriend, but do plan on attending. CU there? -- W6RGG.

THE MAILMAN COMETH and bringeth a nice letter from a recent NCCC recruit, K6KWN:

Greetings to NCCC from a new member. We are glad to be aboard and hope we may prove of some service to the group in our small way. We are located at Lake Almanor, Plumas County, in the high Sierra at 4500' level. We retired and moved here from the L.A. area, five years ago.

We were first licensed in the early 20's as 6EAU. Moved to Washington in the mid-40's and returned to California in the mid-50's, when we were issued the present call.

Equipment here consists of a homebrew CW rig, Swan 500CX, 4L triband beam and an all-band dipole up 80' in the tall trees.

Sorry we were only able to work the CA contest for a short period of time, but did give SV to 62 contacts and picked up 32 sections plus Argentina, Honduras and Japan. We just finished the CD phone contest but have not compiled the results yet. Not very impressive as the bands went dead Sunday. Sure hope condx will be better during CD CW. We look forward to the SS and CQ WW tests, too.

In closing, may I offer the following tidbit. I have entered an awful lot of contests in my 40 years of operating and the only thing I ever seem to win is a sore bottom, red eyes and a bad taste in my mouth from smoking too much. However, if I succeeded in giving the other fellow the one section he needed for a 75 multiplier then I feel it has all been worth while.

73 and see you in the pileups. -- Chuck Pfeiffer, K6KWN.

(Glad to hear from you, Chuck, and we also hope to see you at meetings whenever you can make them. -- Ed.)

Welcome correspondence was also received from W4KFC and W1FBY. However, we'd like to see a little more postal input from NCCC members!

SEDIMENT. Reminder: if you utilize the spotting net during a contest, that puts you in the multioperator category and you must so report your entry. However, bear in mind

that entering as multiop does not hurt the club aggregate score. . . . One of the benefits available to ARRL-affiliated clubs (and we are, y'know) is a special League membership offer. If you renew your ARRL membership through the NCCC, our Club treasury gets to keep \$1 of the \$9 annual rate (effective January 1, 1975). So renew through the Club and help our slender treasury at the same time. WA6NLQ will do the honors for you. . . . The Contest Advisory Committee wants to hear from people like us as to what kind of changes we'd like to see in contest administration and related matters. The W6 rep is W6PAA. Bend Ken's ear if you have any gripes or ideas. . . . In the 1973 SS, #1 club Murphy's Marauders totalled 7,886,611 points with an even hundred entries. (Keep in mind that an entry refers to each log for each mode; it doesn't mean that a hundred members submitted logs.) If each of the 71 NCCC members now living within Club territory were to score approximately 56,000 points per mode, we would exceed that winning total of last year. An impossible dream? Maybe for this year, but not for all time.

RUBIN REVEALS that W06PDC, the Pacific Division Convention station manned by NCCC'ers, chalked up 916 QSO's (pre-dupe) in the CQ WW DX Test (phone). Among those who may or may not have operated were WA6AHF, WB6AIN, WB6DSV, W6-HQN, W6OAT, W6OWQ, W6PAA and W6RGG. (Apologies to anybody we forgot.) The NCCC Contest Forum, ably chairpersonned by Messrs. W1YL and W6PAA, was well attended and enthusiastically received by all and sundry.

BULLETIN BOARD: FOR SALE -- Collins KWS-1, 75A-4; Hammarlund HQ-170; 2-meter trasceiver; LCD chip for watch, plus instructions. Best offer for each (WB6CEP). . . . Autek Research Q-Box audio filter! Continuously variable audio selectivity from 2 kHz to 30 Hz; passes only tones near center freq of 800 Hz. Pwr'd by ordinary 9V battery. See Jan. 1973 73 Mag glowing review: "... big difference between copy and no copy during bad QRM, especially if you don't have that expensive mechanical filter." Brand-new, but I don't have any need for it, so it's yours for \$10 (sells for \$17.95) (WLARR/6).

SPEAKING OF AUDIO FILTERS . . . Bill Zachary, WB6CEP, has conducted a research project on CW reception for a graduate course in Human Engineering at UC Berkeley. Highlights of the study include:

(1) The ear's sensitivity is maximal at about 2-3 kHz; therefore, copy at a relatively high pitch under weak-signal low-QRM conditions.

(2) Hearing loss increases fairly rapidly

with age at relatively higher pitches but not so much at the lower ones, so modify (1) accordingly as you grow older.

(3) Low-pitched tones cause much greater "masking," or QRM inside one's head, than do higher-pitched ones. Also, higher-pitched tones fatigue the ear to a greater extent than do lower-pitched tones. Therefore, copy at a lower pitch under conditions of extreme QRM.

(4) There is a tradeoff between the ear's sensitivity and the effect noted in (3). The optimal CW copying pitch under QRM conditions appears to correspond to a frequency of 400-500 Hz.

(5) The bandwidth of the "human audio filter" is less than 50 Hz for typical CW copying pitches under both QRM and non-QRM conditions.

(6) The bandwidth of this "human audio filter" may be narrowed somewhat through practice.

A more detailed article on this topic is scheduled for publication (one of these days) in 73 Magazine. Copies of the original 40-page report are available on a loan basis from WB6CEP (Bill Zachary, 2705 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709).

A SIN OF OMISSION. Add VE7AUA to the list of operators at W06PDC. Sri, Doug.

THE CHAIRMAN CHALLENGES! Chairman Ain did it: he wrote the presidents of both the Western Washington DX Club and the West Valley Amateur Radio Club. Through confidential sources, we have obtained a copy of each of these documents. The one to WWDXC goes like this:

The Northern California Contest Club is going all out this year in the ARRL SS contest. We have challenged the boys down south

in the West Valley ARC (W6HX et al.) and are flinging down the gauntlet and challenging the Western Washington group as well, to determine the true possessor of WEST COAST CONTEST CLUB SUPREMACY!

Since you fellows have done surprisingly well in the last SS, we figure you should be willing to see if you are up to snuff by going against a really strong club!

The gauntlet has been flung -- are you guys ready to pick up microphone and key and go to it? 73. -- Dean Straw, WB6AIN, NCCC Contest Chairman.

Truculent little feller, ain't he? But capable of arousing all NCCC'ers to a fever pitch as we savor the prospect of reigning supreme along the nation's Western shores.

Late word is that Chip, K7VPF, advises that WWDXC will indeed be on full-blast for the phone SS. No word from WB6VZI of WVARC yet.

JUG-HEAD JABBER. We have now used up all material on hand -- the JUG is empty. If you want a refill that's worth quaffing, please provide us with something to print! Even news about your station is of interest to your fellow members.

The next issue will be mailed December 6; deadline for input is December 2. Even though the Christmas gala isn't until the 20th, we need the extra time because of the customary avalanche of mail that slows down the Postal Service even more than usual, if that's possible, around that time of year.

Plan to get on for the phone SS and the CQ WW DX Test (CW), if only for a few hours. If you need a station to operate from, or if you need an operator for your station, let WB6AIN know your situation -- he'll try to help.

Only by actively participating in the major competitive events can we become #1! Let's do it! -- 73, Bob and Stu.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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