

The Contest JUG



Newsletter of the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
3130 Raleigh Court
Fremont, California 94536

No. 46
March 1976

Cease Reading if Nausea Persists

Pres.: WB6CEP. VP/Contest Chmn.: WA6DIL. Sec/Treas: W6KHI. Directors: WB6AIN, WB6DSV, W6RGG.
JUG Head: WLARR/6. Folder, Stapler & Mutilator: W6OAT.

PREVIEW OF COMING DISTRACTIONS

- Mar. 20-21 ARRL DX Competition (CW)
22 NCCC Club Meeting, AS&L Bldg,
Hayward; 7:30 PM
- Apr. 2 NCCC Special Meeting for WLYL,
QTH of WB6AIN; 7:30 PM
- 3-4 ARRL Open CD Party (CW)
- 10-11 ARRL Open CD Party (Phone)
- 26 NCCC Club Meeting, AS&L Bldg,
Hayward; 7:30 PM (ELECTIONS)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

It seems incredible, but this Field Day thing is catching on even faster than anticipated on the basis of our successful SS last fall. We have our choice of 3 or 4 fantastic sites and at least a dozen(!) generators, while promises of rigs, antennas and towers are popping up all over the place! NOEL and JOAN have already begun to plan how the Food Committee is going to handle that all-important detail!

What this beehive of activity suggested to your President is that we'd better have an FD meeting where the membership that's going to man these stations can give its input -- and soon. After consultation with Chairman W6PAA, it was decided to make FD the focal point of the March meeting program. Ken will regale us with his ideas and describe what resources have already been offered to the Club; we will then tell him our ideas and perhaps offer additional resources. A Field Day Committee will meet sometime in April to put the whole mess together and decide on a more-or-less final game plan. BRING YOUR INPUT TO THE MEETING!

Meanwhile, that interminable battle known as the ARRL DX Competition continues, poor condx or no. Best of luck, gang! Thank NLZ for his 80/40 "gray-line" (sunrise-sunset terminator) tips by putting them to good use during the next few weekends.

In closing, I would like to point to a number of very important articles in this JUG. The Ellen White Special Meeting/Party should not be missed by any enthusiastic NCCC'er; HAIL to our new JUG staff; buy new badges and pay dues early so we can stay solvent! -- 73, CEP

NCCC 2, BOREDOM 0

You are cordially requested to attend the following events, which have been scheduled because we love each and every one of you:

The next regular Club meeting will occur on the evening of Monday, March 22, at 7:30. QTH will be our usual hangout: the American Savings & Loan Building, 22533 Foothill Blvd, Hayward; that's in the heart of downtown Hayward (which has a heart if not a soul) between A and B Sts. Parking? Lots. Parking lots behind the edifice, which you must enter from the rear and ascend to the 2nd floor of. Main topic of regurgitation: Field Day.

A special meeting will be held for that special Man for All Seasons, WLYL, on Friday, April 2, at the abode of WB6AIN (1906 18th Ave., SF). Ellen will show slides of ARRL Hq. and entertain us in her usual inimitable fashion (that phrase is CEP's, not your JUG Head's). Bring a \$1 donation for beer, wine, chips & pretzels; an additional donation may be assessed for champagne if such seems appropriate to the occasion. The Straw Hut may be arrived at via Park Presidio Drive (from the north) or Interstate 280 to Ocean Ave. and 19th Ave. (from the south). Dean's abode is on the corner of Ortega St. and his telephone number is 664-8190. Be there! Aloha.

WHY IS NCCC LIKE NYC?

Because they're both broke, that's why. We've had some extraordinarily large expenses lately (e.g., Banquet awards, Cal QSO Party writeup printing) that have brought the Club treasury perilously close to the zero level. Loans by Club actives will help keep us afloat but we are now soliciting early payment of next year's dues (\$6, due by July 1, 1976) to help out. We are also initiating a policy of tacking a few cents extra onto sales of special Club items such as badges, QSL cards, SS Handbooks, T-shirts or whatever -- the extra coins to go into Club coffers.

Please heed this pitiful plea and come through with a bit o' bread. It's needed!



KICK BUTT

FRESNO!

If you've been before, you don't need a sales pitch; if you've never been, don't even consider missing it! The annual Fresno DX Convention, sponsored alternately by NCDXC and SCDXC, is always the social event of the year -- a perfect chance to b.s. with your fellow contesters from all over the West and other places. Beverages are consumed in eye-popping quantity and the atmosphere is most convivial, especially if you are a connoisseur of local hookers, K6AQ's subterraneanly raunchy limericks, the wit & wisdom of W6AOA -- and raw eggs, or at least the whites thereof. There will also be many DX'ers in attendance, but most are harmless.

The dates are May 15-16 at the Fresno Hilton. (It's unfortunate that both the Armed Forces Day / NPG affair and the Bay-to-Breakers race fall on this same weekend, but we do live in an imperfect world. No dyed-in-the-butt contester should have any trouble in deciding which of these events he will attend.)

To register, contact Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, whose address is given in our 2-year-old Callbook as 5128 Jessen Drive, La Canada, CA 91011. For hotel reservations, call the Fresno Hilton toll-free (see Yellow Pages).

The Fresno Fun Bus is indeed fun, but your enjoyment may be tempered somewhat by the \$19 round-trip fare (payable on the bus). If this means of transportation is your cup of vodka, however, contact NCCC'er K6QX (Orman Meyer, 111 Farm Hill Way, Los Gatos 95030; phone (408) 368-2061). He will advise you as to availability of seats, schedules, etc.

Pre-Fresno festivities will be held at the QTH of everybody's favorite Papa, Alfa Alfa, this year, so plan on showing up at Ken's place Friday night to kick off the weekend. Be sure to invite any out-of-territory contest types you talk to before then.

More info in next month's JUG, probably, but in the meantime you may wish to re-read the April 1975 JUG for an extended writeup on this affair.

NEW JUG EDITORS FOUND AT LAST!

Beginning with the May issue, WAØENP/6 and WB6DSV will become joint Editors (the Joint-Eds? or the Co-Eds? perhaps the Joint-Heads?) of this rabble-rousing rag. The Wilkinsons (WA6DIL and NØEL) will continue their score and column inputs, and express the hope that others will join them in helping to spread the JUG load around a bit. A JUG without input tends to become more of a CROCK! -- CEP

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Your beloved but weary JUG Head was the recipient of a telephone call the other night from Bob Huffman, WALKID, President of some Connecticut-based contest club called Murphy's Marauders. Seems Bob has been transferred out to the Bay Area and will be setting up shop here around the end of this month.

Your JUG Head has known Bob for almost 5 years -- ever since he moved to CT from his previous PA (WA3JRY) location -- and can testify that he is of good moral character. More important, however, he's knowledgeable, enthusiastic and a guy who pulls out all the stops when he gets turned on. The guess here is that NCCC will turn him on and we'll reap the benefits therefrom! CU soon, KID.

OAT ON NBR

There he was, W6OAT, shamelessly running 50 KW -- and way out of the band, too. Not to have a hemorrhage, though: our Mr. Ckepps was guest-operating on a talk-show program from SF radio station KNBR (680 kHz) moderated by Ed Busch (K8MKN/6). Appearing with Rusty was a CB operator named KRA4311, who actually seemed capable of thinking and chewing gum at the same time.

People called in, either to express their opinions or to get information about CB and ham radio. Among the latter were W6OWQ, WA6-GSN and WB6LPK. It is also understood that a prominent Berkeley SWL tried to call in but (typically) was unable to crack the phone pileup.

And how did Rusty conduct himself? Mercy, good buddy, I swear he was so smooth he must have anointed his butt with Mazola before the program! Everyone else, including KRA4311, knocked CB'ers to a fare-thee-well -- but not our OAT. He just let them foul their own nest, by golly.

This broadcast, from 8 till 11:30 on March 1, must have done much to clarify the difference between CB'ers and hams in the eyes of a largely ignorant public. Hats off to Rusty for a virtuoso performance!

BULLETIN BOARD

For Sale: Drake 2B rcvr & 2BQ, \$180 (W6PAA, 408-249-7447) ... Wanted: Experienced EE guy (preferably w/ SSB and/or VHF knowledge) to work for Konel Corp., manufacturers/marketers of marine electronics equipment, located in South San Francisco. If interested, contact Inscrutable Ex-Chairman AIN: Dean Straw, WB6-AIN; work 873-9393, home 664-8190.

NEW MEMBERS & ROSTER CHANGES

Somehow or other, the membership applications filled out by our 3 new NCCC'ers last month have been mislaid. But at least we can inform you that their calls are K6MA, WB6PCO and K6QDV. Welcome to the madhouse, OM's.

WB9FUV/6, one of our mainstays down W6YX way, says in a note to your JUG Head, "I expect to leave in about one week to work for a private firm in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on one of their telecommunications projects. My new address is:

Tareck R. Elass
C/o E. A. Juffali & Brothers
P. O. Box 1049
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia"

Terry adds that he is hopeful of acquiring an operating permit -- adding that he understands the U.S. Ambassador is a ham, which ought to help.

So the Middle East chapter of the NCCC increases by one, as WB9FUV joins K6KM and W6-GEN in that rare part of the world. The next HZ or EP you work could be one of our own!

WB6ION passed his real-estate exam and is now licensed to sell you swamp land in Florida, or whatever. Rich's new business phone number is 792-3242.

"WHAT IS THE LAST LETTER OF YOUR CALL?"

We can safely state that the phone section of this year's ARRL DX Competition is over, and there remains but one CW weekend. From VP/CC WA6DIL and West Bay Honcho WA0ENP/6 come these final (but mostly unduped) SSB tallies:

W6PXG (H-B)	519,750	1125-154
WA6HAF (80)	16,002	127- 42
WA6VEF (M-S)	583,662	1093-178
W6OKK (M-S)	1,074,000	1689-212
W6ONV (M-M)	2,033,000	2290-296
K6HIH (M-S)	278,334	658-141
W6PAA (M-M)	756,000	1266-199
WA6UZA (QRP)	9,216	96- 32
WA6DIL	24,381	189- 43
WB6DSV	396	12- 11

Other Club members known to have been active: K6ZX, K6BR, WA0ENP/6, W6YX, K6CQF, W6-BIP, WB6KBK, K6RM, W6NLZ, WA6TKT, W6LQC, WA6-GFY (WB6EXW). Fellas, we can't print your score if we don't have it -- so how about pecking into the 3815 gathering that meets immediately after every contest! WA6DIL or a trusted representative is always there to collect your scores. That's 3815, right after each weekend's festivities.

First-weekend CW scores available (we had more, but somebody threw out the ones written on the paper taped on the wall at our meeting QTH):

WA6TLV/6 (M-S) 1058-110; W6OKK (M-S) 690-92; K6HIH 687-92; W6BIP (M-S) 742-104; W6PAA 1134-122; WA0ENP/6 (80-40) 420-32; W6RGG 88-25; WA6JVD 450-90; K6ZM (M-S) 789-86; W6YX 580-75; K6SG 260-??; WA6DQM 560-81; K6CQF (VE3DXV) 950-129.

West Bay

Hello, West Bay? Are you there? It doesn't seem possible -- I know EB is closer to EU, but we must be closer to JA and the Pacific; so how can they be ahead of us? Probably because they had more stations on and collected higher scores! Let's all get on for the 2nd CW weekend and do our part in ionizing the other side of the Bay.

This was the first DX contest I have operated from the West Coast and I must say that it certainly is a pleasure to be able to work DX stations at all times of the day and night. If you have never operated a DX contest from Minnesota, you have definitely missed out on a good opportunity to sit around and drink and play cards -- openings last but brief periods. I found that here at about 0700Z on 40, the JA's come in to stay until sometimes 1600Z -- simply amazing.

Conditions generally seem to have been better for CW than for phone. The most prevalent remark on condx concerned the great opening to Asia the first night on CW, with runs going as high as 120 per hour. I even managed an hour of 85 with my vertical. Openings to Europe on the lower bands were also good for CW, and 20 meters sustained good conditions to almost all points of the globe. Noise on 80 and 40 plagued many the first evening on CW but then subsided and brought forth better operating the 2nd night. CR9AJ made many folks happy by popping into runs of JA's and answering CQ's. C21NI was on for phone.

I must thank my folks for allowing me to share their home while mine is under construction. However, the garage location really does need more heat than an exciter and amp! Sitting with long johns, big boots, blankets, etc., kept all but my writing hand warm -- eventually had to QRT because I couldn't write!

The subject of an appropriate award has been broached for this contest between the East and West Bay areas. While there is not a great push for an all-out Club showing in this particular contest, perhaps a perpetual plaque is in order -- not just for this contest but for the

NCCC. Seems that a club as great as our NCCC should have at least one plaque. How about one for generalized Club competition (that would be displayed at each meeting, of course)? The NCCC area could be outlined along with the title and then the lower part would have the particular information engraved each time a competition took place. I.e.: 1976 ARRL DX - EAST AND WEST BAY - WEST BAY. The cost of engraving to be borne by the loser (normally only a few bucks total). Comments? -- 73, Tom, WAØENP/6

East Bay

Well, fellow East Bayers, looks like we've got the West Bay a bit scared. Seems as though some pretty big mouths are claiming some pretty small scores. In any case, they have their adrenalin flowing now and we'd better not let them catch us in the stretch. Any score, no matter how small, will help us out. Lend a hand this upcoming weekend and KB for the good old East Bay.

Everything seemed to go well for the multi-single crew at WA6TLV/6 (QTH of WB6ION). It sure was a nice change from the QRP category I was in last year. Things didn't seem to go quite as smoothly for the K6ZM multi-single effort, however, even with the aid of our Contest Eager President. It seems as though one of their Collins receivers had 10 kHz of electrical backlash. This made using a sharp filter about as simple as shooting fish in a moving barrel. W6RGG also had a visit from Murphy. Even a Signal/One can't do much against a 20-over-9 line noise level.

Be sure to meet on 3815 kHz immediately after the contest so that scores can be collected for early publication in the JUG. Dupe your logs and mail them to ARRL Hq. before April 19. Don't forget to check off the box regarding affiliated club participation! If the words "Northern California Contest Club" don't appear on that summary sheet, the score won't count for us.

Last, and very important, inform your contest representative of your final score. Tom and I will need this information to make up the club letter which we'll be mailing to the ARRL. If you're in the East Bay, mail scores to: Bob Wilson, WA6TLV, 2650 Haste St. D-211, Berkeley, CA 94720. West Bay (SCV, SF, SLO): Tom Schiller, WAØENP/6, 6 Middlebury Lane, Los Altos, CA 94022.

By the way, Tom's proposal for a Club plaque sounds like a pretty good idea, but he has one thing wrong. It's going to read 1976 ARRL DX - EAST AND WEST BAY - EAST BAY. Right? -- 73, Bob, WA6TLV

WEAR 'EM & SEND 'EM

K6UWR has unearthed a good deal on an engraved solid plastic badge, which was rapidly approved by the BoD. It will be somewhat similar in size and color to our old ones but will highlight (first) name and call to a much greater extent. Cost: \$2.75. Send check or cash to W6RGG. Quick delivery likely, so order yours now in time for Fresno. Also tnx WB6IPC and WAØENP/6 for their efforts toward getting a new and better badge. -- WB6CEP

WB6DSV advises that our QSL printer, whose work on our orders was slowed by problems at his end, has almost completed the printings and will mail them soon. Because of the extremely long delay, he has doubled the quantity of everyone's order, free of charge.

THE SEEDY POTTY

If you're a member of this Club, you should like contests. If you like contests, don't miss the April Open CD Party: 3-4 (CW), 10-11 (SSB). All ARRL members are eligible to participate in what many feel is the best domestic contest of the entire year. Here's why:

- (1) The exchange is short and sweet: ARRL appointment (or membership) and section only (e.g., ORS SCV, MBR EBAY).
- (2) You operate only 20 hours of the 30-hour contest period. This means you can get at least 8½ hours of sleep if you aren't the stay-up-all-night type.
- (3) QSO rates are high, even for QRP stations. Unlike SS, every time you switch bands you're exposed to an entirely new set of QSO's because each station can be worked once per band.
- (4) The operators are the best you're going to find in any domestic contest. There is quite a difference between SS ops and CD Party ops -- the latter are all ARRL appointees: proficient phone or CW traffic people, Official Observers and League officials.

CD Parties take place 4 times a year, but the only one open to all ARRL members takes place in just a couple of weeks. Mail an SASE to the ARRL Communications Department now and ask for some CD report (log) forms (CD-L36) and dupe sheets (Op Aid #6). Check p. 72 of March QST for suggested freqs and additional info. Don't be a Party pooper -- join the CD Party and Kick Some Butt! -- WA6TLV

NØEL'S NØTES

This month I want to tell you about the weekend that PAA had an antenna party. Ken needed to put up a 50' tower and a beam, so

he assembled a work party: TLV, President CEP, Glorious Editor ARR, LPK, DSV, VP/CC DIL, JØAN and myself.

Dave and I arrived rather late and found everyone working hard on the tower and the beer. Jokes were flying back and forth and everyone was having a great time. Dave and Bruce did a lot of tower climbing, which always worries me. (Dave does the same at home and usually I leave the house, but this time he had the only set of keys.)

After it got dark, the men came in and dug into a dinner of spaghetti, salad and hors d'oeuvres prepared by JØAN and myself. Then we all sat around, listened to the stereo and talked about everything -- in fact, I had some conversations of which the subject matter was definitely not ham radio! Plenty of wine was also consumed.

Next day, the guys were back working on the antennas, and even I did some work on the sloping dipoles. I helped strip enamel off some copper wire -- only to find it was the wrong end.

The whole weekend was great! I found that you don't really get to know people that well just by talking with them at the Round Table Pizza after meetings. It takes a common cause, helping out even when you realize you may be helping someone beat you in the next contest. PAA may have stomped a lot of guys in the CW DX Contest, but because of people who put the Club ahead of their own scores the NCCC is becoming better known around the world. That's the spirit we all should have, I think! -- 88, NØEL

NET QNI FOR FEB. (RGG) & NET NOTES (DSV)

4 -- W6RGG WB6DSV W6PAA K6HIH W6KQG.
3 -- W6MSF WB6JGS WAØENP/6 WA6HAF WA6JVD W6-
FXG K6ILM. 2 -- WA6DIL W6KHI WA9UCE/6 WA6VEF
W6UA. 1 -- K6SG WB6AIN/6 W6ZT K6ZX WA6TQK
W6AQ/M7 WA6KAC K6UWR K6RM K6OZL WA7NIN W6KYA
WA6DQM. QNI 64, stations 30.

Things are improving -- now everyone can hear each other! Condx on 75 have improved and so has the average number of check-ins. Some interesting tidbits from the Net include: (1) K6ILM has a new antenna up and now can be heard; sounds good; (2) W6RGG was heard to comment on how high his SWR was on his 80M inverted vee -- almost 100% reflected power!; (3) W6UA back from New Zealand trip and telling about many of the ZL "150-watt linears"; (4) WA6HAF braving the cold wx to journey to his shack in the rice paddies and check in.

JOIN US -- 3815 EVERY TUES. AT 7:30!

SEDIMENT

Whatever happened to the National Contest Journal? . . . WB6CEP reminds us that, when renewing ARRL membership through the Club, we get a buck of that \$9 for the treasury.

Speaking of CEP, that worthy has completed a Fire Answers Booklet for UC. Sort of an "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Flames but Didn't Want to Make an Ash of Yourself" thing. . . . That photo of T-shirted KB'ers taken at the last meeting was promptly forwarded to WA1STN; we hope it shows up in the SS writeup. . . . Both the SNØOPY sketch on p. 1 and the nice drawing on p. 5 of the CQP writeup were the handiwork of JØAN. We'd also like to thank NØEL for her fabulous painting of a JA op complaining that he was unable to work many W6's in the CQP because the beams were all headed east! This artistic masterpiece is in the ARR permanent collection (no, not in my bathroom).

We have in hand a club newsletter that talks about a meeting on April 2, crummy DX Test condx, long skip on the 75M club net, repeater activity ... the JUG? No, the latest issue of the Murphy Message!

SOME THOUGHTS ON 80/40 ANTENNAS -- WAØENP/6

There is an old quotation that says, "If you can't run with the big horses, then get off the track." If we take these words and apply them to the general performance appraisal of typical antenna systems that we usually find on 20-15-10, we can run fairly well with the Clydesdales -- but on 80-40 we frequently find ourselves only adequately equipped to cope with the Shetlands. The following will, it's hoped, provide some feed for your tired 80-40 horse to give it more get-up-and-go without resorting to gas.

Having lived in an area with a fair amount of land available (Minnesota), I have been able in the past 4 years to set up, tune and use in competition about 30 different antennas on these two bands. During every contest, at least 3 antennas were functional on each band. Why? Simple: because I like to win, and a contest station cannot win without efficient antennas.

80 and 40 meters exhibit one different characteristic than is normally found on 20-15-10. That is: an effective transmitting antenna is not necessarily an effective receiving antenna. This is mainly due to noise in the form of both QRM and QRN. Also, space limitations generally restrict constructing arrays that are commonplace on 20-15-10. So that leaves us with two major problems: transmitting and receiving!

The transmitting antenna I have found to be absolutely the least effective is the common inverted vee. This antenna was in different locations, at many heights up to 100', uncountable apex angles and 3 feed systems. Normally I maintain that regardless of someone else's poor results with any antenna, perhaps it would work at my station; but I am totally convinced on this one. There are other antennas that are as easy to erect and work much better. The only place I have found useful for the inverted vee is in local ragchews.

On the other end of the scale, the transmitting antenna I have found to be most effective is a combination of rhombic, high Yagi, vertical and sloping dipole (sloper). Let's forget about the rhombic and look at the other three.

A high Yagi has a number of things going for it: gain, directivity, fairly low takeoff angle, and possibly multiple lobes depending on height above ground. It is a terrific choice for 40 meters. The term "high" to me means at least 100', but they do work successfully at heights as low as 70'. Incidentally, even though I do not own any Hy-Gain or Mosley stock, the short beams do perform (around their resonant frequency) as well as a full-size Yagi at the same height.

The advantage of the full-size Yagi is in usable bandwidth. Of course, if you have a crankup tower you can always bring it down and tweak it up for the desired part of the band when the need arises. F/B ratio on 2-element Yagis runs about 15dB and front-to-side about 40dB. Another plus is in its being a horizontal antenna, which makes for less noise when used for receiving. The number of lobes is computed by $2h/\lambda$. This means that an antenna one wavelength has two lobes, one at $1\frac{1}{2}$ wave-

lengths will have three, and at only a half wave there will be a single, relatively high-angled lobe.

Although I have never had up a 40-meter quad, I have used one at a height of 85'. The performance was roughly equivalent to my 2-element Yagi at 105'. It was also apparent that the quad opened the band earlier and closed it later, but during the opening the Yagi would at times be superior. The quad is a big monster -- but if you have the moxie, give it a try!

The sloper is a very good performer when properly installed, and even sometimes when not properly installed. The length is that of a normal dipole with an additional 5% added to the lower half; this is to counteract the ground capacitance, which tends to shorten the lower half of the antenna. The center conductor of the coax feed is connected to the top half and the shield to the lower. The antenna should run down from 100' on 80M and 50' on 40 to within inches of the ground. This gives about a 45-degree angle to the antenna, which then radiates at an angle of less than 30 degrees -- nice for these bands.

This antenna also hears fairly well and is directive in the direction of the slope. Slopers placed 90 degrees apart will show at least 20dB difference to their favored directions.

If the 100' height cannot be achieved on 80, then try a "half sloper." A "half sloper" is simply the bottom half of a regular sloper. However, the center conductor feeds the wire; the shield is connected to the grounded tower where the sloper is secured to the tower. On 80 meters, attach at 50'. Works pretty well.

((Part II, which deals with verticals and receiving antennas, will appear next month.))

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
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Fremont, CA 94536

Annual Subscription: \$3

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CONTEST HANDBOOK QUESTIONNAIRE

Please Return to:
Bill Zachary WB6CEP
2523 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709

1. The following chapter format is currently envisioned:
 - I. So You Want To Be A Contester (introduction)
 - II. Basic Contest Strategy
 - III. Advanced Operating Strategies & Techniques for Domestic Contests
 - IV. Advanced Operating Strategies & Techniques for DX Contests
 - V. VHF and Other Specialty Contests
 - VI. Human Engineering Your Station For Contest Operation
 - VII. Contest Calendar

What other material (if any) would you like to see covered in this handbook?

[Please continue on an additional sheet if necessary]

2. The intent of the chapters on advanced operating strategies & techniques is to present, in fine detail, those nuances of contesting which cause the topflight operator's score to consistently outrank that of someone who simply has a good station. Examples include: super-quick band changing (masking tape, etc.); timing in tail-ending; developing a smooth logging/check-logging sequence; noting more than one callsign when several stations come back simultaneously; running JAs (or EU) on one band while searching for multipliers on another; assessing rate vs. multiplier-hunting trade-offs according to current band conditions and station strengths and weaknesses; and so on.

A distinction will be made between "big guns" and "little guns" (but not "PBG"s!), and different strategies will be suggested depending on how loud a signal the operator has at his/her command.

Please note some of your favorite techniques & strategies for each of the types of contests listed below in which you have experience. If a strategy or technique specifically applies to little as opposed to big guns, put an "L" in parentheses after that comment.

A. Domestic Contests (e.g., SS, FD, QSO Parties)

[Please continue on an additional sheet if necessary]

-OVER-

B. DX Contests (e.g., ARRL DX, CQWW, All Asian, WAE) -- anything not already covered under Part A on previous page

[Please continue on an additional sheet if necessary]

C. VHF & Other Specialty Contests (e.g., VHF QSO Parties, RTTY, SSTV, etc.)

[Please continue on an additional sheet if necessary]

3. In the chapter on human engineering a station for contest operating, the intent is to suggest how to lay out gear and add auxiliary station controls so as to minimize movement and strain, maximize the speed and ease with which station adjustments can be made during a contest, and spread out the workload so that the operator's dominant hand does not wind up doing most of the work. Examples include: outboarding memory keyer push-buttons so they are large enough to be quickly slapped by the operator's non-dominant hand with 100% accuracy, and yet be off to the side of the desk away from the receiver controls and paperwork; obtaining a digital clock with large, easy-to-read numerals and only four digits visible (seconds are extraneous); controlling the rotator with a foot or knee switch; switching all station accessories back and forth between two different rigs by throwing a single switch; cheap tape loops for phone CQs; etc.

Please note below any station improvements you have tried which facilitated ease of contest operation.

[Please continue on an additional sheet if necessary]

Remember, this one-of-a-kind contest handbook can only be as good as the input I receive, so kindly lay those hot tips on me, fellows.

MNI TKS ES "GOOD RUCK CONTEST!"

-- Bill, WB6CEP