

The Contest JUG



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
44 Toyon Terrace
Danville, CA 94526

June 1986

No. 168

PRESIDENT: WR6R
VP/CC: W7MAP
SEC/TREAS: NV6Z
MEMBERSHIP: W6REC

AWARDS: K6ZM
FINANCE: WA6AUE
JUG EDITOR: W6SZN
DIRECTORS: WA6VEF, W6REC, KA6ING

ARMADILLOS IN CAL.??

COMING EVENTS

June 20	NCCC Meeting Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto
June 21-22	All Asian Phone Contest
June 28-29	ARRL Field Day
July 12-13	IARU HF Championship
July 19-20	CQ VHF WPX
July 26-27	Armadillo Run CW

FROM THE PREZ

With warm and long summer days, contest season seems a long time off, but it's just the time to start on plans for the fall season concerning antennas and station layout. Recently, the Club has assumed all of our members already knew everything about contesting, and the only problem was to get them on the air! Well, with a lot of new members and "older" members being inactive, the Club is going to try and present some hints on better contesting practices.

So, starting with this meeting, the Club will present a short presentation on different contest topics by one of our members. This month will be Jim, WA6AUE, on contesting with the aid of a computer and how to cut down on paper work and log sheets (he will have program copies for \$2.00 for Commodores). If you have never used a computer for contesting because of cost or whatever, the presentation may open a new field for you.

THE CONTEST JUG June 1986 No. 168

Gary, WA6VEF, has big plans to organize all of us for the CQP, the Club's own contest, on the last weekend of September. There will be lots of awards for small stations and mobiles. In that vein, we will have talks on how to get the maximum results operating mobile and fixed for that event. Yes, we will even show you how to use a sling shot to get a wire antenna into trees so a mobile station can have a good signal!

Duane, W6REC, along with the Board and everyone else, is going to try and make our meetings a little more friendly for guests and new members. A guest book will be located at the front of the meeting (where the officers will be sitting) for guests to sign so they are not overlooked. Wear your badge, and you will be surprised how many strangers will recognize you and want to say hello.

Please return (or bring with you) the by-laws vote, roster change, and your \$20.00 dues to Ron, NV6Z, by the next meeting. We will count the vote on the by-laws at the June meeting.

Lastly, our meetings at Harry's in Palo Alto place no obligation per se on Club members to spend a large sum of money just to go to a meeting. However, the Club pays no fee for the use of the room nor needs to guarantee a flat fee for food/beverage. If no one bothers to eat or drink anything, we will not be able to use the room. So, use your common sense and at least buy a drink!

73, A1, WR6R

* * *

JUNE MEETING

Friday, June 20, 1986

Cocktails - 6:00 PM

Dinner - 6:30 PM

Meeting - 7:30 PM

PLACE: Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto. Take the Embarcadero exit from Hwy 101 to the Palo Alto Airport/Golf Course.

PROGRAM: NCCC budget for 1986-87 and slide program of Africa by W6KG and W6QL.

* * *

NCCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 5, 1986 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1910 local time.

Attendees: Louese, KA6ING; Chuck, W7MAP, Al, WR6R, Duane, W6REC; Ron, NV6Z; and Phil, K6ZM.

Minute 1: The Budget

The 1985-1986 books closed as follows:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Net</u>
Membership Dues, RPTR, Badges Donations, and Raffles	\$ 2131.50	\$ 129.50	\$ 2002.00
Self-funding events (i.e., dinner meetings, etc.)	2082.00	1868.79	213.21
Publications	660.00	1705.68	(1045.68)
Hospitality (Visalia)		187.67	(187.67)
Awards (Membership)		884.67	(884.67)
Sponsored Awards		140.00	(140.00)
CWA Hall Rental		105.00	(105.00)
Contingency Fund		40.00	(40.00)
TOTALS	\$ 4875.50	\$ 5061.31	\$ (185.81)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Balance June 1985	\$ 397.16		
Balance June 1986	<u>\$ 211.35</u>		
Operating Costs	\$(185.81)		
Current Balance	\$ 211.35		
Repeater Fund	<u>514.95</u>		
Current Assets	\$ 726.30		
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The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed 1986-87 budget. KA6ING moved to approve the proposed budget for presentation to the membership for final approval. The motion was seconded by W6REC. Motion passed 6-0.

The proposed budget follows:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Net</u>
Membership Dues	\$ 2800.00	\$ -0-	\$ 2800.00
Raffles	400.00	200.00	200.00
Repeater	-0-	-0-	-0-
Self-Funding Events	2000.00	1900.00	100.00
Publications (JUG)	-0-	990.00	(990.00)
JUG Advertising	360.00	-0-	360.00
Hospitality (Visalia)	-0-	200.00	(200.00)
Membership Awards	-0-	1000.00	(1000.00)
Sponsored Awards	-0-	150.00	(150.00)
CWA Hall Rental	-0-	120.00	(120.00)
Contingency Fund	-0-	200.00	(200.00)
CQP	-0-	450.00	(450.00)
Special Mailings	<u>-0-</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>(150.00)</u>
TOTALS	\$ 5610.00	\$ 5410.00	\$ 200.00

 Minute 2: California QSO Party

WA6VEF presented to the Board of Directors the plans for the 1986 CQP Contest. Gary reported that the Southern California Contest Club (SCCC) will strongly support this year's CQP. Gary plans to do several mailings and use the landlines to generate as much activity as possible for the CQP. The CQP budget breaks down as follows:

Certificates	\$ 50.00	(Currently out of CQP certificates)
Phone calls	50.00	
Trophies	200.00	
Mailings	<u>150.00</u>	
	\$ 450.00	

The wine awards (Special CQP 21st Birthday Awards) will be self-supported (no cost to NCCC). NV6Z moved to accept the rules/plans for CQP. W6REC seconded. The motion passed 5-1.

Minute 3: Christmas Dinner

WR6R reported that Mings Restaurant has changed hands and all previous reservations have been cancelled, leaving NCCC without facilities for the Christmas Dinner. NV6Z will contact Mings' new management and try to make reservations. As a backup, KA6ING will contact Dunfey's Hotel, and W7MAP will contact Pleasanton Hotel. NV6Z to coordinate Christmas Dinner plans.

Minute 4: June Meeting

WR6R confirmed that Lloyd, W6KG, and Iris, W6QL, will be speakers at the June meeting. KA6ING reported that June 20 or June 27 were the only available dates at Harry's Hofbrau. WR6R moved to have the June meeting at Harry's on June 20. NV6Z seconded. Motion passed 6-0. Cocktails at 1800 local; dinner at 1830 local and meeting starts at 1930 local sharp.

Minute 5: July Meeting

The Board of Directors discussed whether or not to have a July meeting. NV6Z moved to cancel the July meeting, K6ZM seconded, motion passed 5-1.

Minute 6: Committee Chairpersons

FINANCE COMMITTEE

WA6AUE was recommended as chairperson. Due to the possibility that Jim may not be available after July 1986, K6XN was recommended as an alternate.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

W6REC presented several ideas to increase the NCCC membership to the Board of Directors. After discussions of those ideas, W6REC volunteered to chair the Membership Committee.

PROGRAMS

NV6Z recommended W6OAT as a possible chairperson. KA6ING recommended W6SZN. NV6Z will talk to both parties. [W6SZN gracefully declined -- Ed.]

AWARDS

K6ZM volunteered to chair.

Minute 7: W7MAP PROPOSED CLUB AWARD

Chuck, W7MAP, suggested the Club adopt a 5,000,000 point cumulative award. The award would be available to each member of the Club and the points would be cumulative from any contest a member entered. Chuck will write the rules and present them at the next Club meeting.

Minute 8: 75 METER NET

The Board of Directors discussed starting the 75 meter net again along with the 5 to 10 minute contest. The 75 meter net will start in July on Wednesdays at 2000 local on 3815 KHz. NV6Z so moved, W7MAP seconded. Motion passed 5-1.

Minute 9: REPEATER

W6RGG joined the meeting and the Heavenly Valley repeater situation was discussed. NV6Z will write a letter to NARC filing a formal complaint for sanction violations of the Heavenly Valley machine.

Minute 10: W6OSP LETTER

NV6Z read W6OSP's letter to the Board of Directors. The letter asked about the NCCC sponsoring some sort of competition for either Sweepstakes and/or Field Day with possibilities for classes of competition. The Board will take the letter into consideration with the rest of the survey results.

Minute 11: NEXT BOD MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on July 10 at 1830 local time at the "Ranch" in Hayward.

The meeting was adjourned at 2140 local time.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron, NV6Z

NOTES FROM C.C.

-- I would like to say thank you to all of you who have sent me contest summary sheets and sample logs and dupe sheets. As you may be aware, I am trying to put together a handout for new members to include the above articles. If anyone has extra logs, checkoffs, summaries or other helpful information, please pass it along.

Needed summaries and logs include:

Midnite Special
ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
CQWW 160 Meter
North American QSO Party
County Hunters
All-Asian

-- We intend to include in the JUG a reprint of an excellent article by Tom Schiller, N6BT, on the fine art of contesting. If permission for printing can be obtained in time, look for the first chapter in this JUG. The initial section on station layout is a lecture which will be given to the Club at a later date.

73,
Chuck, W7MAP

CONTEST CORNER

Congratulations! Plaudits are in order for the following stations who braved the vagaries of propagation and early summer heat to operate the CQWW WPX CW weekend:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Q's</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Class</u>
8P9AR	2100	?	Single Op-All Band
KI6P	1717	535	Single Op-All Band
WC6H	1471	546	Multi-Single
AJ6V	1223	469	Single Op-All Band
WA6AUE	1043	413	Single Op-All Band
WR6R	956	335	Multi-Single
K6LRN	250	175	14 MHz Single Op
N6JV	215	?	Single Op
AG6D	200	121	Single Op-Single Band

As you can see, the early reports from the repeater indicate only a moderate participation. For those of you who did not participate, Saturday night provided a very good western Russian opening. Saturday provided so many Russians, we used several WPX-WW DX dupe sheets. Perhaps we should revisit the DX dupe sheet before the fall season begins. If anyone would like to make suggestions in this area, please forward them to me at my home address:

3211 Buthmann Avenue
Tracy, CA 95376

Just a reminder for those of you that have not forwarded your summary sheets for CQ WPX: I would like to get the Club entry in the mail in the first week of July. Following is a list of results compiled from the summary sheets that I have received as of June 6, 1986. Please note the results and/or omissions, and by all means, get your summaries in! Thanks.

73,
Chuck, W7MAP

WPX SUMMARY SHEETS RECEIVED

by June 6, 1986

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Mode</u>
PJ2FR	Rich Smith	13,108,777	Phone
AI6V/NH6	Carl Cook	6,458,515	Phone
KI6P (WA6VEF)	Gary Caldwell	3,471,048	Phone
WC6H	(Multi/Multi 2)	3,141,404	Phone
WA6AUE	Jim Duffy	1,321,840	CW
		2,470,580	Phone
AE6U	Ken Ruddock	1,978,704	Phone
WI6Y	Mary Bradshaw (K6ZM)	1,544,405	Phone
KW6C	Russ Bentson	1,011,499	Phone
AJ6V	Ed Radlo	445,869	Phone
K6XO	Alan Brubaker	476,971	CW
		403,056	Phone
AG6D	Al Elge	455,675	Phone
N6CCL	Larry Lemas	421,686	Phone
W6REC	Duane Ausherman	76,734	CW
WE6G	Mike Griffin	42,900	CW
	Duane Ausherman	317,312	Phone
KB6JK	Rich Hudgins	29,835	Phone
K6CSL	Bert Cook	13,050	Phone

NET CHECK-IN'S

May 28, 1986

KA6ING	Louese (NCS)
K6CSL	Bert
AD6E	Alan
KI6EZ	Alex
KB6JK	Rich
K6KLY	Russ
W7MAP	Chuck
WR6R	Al
W6SZN	Kip
KB6ZV	Rod

June 4, 1986

KA6ING	Louese (NCS)
WE6G	Alan
KB6JK	Rich
W6REC	Duane
K4UVT	Bob
WA6VEF	Gary
K6ZM	Phil

NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

- 1) Letters are to be sent to current testers who appear in Contest Results columns.
- 2) Develop a "contest" slide show and a group of speakers willing to do presentations at ham radio club meetings.
- 3) Have a "Welcome Wagon" at our meetings to meet and introduce our guests and prospective visitors.

I welcome ideas and help in implementing our membership drive. Please contact me by phone ((209) 368-1121) or .724 repeater, or at the next meeting.

73, Duane, W6REC

* * *

AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTING

by Tom Schiller, N6BT

This particular aspect of amateur radio has led me to a lot of fun and has allowed yet another test of my ingenuity, skills, engineering talents and thought processes. The most important, though, if FUN and I have found that fun is related directly to understanding and performance. To this end, the following information is presented with the hope that it will bring with it more understanding and higher performance, not only for your station, but also (and most importantly) for you.

This presentation will follow this outline:

ANATOMY OF A CONTEST STATION

- * Station Layout
- * Operating Techniques
- * Antennas
- * Fatigue and Concentration

OPERATING TECHNIQUES

As a beginning, keep in mind these few items as a starter.

- * Have a ROUTINE, but BE FLEXIBLE
- * Understand WHAT IS HAPPENING
- * LISTEN
- * Keep a Dupe Sheet
- * Send the Exchange ONCE
- * Be Courteous

THE "BIG FIVE"

- 1) KEEP A SIGNAL ON THE AIR (nobody can work you if they do not know you are there).
- 2) SEND IT ONCE (probably the single biggest time-wasting practice is sending exchanges more than once).
- 3) ANTICIPATION (elimination of the silent periods between exchanges and calls).
- 4) HAVE A BAND PLAN (always best to have a solid idea of where you want to be and when you want to be there).
- 5) RECOGNIZE A RATE SITUATION (it will lead to more QSO's in your log).

MAXIMIZE RATE (QSO/HOUR) MEANS MINIMIZE WASTE

The way we move our hands and think are the keys to higher personal operating performance. Everything we do is important, but there are some of extreme importance.

- 1) Minimize your hand movements.
Each extra motion delays the business at hand.
- 2) Tune in quickly.
For example, when tuning up the band in a search-and-pounce technique, try to practice not having to move the dial back again to be on frequency. An exaggeration of this is rocking several times across the signal before being "on."

Use your ear to tune what is available to you. It is the most flexible filter in the radio room, does not require any hand movements to tune it and the bandwidth and pitch selection are instantaneously adjustable.

The use of wide filters will assist in quicker recognition of signals and surrounding conditions. Narrow filters only allow a small window of information to reach you and sometimes the calling station is gone before his frequency has even been scanned.

3) Keep a signal on the air.

Probably the single, most important item to remember. After all, nobody can call you if they do not know you are there. It also will help keep your frequency clear. When using search-and-pounce, it is easy to let a lot of time go past between QSO's. Don't let it happen! There will be a "hole" that you will tune across -- take advantage of it and call a brisk CQ.

4) Manage off-time.

Use the off-time to do some analysis of your current position. These items should also be reviewed while you are operating, but at no expense to your rate:

- a) Performance compared to contest plan
- b) Actual band performance to band plan
- c) How to catch up
- d) How and where to get needed multipliers
- e) Update dupe sheet
- f) When is next planned time off?

5) Watch band conditions and activity.

Even though you are following your band plan, conditions do change. Notice if the signals you are hearing are the ones you had expected (e.g., if on 20, you had expected to hear the east coast and instead you are hearing loud midwest and weak east coast, the band is probably shutting down sooner than you had planned).

6) Get the call right the first time.

Enough said.

7) Use pre-sets on all equipment.

Pre-sets are tuning marks that are done prior to the contest to enable the operator to tune up the gear before using it. A common method is masking tape around the TUNE, PLATE, DRIVE, etc. controls with appropriate marks for each band used on that piece of gear.



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