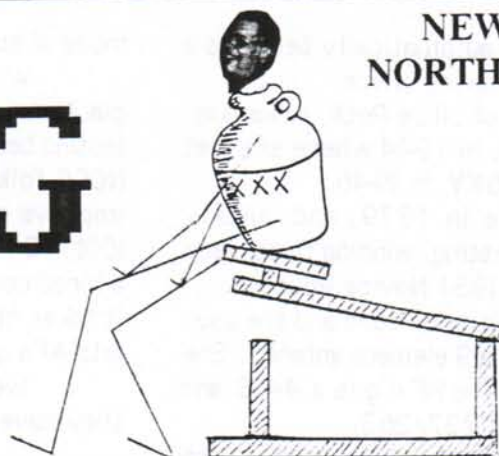


# THE NCCC JUG



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
CONTEST CLUB

EDITOR, W6ISQ  
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82 BELBROOK WAY  
ATHERTON, CA., 94027  
ASST. ED. KC6NFE

NUMBER 228  
MAY 1, 1991

**PRESIDENT: W6ISQ**  
**CONTEST CHAIRMAN: N6TV**

**VICE PRESIDENT: N6TV**

**SEC /TREASURER: AD6E**  
**DIRECTORS: KI6EZ; N6KT; AI6V; WZ6Z**

## NCCC GREATSHOW AT VISALIA

**Contest Forum Program.** Keynote speaker was **TOM TAORMINA, K5RC**, editor of the NCJ, *National Contest Journal*. Tom spoke on "Contesting in the 90's". He pointed out that the doomsayers in contesting have always been wrong. These are the folks who say it can't be done or it won't work. But contesters have been out in front of the pack and they make things happen. In the 90's, contesters will continue to improve and develop sophisticated equipment and find better ways to compete. I'm sure we all agreed with his astute observations. Tom always gives a good presentation. Thank you Tom. Thanks for the NCJ, also.

NCCC had two star performers at this Visalia DX bash: **Bob, N6TV**, with a panel for the Contest Forum, and **Jim, W6CF**, with the DX Forum. Both earned top ratings on the networks.

(cont. page 2, col. 2)



(Above) Jim, W6CF, demonstrates how-to on the Sitzplatz. (Below) Bob N6TV takes the wild ride for F & F



## LOUESE KA6ING ELECTED PRESIDENT NCCC

By electing **Louese Bloom, KA6ING**, President, NCCC continued it's very "San Francisco" tradition of leading the pack in historic decisions. We are the first major contest/DX club to elect a woman President! (At least that's



President  
Louese, KA6ING

our claim until someone proves otherwise.) Louese was unanimously elected President for the coming year and to serve with her, all also elected unanimously, **Ace Jansen, N3AHA** VP/Contest Chairman, and **Henry Stewart, KJ6LD**, Secretary/Treasurer. Board members elected at the same meeting are **WA6SDM, N6TV, and WZ6Z**.

(cont. page 2 col. 1)

*Elections, con't from page 1, col 3*

Outgoing prexy, **W6ISQ**, automatically becomes a member of the Board on leaving office.

Louese is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, but came to San Francisco in 1944 where she met and married **Larry, KD6XY** in 1946.

She received her license in 1979, and quickly became interested in contesting, winning first place in the SCV Section in the 1981 Novice Roundup.

Six meters is her favorite band and she uses an ICOM 551D and 80 W to a 9 element antenna. She has 41 countries on six. The HF rig is a 440S and a TH7. Her DXCC score is 227/263.

Louise is on the NCCC 2 meter repeater each morning about 6AM where she presides and rag chews with NCCC morning commuters. She passes messages from one traveller to another and relays club announcements to all check-ins or those who do not read their *NR*. During contests Louese performs an invaluable service by reading off packet announcements to the packet hold-outs on our two meter repeater.

Louese and Larry, have two sons, not licensed, but their daughter **Niki, is VE7NKI**, and son-in-law, **Gary, is WA6VEF**. You will recognize those names as long-time workers in the CQP contest. The Blooms also have three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

**ACE, N3AHA**, our new Veep/Contest Chairman is from Delaware. He was out of town when this copy was prepared, but we can alert you that the May issue of Worldradio carried his first article as the new County Hunter columnist! Yes, Ace gave me and **W6CF** many new counties when he was driving back and forth across the country! We'll track him down for a later story.

NCCC Secretary/Treasurer **Henry, KJ6LD**, grew up in North Carolina. He moved to Georgia for college to study electrical engineering at Georgia Tech. There he married **XYL Karen**, and they have three daughters who are now 16, 11, and 6. He moved the family to this area three years ago when he accepted employment with Varian.

Henry's first license came after college as **WD4HPF** (Henry's Pretty Funny), but his interest waned after a year or so. When he got to California, his interest picked up again as he tried scheduling his father-in-law back in Georgia.

So Henry up-graded to Advanced. He's passed the theory for Extra class, but is still working on passing the 20 wpm code. It is not his natural

mode of speaking, he says.

With the Advanced Class and skeds to Georgia, Henry moved into HF Dxing, and then into contesting because of the challenge of the test. He likes NCCC folks because they are always striving to improve equipment and performance. He uses an ICOM 751 with SB200 and Cushcraft A3. He's been a hired contest gun at AG6D which he likes because it takes him away from the neighborhood QRM and into Al's great station.

Welcome aboard to all our new officers. May they have a cheerful and high-scoring reign.



**Ace, N3AHA**, came in 5th in the Sitzplatz

*NCCC Show (con't)*

**CONTEST PANEL**—**Bob, N6TV**, was the creative director, responsible for one of the best Contest programs we've ever presented. He did the formatting, script, question plotting, and choosing of participants. **N6TV** tuned the erstwhile obstreperous Contest Forum to a polished, fast-paced, on-the-target program. Good questions and clear, candid, intelligent answers from the four-star panel comprising **N6AA, K3EST, W6OAT, and K3ZO**.

Did you notice how fast Bob talked? Did he learn to fast talk in contests or is he really the moderator of the McLaughlin Report? Sounded like the real thing, with professional style and control. That fast talk will get you somewhere, Bob. Good job. Congrats.

I want to add an aside here. Somehow, the word did not get to Bruce W6OSP, and at the Banquet, and he gave me the Forum credit when it should have gone to Bob, with honors. There's a full report by Bob (just call me McLaughlin), elsewhere in this issue. Don't miss it, you'll be proud.

**DX FORUM.** W6CF led the soothing of contentious issues at the DX Forum with many an adroit, calm answer and explanation. Because I was busy grading the straight key fist senders at the F & F Tournament in the hall, I missed it, but am told, that as usual with Maxwellian productions, it was excellent. Jim said his biggest surprise was that the audience voted 3:1 there were too many ARRL DX awards. Interesting. Could it be that we are tired of all the paper work. In addition, Jim built the athletic hit of the show, the Fist and Fanny's "Maxwell's Sitzblatz Equalizer". More on that later.

**CODE COPYING CONTEST.** The low number of calls copied at the CW call copying contest well put together by N6ZZ was surprising. Understand the accoustics were not top grade. The prizes did get awarded smartly by Gary, WA6VEF and Nikki, VE7NKI and others.

## THE F & F'S GREAT SITZBLATZ EQUALIZER KEYING MACHINE.

Jim, W6CF, exceeded even his usual sterling performance when he introduced his great tail-ender, the "Sitzblatz Equalizer Keying Machine" to the Visalia convention. It had to be the hit of the show. Everybody enjoyed it—those competing and those in the cheering section. I watched the participants all day, amid laughs and grins from the audience, while each contestant mounted the infamous charger to try his fanny at the joust. It was, in short, a boisterous, and great fun competition.

The "equalizer" first was built and used at a NCDXClub meeting over 25 years ago. At that first tournament a few of the participants were N6TJ, W6NV, W6QL and W6ISQ. And who do you think won that long ago classic encounter? Well, modesty forbids my relating details of the run-away joust. Suffice to say, I retired as undefeated champion on Friday night before the convention, so as not to embarrass any of the younger Sir Galahads.

The fun and jousting for this year's convention, would not have been possible without the many hours of creative work by Jim, W6CF. He located Eddie Hoetzel, W6DZZ, who made the original



Gary, WA6VEF and Nikki, VE7NKI, distribute plaques and wine to CQP winners



CQP Tabulator Jim, WA6AUE collects his own prizes

machine. Sure enough, DZZ still had the keying arm. Jim beefed it up with a new, heavy frame and saddle, wired in a distinctive sounding buzzer, painted it all a brassy gold and, voila —the Sitzblatz, a thing of beauty and sound of music.

Now, that's not all. To add enticement, Jim made, himself, in his own workshop, with a clever new gadget, over 200 two inch badges saying, "I survived the F&F Tournament, Visalia 1991". These were awarded to all contestants in either mode. There were also badges made for the judges reading, "Referee, F&F Contest, Vislia 1991." And as special awards, he made badges in honor of Samuel F.B. Morse's birthday. Every radio club should have a Jim Maxwell!

The Sitzblatz Equalizer was so popular that the folks at the Fresno Hamfest asked to borrow it.

75% of the testers who sat down for a joust said, "I haven't used a key for 15 years!" A few said 20, and a couple 30, but 15 was the time lapse of choice. What happened 15 years ago that everybody quit using straight keys?

Another unexpected thing, was to learn that quite a few knights said they had *never* used a straight key! They had learned CW on a speed key of some sort. And one op, **Tony, K7BG**, had to sit on the table and put the key on his leg. Ex-Air Force, I guess.

**F & F FINALS.** The top ten in each mode were selected for the final joust which took place in an arena across the hall after the banquet.

**Bob, W6RJ, Bob, W6RGG, and Glenn, K6NA** (representing SCCC) were judges. It was



Judges Glenn, K6NA; Bob, W6RJ; and Bob, W6RGG, congratulate winners: Sitzblatz: Scotty, WTSW (center) and Key: Gary, K8BN (right)

If Jim ever gets it back we will ask him to tatoo "NCCC" in big white letters on the arm and "made by W6CF" on the base.

Let's have a loud huzzaaahhhh for Jim's Sitzblatz Equalizer. Ahhhh—now Jim, about that QLF machine we talked about for next year. Maybe you could get one a' them base drum foot pedals, and a big gong—ahhhh, well you get the idea.

**STRAIGHT KEY—FIST.** At the other end of the table from the tail-ending Sitzblatz Equalizer charger, was the straight key position. At least

a spirited event with lots of hearty laughs, rowdy cheers and admiring applause in the packed room.

Prizes were donated by **HRO**. We thank them most appreciatively.

		<u>FIST</u>	<u>FANNY</u>
First	\$100	K8BN	W7SW
Second	50	N6TV	N6TIB
Third	25	AD6E	K16ZH
Fourth	15	K66VI	WE5I
Fifth	10	N6JV	N3AHA

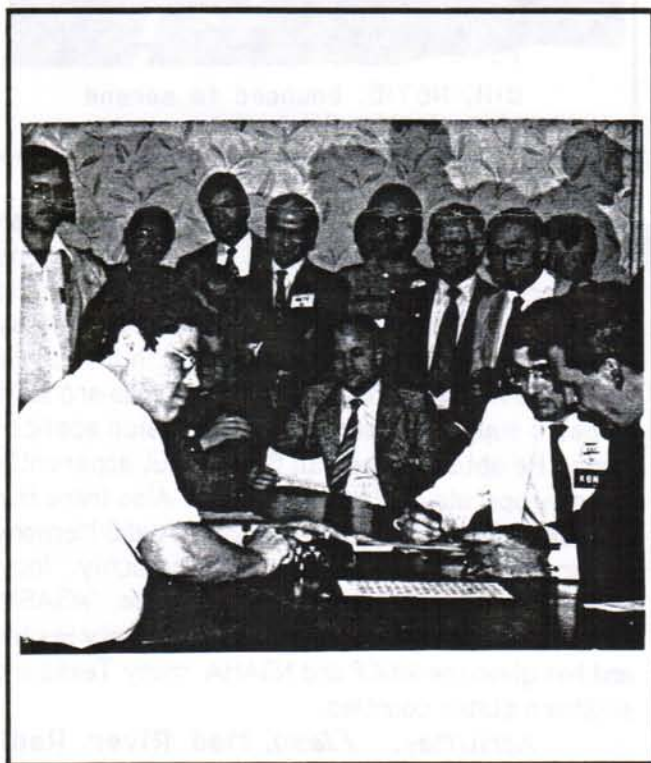
**Ace, N3AHA** was the only contestant who made the finals in both modes. Good show, Ace!

Thanks **Tony, K7BG**; **Ace, N3AHA**; **Bob, N6TV**, for helping out at the F & F table. **W6CF** refereed his Equalizer event when he was not engaged on the podium. Also I thank **XYL Maggi, KC6NFE**, for timing the Fist Tournament.

## TROSTEROSTER

Up top—**Bob, W6RJ** Warm thanks to you and **HRO** for adding top incentive to the F & F contest by donating money certificates for prizes. And also your A-plus participation as "Chief Jedge" at the F & F finals. Both much appreciated by all tournament participants and enthusiasts.

I had a packetgram from **Rich, K13V/7**



just returned from the "Gulf" (he also told me at Visalia), saying that I had mistakenly labled **N6RO's** photo in the April JUF as **N7RO**. Also, as I remember, I gave his A92 call incorrectly. So I had to explain to **Rich** that the JUF/JUG never makes mistakes! The editor purposely puts in those "errors" to see if anyone out there is reading the newsletter with any degree of comprehension. **Rich**,

you were wide awake and reading every word. Congratulations. You've won a DUB!

Thanks to **Rich, N6KT**, for hosting the annual beer party in his room at Visalia. Of course, he didn't have any diet, no-call, no caffeine, cola for me, or popcorn dripping with butter and doused with salt, but outside of that, he done good. I squeezed into the room about midnight and listened to interesting discussions from various knots of testers on all sides. They were all in areas of importance to the club. How 'bout if some of you out there write summaries of the topics you were discussing (yes, this is a family publication). Please do it, put yourself in print! I should mention here that when I came into the room I noticed **N6KT**, our nominating chairman and his assistant, **AD6E**, had cornered **N3AHA** and **KJ6LD** in to corner from where there was no escape. Their persistence and believable words must have worked because both cornerees were elected to office last meeting! I noticed when I left the room an hour later that my knees buckled. No, not on diet sprite! Just all of a sudden I was not being held up by other bodies packed on all sides! You too, huh?

Congrats to **Bob, W6RGG**, on being named DXer of the Year by **NCDXC**. Of course, when the announcement came he had snuck outside for a cigarette; so a posse had to round him up. Then he started to walk through the crowd to the head table and disappeared again. (He ~~was~~ standing up.) Anyway, he finally emerged at the head table amid a thunderous ovation to claim the plaque he so justly deserved. Congrats, **Bob**.

Of all contestants in the F & F straight key tournament, the best fists I copied were **W6PHF** and **W6VPH**. Both were smooth, even, rhythmic, very nice clean CW.

*Opposite: NCCC Sec/Treas. **AI, AD6E** took third place in the F & F Straight Key finals.*

We noted that **Bob, N6TV's** time on the podium as Mr. Interlocator of the Contest Forum qualified him to be considered among the great sit-down comedians to emerge from the amateur ranks this season! Much wit and chatter. And his performance on the straight key finals was a theatrical staging of first-class showmanship. He paced, flexed his fingers, and stomped around like a world-class tag-team wrestler. Fingers chattering like a pigmy's teeth in the arctic, he keyed to second place. Good show.

## OPERATING TABLE HEIGHT

Two months ago, we asked, "What's the height of your operating table?" We asked this because we thought our table was rather high at 30.25". (Yes, also depends on chair height). Too high is harder to operate from, and could lead to operator fatigue. When in doubt, ask the great Old Pros out there in Contest Land. So we did.

Of those faithful who submitted a measurement the average height was 29.7", but this may have been skewed a bit by **WA6AUE** whose table was 32.5", an inch and a half higher than any other. (Jim said he thought his was a bit high!). Lowest table heights were 28.5", reported by **KA6ING**, **W6RGG**, **N6TV**. Computers were set a lot lower, averaging about 25.75".

Bring the saw Maggi, and whack off an inch or so from our table, will ya please? Don't look at me like that—hey, the table is over there! Thanks to those who contributed to this in-depth... ah, height, study!

## BULLETIN BOARD

**OLLIE, W6NV**. Please make your wishes known for Field Day. Call your crew and whomever. You are the fearless leader of NCCC effort and the key and mike are plugged into your rig. Go go! GL.

We understand **BOB, W1ARR**, submitted a story about how the JUF—sorry, JUG—was named. But we have not yet received it at editorial inner sanctum. Who has it?

Didn't hear from Founding Father, **JIM, W6CF**, about his recollections of early NCCC. But he has been excused all duties for several months because of his tremendous Visalia achievement. So let's hear from some of you other FFs. **W6RGG**, what do you remember about those halcyon days of yore? Write your memoirs for the *JUG*.

## WITH OTHER CLUBS

We are privileged to exchange Newsletters with more than a dozen of the leading Contest/DX Clubs in the US of A. Some of the interesting "how-to" educational articles in these pubs will be excerpted here from time-to-time as room permits. Here are some observations our peers from various

places have made in their recent newsletters.



Bill, N6TIB, bounced to second place in the Sitzblatz

April, *The Bullsheat*, Texas DX Society, editor, W5ASP. President N5DC remarks that it is time for TDXS to begin thinking about 1991 Field Day. (Read that, Ollie?) Interesting article by AA5NK/BW1Z about early stations in China. He gives information on how to obtain a license and says he has a supply of operating permission applications. He obtained the call BW1Z, but apparently can only operate on 2 meters so far. Also there is a good positive review on the W2IHY Audio Memory Keyer, written by NZ5I who likes it muchly. Incidentally, I was pleased to meet editor Joe, W5ASP, who was at Visalia. He is a Mobile CW County Hunter and has given me W6CF and N3AHA many Texas and southern states counties.

April/May, *Flash*, Mad River Radio Club, editor KE8OC. K8MR writes of a plan to send several 1000 DX and contest oriented hams to the Mid East to assist in "Operation Desert QRM". Saddam Hussein's VHF communications were destroyed so he would be forced to use HF radio links. The role of the hams was to provide semi-intelligent jamming of these links. Those called would be selected from published contest results, NCJ subscribers, tapes of recent pile-ups, i.e. 3Y5X. Two modes to be used: 1) contesters

would provide a general level of QRM by running contests continuously, 2) jamming all Iraq's frequencies by long calls, partial calls, burping, policing, over-modulating and requests for CW contacts. "Big Fish", K8CC, reports total for ARRL contest of 21M points CW and 23M SSB for MRRC. Article by N8CXX about being "audited" by FCC who want to know if the operator is using "too much power" to carry on a QSO. If there is no serious degradation of your signal when you cut your power 50%, you are in violation of FCC rules. In another story, the writer notes the FCC has given permission to substitute social security numbers for the normal call sign. This all is from April editions.

March, *Scuttlebutt*, Naval Post Graduate School ARC. Editors WW7G and KA7VNE. W6CSL notes that the small neon glow lamps in power strips may cause an enormous amount of noise in receivers. He removed wires to the lamp to cure.

April, *Newsletter*, PVRC, Editor W3GN. President WA8MAZ admonishes members to read the By Laws so they won't have to discuss issues and questions which have already been brought up. The "intense interest in the club's well-being is not borne out by our seemingly impossible search for club officers at elections or overall contest activity." (Ed. note: I didn't think this happened anywhere but here.) Looks like PVRC had 27.1M SSB in ARRL test.

April, *Newsletter*, Frankford Radio Club, Editor K3WW. President N2EA reports score for ARRL was 185M total, 30 meg above last year. Breakdown: CW about 98.7M, SSB about 97M. (yipes—ed). Average donation to FRC last year was \$30.

APRIL, *Newsletter*, Yankee Clipper Radio Club. Interesting editorial by President KY1H about computer logging. He makes two points. First, he does not send in his log on Monday after the contest. Instead tries to discover and correct questionable or odd calls, etc., seeks help on packet



but draws flack for trying to correct, etc. Second point: when a score is knocked down by the judges, there is no way of ever finding out why or what for, i.e. there is no feedback from the correcting authority. One never finds out what one did wrong. He would like to remedy that.

March / April *SCCCORE*, Southern Cal Contest Club, Editor WA6OTU. Note, I had the pleasure of meeting WA6OTU at Fresno. President NC6U writes well about making efficient pre-contest prepara-

tion around the shack; that is, the layout, a good chair, light, table, etc. He continues with a look at operating habits and points out the "Fundamental Law of Contesting", "you can't be the loudest signal on the band if you are not transmitting". And the paradoxical corollary, "you can't work anybody if you are transmitting all the time". Analyze your habits to minimize time for basic functions, running rate, search and pounce, change bands, etc. A little time saved here and there adds up. Pay attention to detail. He says that N6TJ records the entire contest and analyses his, and others, techniques.

March, *The Warrior*, North Coast Contester. Seems to be some sort of bruhaha rivalry between North Coast Contesters and Mad River RC. Makes for bigger scores in both clubs.

March, *The Murphy Message*, Murphy's Mauraunders, Editor NJ2L. I was impressed that 8 different ops wrote on their experiences about the ARRL test, some a half page long. Very interesting, especially the story by Jim Cain, K1TN, about his 10 meter Sterba Curtain which he put up for the test. Sixty five feet long and 16 feet from top to bottom. One oriented E-W and one on JA (put together in the dark by flashlight). The Sterbas work just as well on 12 as on 10. Also some gain on 20, 17 and 15. With a transmatch, can load on 160-30, where the Sterbas work as well as the old 135 foot center feds.

April, *Newsletter*, North Jersey DXA,

Editor, K2GHV. President W2MT discusses what others have been saying lately, that use of the 2 meter voice repeater has dropped with the increasing popularity of DX packet cluster. Don't want to lose voice because it can alert the listener while mobile and while mowing the lawn. But can't take full advantage of packet unless some sort of storage available to you to save DX spots, etc. Perhaps recent technology will solve the problem. Devices apparently now available which can read the digital DX announcements from packet and convert to natural sounding voice announcements for transmission over repeater. Check for introduction at Dayton. (Really? CASCON ed).

### APRIL MEETING.

This was our election meeting held again at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant, April 19. Much of the talk was concerned with the good showing NCCC made in WPX-SSB just past, and the fact that we have a good chance of winning the club award again if we do very well in the WPX-CW. Yo everybody, out and into the fray, please!

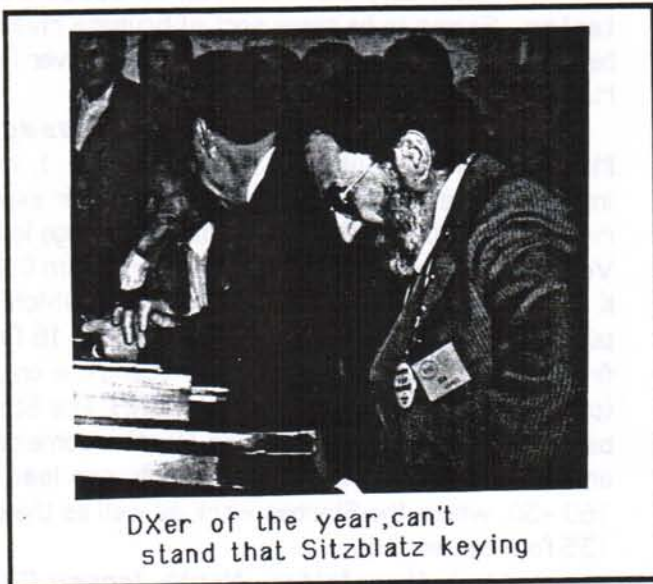
### Salad Round Table.

**BOB, N6TV**, spoke as above, urging all to great activity, pointing out our good chances of winning the club award again.

**AL, AD6E**, mentioned he made Visalia for the first time and he wondered why it took him so long. He said he worked Baldur, DJ6SI, at Mt. Athos



Above. Mr. Sitzblatz Jim, W6CF on his wonderful keying machine  
Below. Bob, N6TV, keyed to second in Fist contest joust



DXer of the year, can't stand that Sitzblatz keying





on the first call with 100 watts. First time, first call for a rare DX station. Good work.

**ERIC, W6DU**, said it took him an hour and three quarters to work Baldur, about average for most of us.

**DAVE, WX7P**, from Concord, attending his first meeting with us. He heard of us through **Duane, W6REC**. Does most of his operating now at Diablo Valley College.

**JIM, KV6S**, works with N6IP. He wanted to hear W6QHS's antenna talk. Welcome.

**LARRY, NF6S**, hopes to go Big in WPX, maybe even on top of that 1700 foot tower!

**HENRY, KJ6LD**, had a terrible lapse of memory at Visalia, and forgot he worked Martti, OH2BH at Penguin Island. Result: did not pick up his QSL.

**RON, W6VG**, my neighbor, is showing a flurry of activity. Is on 15 daily.

**RICH, N6KT**, was on fone WPX at **N6RO's**. As was **BOB, W6RGG**; **RUSTY, W6OAT**, **LOU, K6TMB**.

**DAVE, AF6S**, will be big user of his good WPX call in the CW WPX.

**SUSAN, KA6SDH**, XYL of AF6S, received thanks from W6QHS and KC6NFE, for her Macintosh training programs!

**KEN, N6RO**, with excellent TOPOPS scored between 18 and 19 M in WPX fone. **Alex, KI6EZ**, put together five computers for use during the test, three connected and two single band. Two hours before the contest, **N6RO** and **K6TMB** had to climb the 140 foot tower to repair the 40 M ant! The younger fellas were busy polishing the knobs on the receivers.

**STEVE, N6ST**, designed and printed the programs for Visalia. He sets a personal best of 5M in forthcoming WPX. Good luck!

**BOB, N6IP**, got on for a few WPX fone contacts and will charge in the upcoming CW.

**JIM, WA6SDM**, was in WPX fone. He missed Visalia to work on his computer control system.

**HERSH, AA6QY**, enroute Visalia in a van, worked HF SSB. Problem was every time he pushed the mike button, it cut out the cruise control.

**BARB, KK6QM**, was in the fine WPX effort at W6QHS. Looking forward to the computer-controlled WPX-CW next.

**DAVE, W6QHS** says it took him all year to put his station back together. But then, look what he did to develop the science of putting up antennas that

stay put!

**MAGGI, KC6NFE**, worked two stations in WPX, then spent the rest of the weekend getting out the *JUF*.

"Physical Design of Yagi Antennas", was the title of our program talk and slide show. Speaker of the evening, **DAVE, W6QHS**, spoke lucidly on the topic (no, this is not an oxymoron, not when he does it). The talk was titled and excerpted from his new book, now being type-set at ARRL. It was an everything-you've-ever-wanted-to-know-about-the-wind-and-antennas, but didn't-know-where-to-ask talk, and all of us were inspired to re-vamp our tower and antenna systems the right way—the Dave Leeson way.

Just how effective and informative Dave's reasearch and data are, can be appreciated when he explains that he lost his antennas each winter for the first three years he lived on his 3500 foot mountain top. Last year against record winds and cold, his new, properly designed antennas rode out the storms with no problems. Now he just goes back to sleep when those over 100 miles per hour winds hit!

Dave will give a shorter version of this talk at Dayton, and no doubt he'll be asked to give it to other clubs in the Bay Area also. Dave furnished handouts showing the basics of what he was talking about. If you missed the meeting, he'd probably be glad to send one to anyone with a SASE. The book will be out about Christmas.

Elections at this meeting were covered on page one.



Honorable Judges: Glenn, K6NA; Bob, W6RJ; Bob W6RGG

## AND IN CONCLUSION

This year has raced by. I can hardly believe that my tenure is over. I've enjoyed learning so many broader aspects of contesting from all of you. Contestors *are* a different breed, individually interesting, and dedicated to forwarding the field. Indeed, I've come to realize that contesters are in the vanguard of HF amateur radio, and it's gratifying to be a part of that vital atmosphere. The meetings were outstanding, your contributions were outstanding, and it was all much fun.

Particularly, I want to thank Veep **BOB, N6TV**, for his devoted, unstinting work to make contests happen properly, and for his prompt reports of those contests in particularly well-done articles for the *JUG*. The same full thanks to **AL, AD6E**, who someplace found numbers to match expenses. Also for keeping me straight on membership matters, phone numbers and other things I needed to be aware of.

Thanks to the Board: **ALEX, KI6EZ**; **RICH, N6KT**; **CARL, AI6V**; **HOWARD, WZ6Z**; They were most helpful in keeping the organization purring properly, as was oracle **BOB, W6RGG**, whom I consulted many times about procedures.

Finally, thanks to **MAGGI, KC6NFE**, for doing extra tasks, arrangements at restaurants, computerizing the *JUG*, reminding me to wear my badge, and otherwise keeping me on track. She has agreed to continue desk top publishing the *JUG*, so we will continue with that work which we enjoy. Incidentally, we much appreciate the enthusiastic feedback we've had about the *JUG*. Always glad to have your comments.

Thank you all for a most memorable year. Being President of NCCC has been a great satisfaction and an honor I'm proud of.

73 de Jack, W6ISQ

*Jack.*

All photos in this issue by W6ISQ

## NEXT MEETING

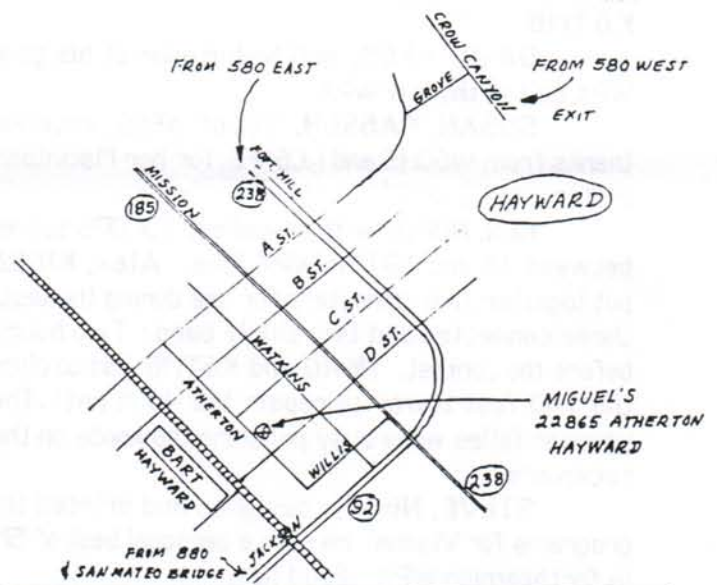
Friday, May 17  
MIGUEL'S, Hayward

Sip at Six

Chow Down at Seven

Speaker to be announced

Witness the changing of the guard  
New officers take over



To find Miguel's in Hayward, head for the Hayward BART station. Then use the map.

The Contest Forum

For those of you who couldn't make it, here's a summary of the main portion of the Contest Forum at the International DX Convention in Visalia:

Introduction by W6ISQ

"Contesting in the 90s," by K5RC

"The Visalia Group" (see below)

Award Presentations

- Milliyun Point Awards (1990 CQ WW)
- 750 QSO Awards (1990 CQ WW)
- So. Calif. Awards

CW Pileup Tape by N6ZZ

\$100 HRO Gift Certificate, won by N9US

"The Visalia Group"

This was an experimental debate format, modeled after the popular PBS television program *The McLaughlin Group*. People seemed to enjoy the rapid fire give and take. Each panelist had an interesting point of view.

(Let's try McLaughlin)

Moderator: N6TV

Panelists: K3EST, K3ZO, N6AA, W6OAT

Issue ONE: The DEunification of Germany

Discussed the confusion caused by the CQ WW Contest Committee's decision to count one Germany, then two Germanys, then one Germany in the CQ WW CW contest.

Exit question: On a scale of zero to ten, zero being "zero damage," ten being "major damage," how much damage was done to the credibility of the CQ Contest committee over this incident?

- K3EST: 0
- N6AA: 0
- W6OAT: 1
- K3ZO: 1
- N6TV: 4

Issue TWO: Multiple Choice Quiz

\*\*\*\*\*

Please select one of the following to describe the status of the ARRL DX Contest today:

- a) Healthy
- b) Beset with minor ailments
- c) Chronically Ill
- d) Terminally Ill

All the panelists chose b), except W6OAT chose c). Rusty thinks the ARRL DX is boring. N6TV suggested that the contest could be improved by allowing DXpeditions to count towards club score. Others felt this wouldn't help that much.

Exit question: on a scale of zero to ten, ten being absolute metaphysical certitude, zero being "no way Jose," what is the probability that the rules of the ARRL DX contest will be changed within the next three years?

- K3EST: 9
- N6AA: 9
- W6OAT: 2
- K3ZO: 1
- N6TV: 2

Issue THREE: The Barefoot ContESTer

\*\*\*\*\*

Would contest activity be enhanced if more contests were to adapt a "barefoot only" policy, as in the No. American QSO Party? This received loud applause from the audience, but all five panelists agreed that none of the major contests should be changed to "barefoot only."

Issue FOUR: The Packet Racket

\*\*\*\*\*

While packet radio helps you work more countries, there is potential for abuse when packet announcements are read over HF, or when people use packet to help them work only "their friends." Is Packet radio ruining contesting?



TOM, K5RC



FRED  
K3ZO

DICK  
N6AA

BOB  
N6TV

RUSTY  
W6OAT

BOB  
K3EST

N6AA made some good points against the use of packet. For example, is it fair for a multi-single in the Bay Area (with access to a large DXPSN) to compete against a similarly equipped multi-single in the boonies with no packet access? Is that an apples vs. apples comparison?

W6OAT disagreed, saying that packet is one of the best things to happen to DX contesting; it makes the contest more fun.

Exit question: should the use of packet spotting networks during contests be banned, or should packet merely be avoided by those wishing to compete at a National level?

With the exception of N6AA, the panel seemed to agree that packet was OK, but that the real competition is still in the unassisted category.

#### Issue FIVE: The Peanut Gallery Speaks \*\*\*\*\*

At this point members of the audience were given a chance to ask questions of the panel. Some of the questions and answers:

Q: Can something be done to limit contest activity to a certain range of frequencies to eliminate QRM to non-contesters?

A: Since there is no contesting on the WARC bands, that seems like a good place for non-contesters to go during contests.

Q: What can be done to promote more DX activity in the ARRL DX?

A: Suggestions ranged from eliminating the single-band categories (thereby encouraging DX to make more QSOs) to allowing DXpeditions to count towards club score. Rusty said the best way to promote DX activity was to join the NCDXF.

Q: Can something be done about the 75 meter DX "window" where two or three loud W6s call CQ during DX contests?

A: No one had any good ideas on how to solve this one, short of getting the Japs to expand the JA phone band.

Q: Where are the JAs?

A: K3EST and N6TV think TVI/RFI troubles are keeping contest activity down. Other think the JAs just got tired of working W6s who never QSL.

Predictions:

\*\*\*\*\*

K3EST: Within a year, you'll see a separate 100 watt category in the CQ WW contest.

N6AA: In 10 years, all major contest competitors will be required to submit both a diskette and audio tape with their logs.

W6OAT: Agreed with the above, and added that computer analysis will continue to improve log checking procedures.

K3ZO: At the next sunspot minimum, the winner of the 160 meter contest will work over 100 countries.

N6TV: N6AA will succeed in his goal to operate the CQ WW contest from every zone in the world.

The opinions expressed were solely those of the participants, and did not represent the opinions of W6ISQ, the ARRL, the CQ Contest Committee, or the Visalia Holiday Inn.



Rich, N6KT, Nominating Chairman, is happy because his partner Al, AD6E, has Ace, N3AHA, cornered. Ace is now new NCCC/VP/CC. On Right. Bob, K3EST, makes Coors commercial

## The VP/CC's Swan Song

---

What a year! It started in May with the NCCC winning the WPX club competition for the third year in a row, with an excellent chance of making it four-for-four thanks to a huge score from P40V in the 1990 WPX contest.

In July, there was the unforgettable World Radiosport Team Championship, followed by a club picnic and boat trip with the some of the best competitors in the world. Kudos to W6OAT for a FB job.

July and August saw momentum build as we prepared for the Calif. QSO Party and the CQ World-Wide Contest. In September and February, there was of course the No. American Sprint. Thanks to N1EE for a FB job organizing the NCCC Sprint teams.

The ARRL Pacific Division Convention featured NCCC participation in the Contest Forum, as yours truly explained the wonders of CT software to a wide-eyed audience at the LeBaron Hotel in San Jose.

And who can forget the Calif. QSO Party in October? This was one of the most successful CQPs ever. WA6VEF and VE7NKI did a FB job on publicity, yours truly made sure all 58 Calif. counties were on the air (thanks to all the DXpeditioners!), WA6AUE did a super job with the write-up, and W6OSP and N6EK did a great job with the wine and the awards.

October and November were CQ World-Wide months. A Milliun points was all we asked. Conditions were fantastic, as dozens of club members racked up record scores. While the NCCC probably didn't take the club award in 1990, we sure did well! Some club members even had time to participate in the Sweepstakes Contest.



New Sec/Treas Henry, KJ6LD, XYL Karen and Rusty, W6OAT at World Games party in Chinatown.

December featured the NCCC banquet, with perennial host N6BT doing his usual FB job as Master of Ceremonies.

Then the Gulf War broke out. KI3V, a member of the Nevada Air National Guard, was sent to Bahrain to serve in operation Desert Storm. In true contester fashion, he managed to get on the air as A92FN! N6TU gave an unforgettable slide show and gas mask demonstration.

In February and March, many dedicated NCCers made excellent showings in the ARRL DX Contest. The year ended with a most successful Contest Forum and great time at the Visalia Holiday Inn.

All throughout the year new members joined the NCCC ranks. It was great to see the club growing again.

It has been a pleasure serving the NCCC membership as your VP/CC over the last year. The job was made easy by all the helpful area coordinators, by our JUG editor, the late AK6T, of course by our most able President, Jack Troster, W6ISO. Jack and his XYL Marguerite (or Rita), did a fantastic job organizing the club meetings, writing and editing the JUG, and making sure that everything got done on schedule. Now, let's make 1991 even better!

Very 73,

*Bob*

Bob Wilson, N6TV



N3AHA made finals both modes

Last month we were introduced to honeybees. This month we step inside the hive.

## THE ODD ONE by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

### Chapter II

#### THE HIVE

The amount of honey that they can gather during a spring honey flow can be eye popping. This is the time of year you pay close attention to the bee hives. When they need room, they want it right now or they will start looking for a new apartment. Some call this swarming.

A beehive consists of the supers, brood supers and honey supers, plus a bottom board, inside cover and top cover. And frames in the supers for the bees to use.

A super is the boxlike sections of the hive. The hive can be put together in a number of ways. The larger brood supers, these about ten inches high, are generally where the queens reign. We say generally because some beekeepers use the big sections for honey supers. Here the eggs are laid in the brood comb, the eggs turn into larva, larva turns into honey bees. Usually the queen will not wander further than the two bottom supers, the brood supers. Within the supers, the queen will lay in a pattern in the center of the comb, this brood area roughly the size of a basketball. In the comb area away from this basketball-sized area, the foraging bees will store both honey and pollen. Pollen supplies the bee's need for protein.

When there is a good supply of honey and pollen and the brood storage area is filling, they start going higher in the hive. There they will find the honey supers, all the room they will need for a summer's hard work. They can pretty well fill up a honey super in a week or so when they get serious about their work. That's represents gallons of honey, maybe even more.

Look at a beehive out in your neighbor's yard. The larger brood sections will be easily recognized. Above the brood supers, which rest on the bottom board, are the honey supers. These usually are just over six inches in height. Between the brood supers and honey supers is the queen excluder. This is a frame of parallel wires, spaced so that the smaller worker bees can pass through to the honey supers, the queen is too big to pass through and thus cannot use the comb in the honey supers for her family raising. Usually there will be two or more honey supers above the two brood supers. These are not exact configurations, beekeepers set up the hives according to their own wishes. Sometimes they even wish they had tried a different set up.

On the top of the top honey super is the inside cover. Then capping the whole hive is the top cover. The inside cover is to cover the supers when the top cover is raised for ventilation on a warm day. The top cover provides weather and other protection, it telescoping a bit over the top super to close things off.

Inside the hives are removable frames, these generally run from eight to ten in number, again the variations are the beekeeper's preferences. The frames hold sheets of wax foundation, this being supplied to the bees to speed their work. Also, the foundation is embossed with the shape of a cell which will produce a worker bee. The worker cell is smaller than a drone cell, drones do little work within the hive, mostly just saving their strength for the time when a queen makes a mating flight. They may be a relaxed existence, an idyllic summer of just loafing and loving. But when the year turns into fall and towards winter, the hive very evidently believes that drones will not be needed any longer that year and their days of free-loading will be over. Watching a hive in the fall is to see two, sometimes three, worker bees literally drag drones out of the hive and kick them on their way.

Drones do not necessarily accept the indignity without putting up a fight. As soon as the workers go back into the hive, the drone will follow. You can hear him shouting: "This is my home and I am not leaving". Shortly, you will see the workers giving him the heave-ho again. One less mouth to feed is their quick explanation.

## EDITORIAL

Again I would like to thank all of you who contribute to the newsletter. I have been given several very humorous pieces; however, so far I have not found room to print them. This editor has a policy of using as much space as possible for required meeting notice, current club information and educational material to help improve our scores. A lack of personal sense of humor is probably part of the problem so I began to study all the newsletters we receive.

A pattern definitely exists. It seems that cultural factors and probably geographic factors help to shape the style of various club newsletters. Mid Western clubs tend to have wonderfully amusing newsletters and West Coast newsletters are also full of laughs. We all know that you have to have a sense of humor to live in the Mid West and folks who live on the West Coast are all a little "funny". It is interesting to notice as you move up the coast from Dixie where there is a gentle good nature to the newsletters, to the Potomac Valley where things get pretty stuffy, to Philadelphia where what you see is what you get, you end up in the taciturn Yankee land of New England. This is pretty much in keeping with the popular concept of the personalities of our geographic regions.

A second theory is that the better a group does the less it needs a sense of humor. You have to laugh instead of cry when you see the scores made by the North East. At any rate, I will try to spring some space this summer for reprints of some of the great stuff being printed around the country.

73 K3WW

## EDITORIAL (TOPIC #2)

I was recently asked to write a guest editorial for the Northern California Contest Club's newsletter.

They are interested in knowing how FRC manages to do so well, so consistently. I would like to take this opportunity to explain to our members how we have gone about this. Starting with the debacle a few years ago when YCCC managed to slip past FRC in the ARRL, we instituted a program where scores are very carefully accounted for, log submissions monitored, score reporting verified and so forth. We have gone to great lengths to see that all of our members meet all the requirements for the various contest, and submit the cleanest, most accurate entries possible.

A second phase which was also initiated at that time was a disinformation campaign which has been the real major reason for our expanded margins of victory. Most of you do not realize that there are two versions of the FRC Newsletter published each month. The club version goes only to active members, while other editors, officials, inactive members and even close friends, receive a special version. The special version contains extensive articles on contest operation which are designed to deflect our rivals from making good scores. Reports of FRC scores and planned activities are rearranged so as to be misleading. As many of you remember, W3BGN was rightfully concerned that N2EA had tipped our hand by mentioning the "BIG DOINGS" at N2RM prior to the CQ WW contest. Well, in fact our friends in the PVRC and YCCC read the "special" version which mentioned that N2RM planned a QRP effort both modes in the CQWW. The resulting victory in the Multi Multi class by N2RM can be partially attributed to this deception. In addition several big guns from the other club went QRP to be sporting.

These efforts take a lot of time and money, so please help out the policy committee when requested and when you make out your contribution check, remember that there is more to our overhead than meets the eye.

1991 WPX Phone Claimed Scores:

Key to Categories:

- S/O = Single-op
- S/A = Single-op, assisted
- M/S = Multi-single
- M/2 = 2 xmtr multi-multi
- M/M = Multi-multi
- 10m = Single-band 10

Call	Qs	PFxs	NCCC Points	Cat
P40V(+N7NG)	7447		20000000	M/S
WZ6Z(+N6EK, N6RO, K6TMB)			19000000	M/M
WU7Q(N6TIB, WX7P, W6REC)	2722	817	4783535	M/S
A92FN(KI3V)	2600			S/O
GB6BT(AA6MC+5 ops)	4495	951	1940199	M/M
WR6R/WH6(at AH6AZ)	3500			S/O
W7CB(N6YKL)	1222	541	1361696	15m
NC7K	951	534	1148634	S/A
NB6L(+K6ZM, NP4IW)	745	425	759900	M/S
WA6SDM	325	259	207459	S/A
W6EEN(+pkt)	381	254	162306	10m
KE6ZE	229	150	153900	40m
N6ST	195	167	62625	S/A
KA6ING(+pkt)	167	155	52855	10m
W6FAH	74	73	14381	S/A



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