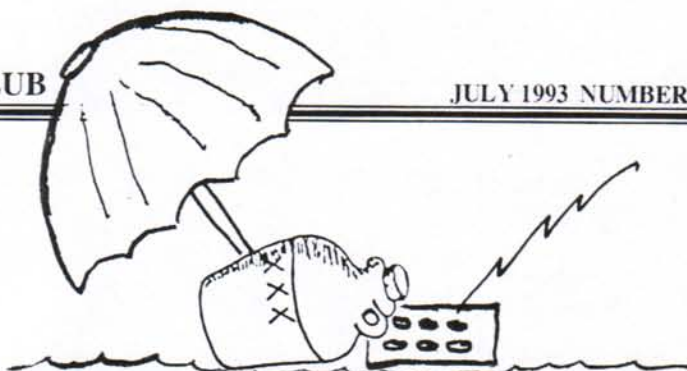


JUG



APPROACHING CONTESTS

de AE6Y

All in QST, July page 110, except as noted

July

- 10-11 IARU HF (QST April)
CQ VHF WPX
11 ARCI QRP Sprint
17-18 Colombian Independence
24-25 Venezuelan CW
RSGB IOTA Contest

August

- 7-8 ARRL UHF Contest
No. American QSO Party CW
YO DX contest
14-15 European DX Contest, CW
21-23 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
Seonet Contest, Phone
SARTG-RTTY Contest

Presidential Proclamations

STEVE SEZ

Steve Thomas, N6ST



It was good to see everyone who made it out to Field Day. As part of the vow to make coming to club events a fun thing, I think it was a success. My first exposure to Ham Radio was at the Field Day site of the Palomar Radio Club, W6NWG, in 1962. As a friend and I bicycled back from seeing all the fun that was going on, we decided we would both get our licenses. We stopped at Vista Electronics and spent 50¢ buying a copy of Learning the Radiotelegraph Code and an ARRL License Manual, that I think was 75¢. By October I was WN6BRN and he was WN6BRO. Field Day is a great way to introduce new comers to Ham Radio and get them started as contesters. (Yeah, I know, Field Day isn't really a contest.) The Samurai Beverage Tuner (NI6T) managed to get his machete into HP for "Bring Something from Your Shack to Share" night. As I have been struggling to reach DXCC on 80 meters I was inspired by the success Garry has enjoyed with his Beverage antennas. By CQ WW phone I plan to have several Beverage antennas working to bolster the performance of the Gap antenna I have laying on the ground. (Anybody want to come up to a very short antenna raising party to get the Gap vertical?) With the combination of the two I expect to be able to get a flock of multipliers on 80 and 160 that have previously been out of reach. With the dropping sunspot numbers I believe that getting multipliers on the low bands will be a necessary factor in maintaining good scores in the next few years as 10 and 15 meters become less and less productive. If anyone would like to speak on the topic of low band contesting, let me know and we can put you on one of the programs. We may very well see runs of JAs on 40 and 80 meters that will partially offset the lack of runnable openings on the high bands. But to do that we need to be able to hear and be heard by the weaker stations - the 10 watt stations that form the backbone of major runs. Lets focus some efforts to improve everyone's low band results and the club as a whole will benefit.

NEXT MEETING
SATURDAY, JULY 17
NCCC ANNUAL RADIO PICNIC
AT

JACK'S, WIFEA
BEST VIEW IN THE WEST
AUBURN

NOON TO FIVE

Potluck Lunch

Swimming, Minature Horses, Radio

Bring the whole Family

Please call in your reservations

Details and map on page 8

WHAT'S INSIDE

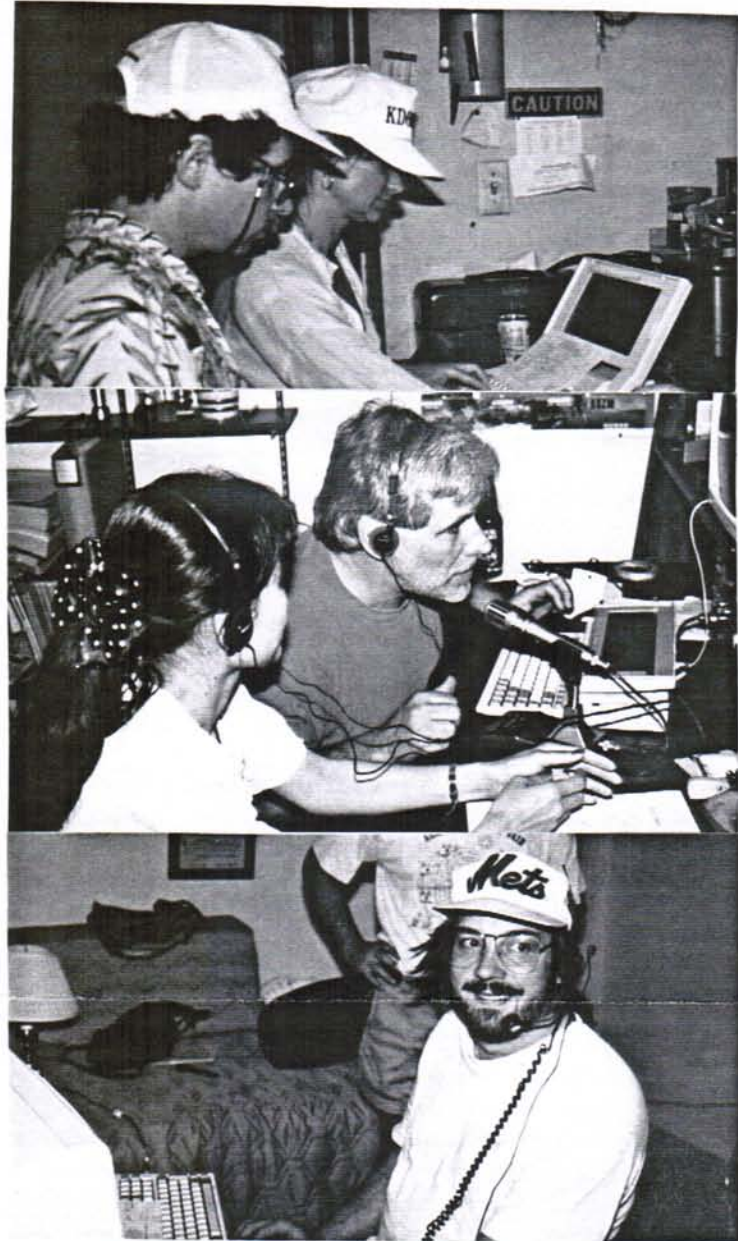
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IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

**DUES
DUE NOW**

PLEASE USE COUPON
ON PAGE 9
SEND TO TREAS AAGKX

A&AP



'93 N6ST FIELD DAY OPS AT WORK FROM TOP: WZ6Z & KD6AKQ, AB6EY & KD6NOS, K2MM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB

PRESIDENT, STEVE THOMAS, N6ST
 VICE-PRESIDENT/CONTEST CHR. ANDY FABER, AE6Y
 SEC/TREAS, BRUCE SAWYER, AA6KX
 DIRECTOR, AL MAENCHEN, AD6E
 DIRECTOR, JOHN ZAPISEK, K2MM
 DIRECTOR, BOB WILSON, N6TV
 DIRECTOR, ED MUNS, W0YK

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 PUBLISHER, MAGGIE TROSTER, KC6NFE

The JUG is the official journal of the NCCC, published monthly. Copies are mailed to members whose dues are up-to-date. Material submitted for publication must be received no later than the last Monday of the month.

TROSTEROSTER

HAM-OF-THE-MONTH

Jack, WIFEA, sent us this story of his great discovery.

During Field Day I made an amazing discovery about 4 a.m. I found that I could operate with the keyboard in my lap. A little later I discovered I could rest my head on the back of the chair and still operate with the keyboard on my lap. Later still, I determined I could close my eyes, rest my head on the back of the chair and still operate with the keyboard on my lap. Then a final revelation; I awoke to the fact that I could make one whole, entire hour flash by in an instant.

LETTER TO EDITOR

About every 2.3 years the JUG receives a letter to the Editor. The 2.3 came around this May with a missive from our Fresno champ, RICH, N6KT. He not only wrote a letter to the ed, he also submitted an ad for publication. There's more, so read on to the end here. It happened then that we didn't have space to accommodate his writ, so we present it now.

Quote, N6KT... "P.S. I was excited to see my ARRL DX Phone score in the JUG with 322 QSOs and over 10 million States!! That's a lotta States!!"

Can't say we caught that one. After all Rich, you are GOOD. It's these darn confusers. That sorta thing never happened when we used pencils.

Here's Rich's ad, still current.

WANTED BY N6KT (209) 227-8586; Fax (209) 227-0106

HAM-IV - type rotator

Kenwood SM-220 with BS-8 Panadaptor

10 or 15 meter beam, 4 elements or larger

Beverage Antenna to coax transformer/adaptor

That's not all, folks. Rich is also a limerick pome writer in the AE6Y tradition. Now, ordinarily, your ed, Mr. Modesty that he is, would be highly embarrassed to publish the following, but with the overwhelming talent exposed here--an editor's just gotta do what an editor's gotta do. Doff of the hat, low bow and herewith:

POME by Rich N6KT

There is a great writer named Troster
 Who monthly come up with a Roster
 In his own special style
 Evoking a smile
 It's true there could be no Imposter

GENERAL PRINTING LAY - OUT

GRAPHIC ARTS PASTE UP

QSL CARDS

**FOR THE DX'ER
 BY A DX'ER**

W6A6HF
 MEMBER
 NO. CALIF. DX CLUB
 NO. CALIF. CONTEST CLUB

Hughes SERVICES UNLIMITED
 17494 VIA ALAMITOS
 SAN LORENZO, CALIF. 94580

(510) 278-3573

WRITE FOR SAMPLES

ANDY'S ADDENDA

Summer doldrums are upon us, though N6TV wants us all to remember to try out the IARU HF contest on July 10-11. There's a contest announcement in QST, April 1993, p. 105. TV-Bob encourages participation by stressing some of the nice features of this one:

a) 24 hours only, starting at 1200Z Saturday (i.e., 5 am local, so you can do something else on Friday night).

b) Simple exchange: RST and ITU zone (we're zone 6).

c) You can operate phone only, cw only, or both. Hint from June meeting per Dick, G0MFO (AA6MC): less competition in mixed mode category.

d) Last, and dear to my own heart, you do get points for QSO's with your own country (unlike WPX).

In fact: **SUMMER LAMENT**

In summer there's not much to do.

But there's always the IARU.

Mixed mode is the way

To have a nice day.

TV-Bob will be looking for you!

CQP CQP CQP CQP CQP CQP CQP CQP CQP

Of course, the really big news is that our very own California QSO Party will take place Oct 2-3 this year. Even more fun is promised than last year, so plan now to participate! Contact N6TV if you have any interest in activating a rare county — he's sworn once again to get all 58 on the air.

Al, AD6E, is in charge of publicity, and Ken, K6PU, will once again be receiving logs, counting scores, and putting out the final report. There will be t-shirts, bottles of wine, certificates, and all the good stuff that makes CQP by far the best state qso party of them all. Some new goodies are in the offing this year: e.g., separate plaques for most phone qso's for in- and out-of-state stations (already have them for most cw qso's). There was also mention at the June meeting of wine glasses as a self-funding prize, a la the coffee mugs the ARRL made available at a price for clean sweeps in SS. We need ideas, though, for what category of entrants to get the cups — probably for clean sweeps, but if you have other ideas, pse make them known.

Here's a pome to whet your whistle for CQP:

ODE TO CQP WINE

Come join in the CQP Fun,

Where prizes are A-number-one.

So step on the throttle

And go for that bottle

Of wine that is second to none!

Field Day

Will have come and gone by the time you read this in print. Hope everyone had a good time. Though it isn't a contest the Club seems to do much with, except socially, if anyone did enter seriously, pse report your scores.

Scores

Here's a complete recap of all scores that were turned in to N6IP (and not stolen from his car) or to me, including some published last month. Remember, you still have to send in your WPX logs to CQ Magazine to get your score printed in the rag.

WPX Phone

Station(op)	Qso	Mult	Points	Cat
P40V(AI6V)	6094	1025	19,636,950	SO
WR6R/WH6	3776	758	9,803,972	SO
WN4KKN/6	3022	759	5,800,000	SO
KI6EZ/NH6	2569	643	4,944,027	SO
K6HNZ	1330	576	1,695,744	SO
WB6MZQ	1302	577	1,546,360	SO
KI6CG	1292	558	1,486,512	SO
AG6D(N1EE)	310	218	110,526	SO
N6IP	33	31	2914	SO
VP5G(WB6CJE)	3648	752	6,634,896	SO-LP
KI6P(N6RO)	735	365	717,590	80M
KA6ING	135	119	32,368	10M
W6BIP	92	82	18,860	10M
HC8A	8703	1107	32,509,269	M/S
(N6KT, HC1OT—NCCC gets 1/2)				
W6EEN	2561	739	4,692,650	M/S
N6CCL(+PKT)	788	405	500,580	M/S
WPX CW				
N6TV	1776	606	3,270,582	SO
W6EEN	1647	618	2,580,768	SO
(KA6SAR)				
N6EK	1251	497	1.87M	SO
AD6E	1088	522	1,358,244	SO
AA6MC	1072	499	1,250,993	SO
(AT KI6CG)				
W6QHS	598	342	484,272	SO
AA6MV	494	315	334,845	SO
N6ST	332	268	223,512	SO
N16T			159,192	SO
N6IP	264	129	135,321	SO
AJ6V	120	97	24,382	SO
W6FAH	106	97	19,788	SO
WA8LLY	78	71	15,762	SO
VE3SUN/WT6	511	318	327,222	SO-LP
WA6BXH	376	254	223,012	SO-LP
VB7SZ(WA6VEF)	1905	696	3.272M	20M
AE6Y	480	353	3,173	20M-LP
AG6D	2299	723	4,538,994	M/S
(+N4TQO, N1EE, N6IP, N6YK-NCCC gets 4/5)				
W6OAT(+PKT)	620	386	521,486	M/S
AB6EQ	216	174	85,956	M/S
(+KD6NOS/AG)				

Grand total: 92,000,000+!!!

Last year, we had 97 Meg and the next nearest club had 61 Meg. Great job one and all!

All Asian DX Contest CW

WA6BXH	467	168	78,456	SO
N6IP	447	166	77,190	SO

VHF Tests Last but not least, two VHF scores from WA8LLY: (a) 50MHz Sprint, 16 q's x 11 mults = 176 pts, (b) ARRI VHF QSO Party, 51 Q's for 53 pts x 27 grids = 1431 pts.

Send all scores to me by DXPSN packet or by mail to:

Andy Faber 16321 Ridgecrest Ave.

Monte Sereno CA 95030.

(408) 395-9193 73 and KB, Andy, AE6Y

LAST MEETING

Twenty rambunctious NCCers, eager to learn new tricks, jammed into the Hewlett-Packard cafeteria in Cupertino June 19. The pizzas were delishus and this time there were enough for everybody, read latecomers.

President STEVE, N6ST conducted the instructive meeting. First speaker was BRAD, K6WR, ARRL Assistant Director, who gave us this electrifying info: he will be running for the position of Director of the Pacific Division and JIM, W6CF, will be charging for Vice Director. Brad also has been named the ARRL Board liaison with the Contest Advisory Committee, so he will be joining the NCCC. CF is already a member, having joined 20 years ago as a Founder.

Brad wants to find out where contesting is going. As I recall, there was something said on that topic at Visalia, all gloomy. We will ask TV-Bob to summarize the conclusions of the Visalia panel he conducted in Visalia, on where testers are headed. TV will put that in writing for all JUGers to read right after he completes his present multi-part series on E-mail. Maybe you really don't want to buy that new computer, or fight city hall to put up that new tower, or move to that hilltop!

Sec/Treas BRUCE, AA6KX, presented the NCCC Budget for 93-94. We now have 151 members, plus 12 family memberships. We should basically break even this fiscal year. Washington, take note; nothing to it.

N6ST reported that CQP rules were not changed for this fall's favorite contest event. Howsomer, a new trophy was added for the highest number of phone QSOs both in and out of state. Rubin, you have no excuses now. Get in the contest. Wine glasses, specially labeled, will be available for purchase by those who score 100 Qs. It was mentioned that DICK, AA6MC, operating as G0MFO, was the first person to get Worked All California Counties in CQP. Mucho congrats.

N6ST told how he began using computerized logging. It took him 45 minutes to figure out how to hook it up, label it, mark it, try it out leaving 15 minutes to play with Baby Jane before the contest. It may be surmised that twenty five years designing and building computers did help Steve a mite. BUT—the score's the thing.

There was a discussion of the experimental addition of fives and sevens to the two meter packet DX spotting network. This topic is expanded and featured elsewhere in this tabloid.

New member is DAVE BULLARD, KJ6DL, who rode his motorcycle up from Modesto, 101.6 miles! Our meetings are good, right Dave? Persons in Sunnyvale and Sam Hosay, please note. Dave has won CQP in San Joaquin and Merced County and also won SSB in SS. He works for the school district. Warm welcome, Dave, and many thanks for joining.

Feature of the evening was "Show and Tell". K2MM began with his updated Prefix DXCC list. It's a good one. Send John a SASE to get one. DICK, AA6MC, brought a keyer he used in England. It is on a heavy base and has paddles that adjust up and down. Very nice. Sold in US of A by Palomar. N6EK showed us the Bencher keyer he modified for his ConteXpeditions. The heavy base is replaced with plexiglass making for very light traveling weight. Excellent for the use it was designed for. NI6T discussed his

Beverage antennas and showed us his antenna switch. He also showed us his Beverage "tuning tool", a machette which he uses to trim detuning undergrowth after a rain.

N6TV passed around DEAN Straw's, N6BV, new book about optimum antenna heights for various world-wide paths. Dean used to be a NCCer. VE3SUN showed the newest Russian call book. He also defended his Jugolgy question which he was told was too tough. We'll let him explain that later. SUN also showed us a new scanner 1.5 KHz to 1.5 Gigs with up and low SSB. AE6Y showed N6AW's new book on Don Wallace and recommended it to all.

N6ST demonstrated his "Bosun's Chair" which he uses to climb and sit, dangling, on his tower. Just hook it up to the tower and up you climb, hooking and unhooking and hooking again as you ascend. K2MM returned with some very interesting ferrite plastic case holders which eliminate the need for taping those ferrites to phone lines or whatever. Really a very nifty addition to your TVI-RFI elimination kit. C all K2MM for further info.

And that was it, Another good meeting. Sorry to have no photos of the show and tell, but H-P banned my camera at the door.

OUR HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST IDEAL FIELD DAY SET-UP, PEGGY FRAZIER. CHEF OF THE MONTH, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE FIELD, WR6R, WAS REALLY COOKING.



BULLETIN BOARD

➤➤ DROP THE JUG ON THE FLOOR RIGHT NOW and march to your desk. Take out that fat check book and write a check to NCCC for \$24 to rejoin the NCCC IMMEDIATELY! Do not pass GO, do not stop at the Boardwalk, or the ice box. Go directly to Checkbook. What are you without your NCCC membership? I'll tell ya. A NoPerson, that's what! Don't be a NoPerson. Be a SomePerson. Be like BOB W6RJ. He joined for two years.

➤➤ Best wishes to LOU, K6TMB from all for his continued recovery from a recent angioplasty operation. Lou is up and around and gets to work slowly. We hope to hear he's back trading numbers in the Big Contests soon.

➤➤ AA6KX packeted this: "Early this month I sent an 8" stack of QSL cards off to Newington. Since the \$10 covers all, I asked for all: 5-Bands, 80 Meters, Phone, etc. I received confirmation from the Post Office that they were received at ARRL June 9. Today I was totally shocked to get all of my cards back, a turn-around of just 8 business days. So far, I haven't seen any mistakes. This is an absolutely dazzling performance which is particularly impressive when you consider how far behind DXCC desk was until just very recently. I think all of us who had such laughs at Chuck Hutchinson's expense during Chod's dinner speech at Visalia have a few chuckles to take back. My hat is off to Chuck and his people for the turn around they have accomplished." Bruce, AA6KX.

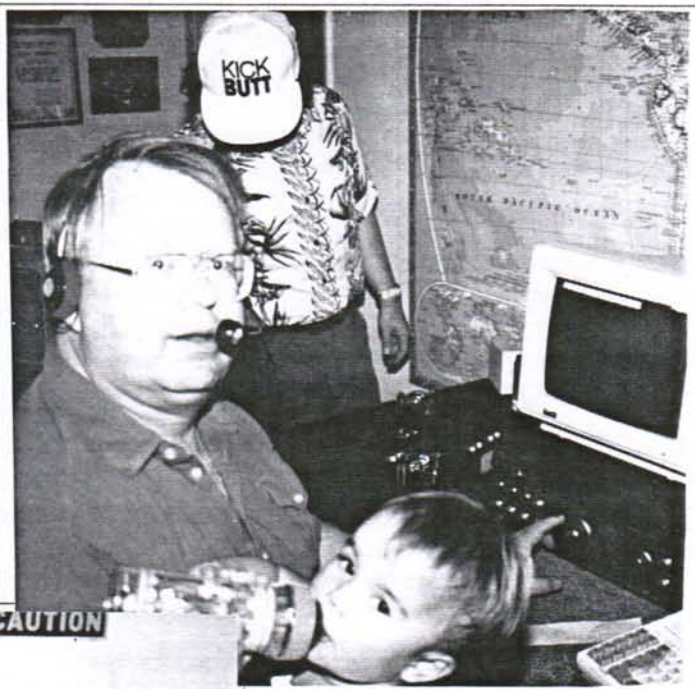
➤➤ CONGRATS TO TOM ("look Ma, no loading coils"), N6BT, for the good Product Review of his FORCE 12 Antennas in The DX Bulletin. Apparently Tom can design about any kind of antenna a Contester might want in any combination. Tom also produces very light-weight portable antennas for ConteXpeditioners who want to roam the Caribbean, etc over CQWW. I am in need of a 160/80 3 el with 30 foot elements on a 18.5 foot boom weighing about 28 pounds, with some 6 meter elements on the boom, too. I can pay up to \$US47. Your move, Tom.

➤➤ At Field Day, STEVE, WB6MZQ confided in me that he was a County Hunter, SSB type. Terrific. That makes four active CHers in NCCC: N3AHA, W6CF, WB6MZQ and ed. CF and ISQ are CW only. County Hunting is nice. No rush, the state will still be there, and all you have to do is to wait until some mobile goes through there. N3AHA has already worked all 3076 counties and is now trying to work them all from his mobile!!

➤➤ JUGOLOGY answers next month.

➤➤ Congrats to LOUESE, KA6ING. She received an ARRL diploma for first place, low power and first place, Novice/Tech in the 10 meter contest for Santa Clara Valley. Louese also has WAS on 6, 10, 15 and 7 states on 2 meters.

➤➤ ODDS and ENDS. What is the average age of all NCCC members? Ask TV-Bob. Want a dandy, easy-to-read, extra, NCCC roster? Send SASE to Steve, N6ST.



ABOVE: HERE'S REAL DAD POWER, N6ST WITH JANE, TK, SETTLING IN FOR SOME HIGH-TECH OPERATING AT FIELD DAY.



LEFT: ANOTHER TOPOP WM2C REPRESENTING THE NCCC YONKERS CONTINGENT AT FIELD DAY.

TOP TEN ZIP CODES By Number of Amateur Licenses. de N6TV

Here's a new one, clever and challenging to guess. TV-BOB, N6TV, parsed out which zip codes have the greatest number of amateurs. He selected the top ten for listing, and there are some amazing surprises. Population doesn't seem to spawn hams. Probably zip codes in populous areas comprise smaller physical areas otherwise where's the ham in San Jose, Chicago, New York, or S.F.?

ZIP	HAMS	QTH
10314	1028	Staten Island, NY
90274	496	Palos Verdes, CA
06801	408	Bethel, CT
92708	05	Fountain Valley, CA
92646	392	Costa Mesa & Huntington Beach, CA
00625	373	Caguas, PR
92683	367	Westminster, CA
00619	352	Bayamon, PR
94087	349	Sunnyvale, CA
94022	347	Los Altos & Los Altos Hills, CA

Thanks TV-Bob. How'bout next parsing out the zones with the fewest hams? Next meeting we'll ask you to elaborate. Congrats to Sunnyvale victory over Los Altos, but also condolences to both!

NCCC FIELD DAY AT K6ZM'S

DE W6ISQ

NCCC celebrated Field Day by signing N6ST in honor of our President. It was a good show, a neat, low pressure operation, fun for all. It was the usual unusual gathering of NCCers who enjoyed Peggy Frazier's cool yard and beautiful view of Mount Diablo, with a houseful of rigs, rigged with computers and manned by a rotating roster of operators. Peggy, as always, made sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink and comfortable access to shade.

Just in case you might not realize it, the highlight of the annual Field Day celebration at K6ZM's is the Kosher Polish Sausage, which this year were roasted to perfection by Bar-B-Q specialist Al, WR6R. I know, I know, there are those might not understand how this is the highlight of Field Day, but I get these Polish Kosher Sausages only once a year, and Field Day at ZMs is it. Coming from New York, albeit a loooooong time ago, just thinking about them tasty sausages really excites my taste buds.

Where was we? Oh, Field Day. Just foolin' folks.

Al, WR6R, and Steve, WB6MZQ, were the Chief Operators again and had the rigs and antennae all plugged in, polished, and ready to take off in a frenzy. And that we did. Look who was there: K2MM, KM2C, WB6MZQ, WR6R, WZ6Z, and YF Marsha, KD6AKQ, N6ST, and TK ("The Kid" Jane), Phantom George WB6DSV, WA6DSH, AB6EY and YF Gilly, KD6NOS; W 6 I S Q a n d KC6NFE, K6PJY, NB6L and guests Dad Tony and son Bill, Roxas, both working on their Novice licenses. Hope you learned just what you needed to take those first tests. Let us know how you both did. We look forward to having you join NCCC when you get your calls.

Experienced NCCCops are always a welcome addition to a FD operation. Some of our members made substantial contributions at other Field Day Stations. W6YL, well-known Sam Hosay

State University, had a huge bunch of ops led by NCCC alums AD6E, N7STU and WA6BXH. They operated from Ollie's (W6NV) property on Sunol Ridge.

"QTH, antenna systems and logging programs were awesome." They had a set of antennae that should have taken all weekend to put up: 3 el yagi 80/75 (!), 4 el 40, 6 el 20, 6 el 15. They competed as a 2A group with 2 HF, Novice, VHF, packet, Oscar. Results: 1060 CW, 1355 SSB, 200 Novice, 170 Oscar Qs for 8900 points thereabouts. Should be top in west.

Fred, K6YT, spent yet another year as Head CW Op with the PAARA group operating W6OTX at Cooley Landing on the Bay south of Palo Alto. They were 2A and managed 750 CW, about 750 phone plus about 800 bonus points. They're still duping so you'll have to find their score in QST.

WIFEA was at a tree farm in the Sierras at 4300 feet working FD station W6PYX along with son, Chad, KC6EWK, Trey, WN4KKN, K2BA and W6TYX, who should become NCCers. They were a 2A operation and came up with 1175 CW, 1102 Phone for 6904 +1000 bonus points for a total 7904. They battled with W6YL but didn't have the Novice and Oscar points to close the gap.

K6LRN: "Due to my impending move to foreign territory (Fresno area) and because there are bills to be paid, FD was spent working (at work) and then more work at home fixing 10 year s of neglect. Note: apologies for using the "W" word twice. We know the JUG frowns on obscenities. P.S. I probably helped more by staying

away."

Stan, K6MA, and long time expert contester and OSCAR I veteran Walt, W6ASH, ran the CW end of the EMARC operation K6YA at Mary Knoll in Los Altos. They came up with 692 CW, 692 phone, the usual bonus additions for a total of about 4700 points.

Jim, W6CF, reported that he participated in a joint effort by Loma Prieta RC, Las Cumbres RC, and West Valley RC at the C.T. English School on Summit Rd in Los Gatos (read way high up in the mountains) They scored about 6000 points in the 2A mode. Jim said that ex-NCCer Patti, N6BIS, was one of the operators.

Peter, VE3SUN: Peter reported spending FD weekend operating as follows: Saturday at N6RJ, also Saturday at K6BJ, Sunday at AA6MV. "Next year I'll try for four sites." Congratulations to all NCCers who spread their expertise to many club stations.

Editorial Observation: What could happen if ever all the above TOPOP NCCers, got together and put one giganatic effort for NCCC into a single operation? POW.



ABOVE: FIELD DAY OPS NB6L AND K6PJY TAKING A BAR-B-CUE BREAK.
BELOW: WANNABE HAMS SON BILL AND DAD TONY, CAME TO FIELD DAY, TO WATCH AND LEARN IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR NOVICE TEST .



ODE TO A SPOTTING NODE

DE W6ISQ

Sounds like Keats or Schiller, don't it. (Friedrich, not Tom). Some of our members have some earnest thoughts about the Great Remote Node Caper, i.e. "What? Fives and sevens on our node?" We asked Node Noodle, President STEVE, N6ST, to tell us about the experiment. And then, to test how it played in Peoria, as 'twere, we asked a few NCCers for their thoughts on the subject. Herewith de N6ST, DX Packet Spotting Network Remote Nodes

Over the past several months the SYSOPS of the DXPSN have been performing an experiment involving connections to distant nodes and networks. These connections are not via the traditional digipeater and backbone scheme but are being done via the Internet. So far connections to a PacketCluster.E system based in Texas and one in the Pacific Northwest have been established. These connections are what allows club members VE7NKI and WA6VEF access to DXPSN.

Comments have been heard that "having those W5's connected keeps causing me to be disconnected from the node". A DX announcement from a W5, W6, W7, AA6 etc. is treated just like any other traffic. If you have trouble staying connected it is due to the level of activity, not the fact that it comes from W5. The same stations which disconnect under these conditions will also have trouble staying connected during a contest weekend. I suggest looking at the W5 announcements as an excellent test tool to allow you to improve your packet system without having to wait for a contest weekend. You should be able to stay connected for days and weeks at a time. If you can't, work on your system until you can.

Careful attention needs to be paid to TNC parameters. Many TNCs are shipped with the parameters not set properly. I can often tell when someone is using straight-out-of-the-box settings on some TNCs. They will connect and almost immediately disconnect (from their end). This will happen several times and either they will go away or my telephone will ring. Some TNCs are shipped with the acknowledgment time set to zero. This causes them to transmit a packet (the connect request) and immediately listen for an acknowledgment of that packet. If it is not received in zero time, the packet is sent again. This will keep happening until the number of retries set in their TNC is exceeded. At which time the TNC will transmit a forced disconnect message. I recommend this number be set to at very least 0.5 seconds, and maybe even 2 or 3 seconds.

Packet requires a better signal than many of the modes we are familiar with. If you have multipath to the node, you may have a terrible time staying connected even if the signal is relatively loud. A weak signal from your station is another cause of frequent disconnects. A TNC will not transmit if it hears a signal. If you are putting out a weak signal that the node has trouble hearing, or if you use a very directional antenna pointed at the node, other stations will likely transmit on top of you and cause you to retry frequently and to be "retried out" if there is relatively heavy activity on your local node. The best thing you can do for a packet signal is to put up an omnidirectional antenna high and in the clear and then run plenty of power. You want to hear and be heard by everyone that connects to your local node.

The other issue that people raise in relation to W5 DX announcements is that they can't hear them. I have found that they give me good warning that something interesting is afoot and that in an hour

or two the signal will start to pickup in our area. But I have also worked a number of goodies recently announced by the friendly W5s on 15 meters when I would not have expected the band to be open that early in the morning. The SYSOPS unanimously agreed to this experiment at a meeting in Sacramento a few months back. Part of the agreement is that the links will never be connected during major contest weekends.

Some of our members commented as follows:

AD6E—Basically adds to the system, doesn't subtract. Gives me a feel for band conditions even though I can't hear what the 5s hear (I can't even hear a lot of the places some of the 6s announce). It makes me aware of what's out there.

AE6Y—Do not find it helpful. I can't hear the DX. Propagation is too different. There may be other benefits I don't know about yet.

W6DU—\$#@&*%^ absolutely useless and ridiculous. Who cares what's on in Texas? Seldom use DXSPN anymore. Use it only for messages. But it is a great technical achievement. Let me tell you what happened. I saw an ad on the net printed by a 5 and I gave him a phone call. I did not recognize the area code, but there are a lot of new ones around here and there are also some 5s working in California. I asked him where he lived and he gave me a street address. I asked if that was in the Bay Area and he said yes. I said what town and he said Houston—which is in the Bay Area, only way down in that other Bay Area. %\$#@&. The basic value of a cluster is for information from local bulletins. The rest is &\$@*5%.

AF6S—I'm all for it. I can tolerate the 5s announcements and I want to be ready when the band opens to us.

WZ6Z—Clutters up my screen and the channel with useless announcements. I fail to see the value of this linking. I think it's clutter, clutter. For me I still don't have a straight answer on whether or not the passing of all these additional announcements causes extra traffic on our "user to node" local frequency. And if it does cause extra traffic (which it must) does that translate to slower response to our queries of the system? If the system is not being slowed down, and if/when I can filter out announcements from specific nodes in my software, then I will be in support. Until then it is only a nuisance.

KA6ING—As long as it's VE7s and I can talk to Gary and Nikki I like it fine. But as long as it's five-land, they can do away with it. Keep the Northern Sixes and the 7s.

WB6MZQ—Not interested. Not relevant for me.

N6TV—Spots of 7s more useful than the 5s; that is, we can more easily hear them. I think the AK1A program that is used to collect 5s and 7s could be modified to permit just 6s and 7s, and cut out 5s.

W6OSP—If it slows the network then it's not worth having. I work through a digipeater which also slows things down even further. If we really wanted out-of-area announcements, we should work on north-south ties rather than east-west ties. I'm more interested in what LA or Portland is hearing than what Dallas is hearing.

W6CF sent in the following report aptly summing up thoughts and experiences many of us have had:

"I get just as excited as the next person when something new, radical, unusual is done on ham radio. And so, when there was talk about hooking us up with five-land every evening, I thought "Wow, great stuff! Let's do it!" Well, it was done, and it's a technological marvel, and the folks responsible for it deserve a tip of the hat. But I agree with comments made recently by Howard Bratmen, WZ6Z. It's time to pull the switch on the connection to the fives. It was a good idea, it was fun, but perhaps it was (Con't Page 9, Col. 1)

NEXT MEETING

When? SATURDAY, JULY 17
 Where? WIFEA's QTH in AUBURN
 Time? NOON TO 5 P.M.
 Help? YES. POT LUCK. See assignment

July is Picnic month for NCCC so we're having it again in the beautiful Sierra foothills west of Auburn at the QTH of Jack Morgan, WIFEA. One of the great contest locations, it is 5 acres at 2000 feet in Placer County, overlooking the Sacramento Valley, about a hundred miles from the Bay Area, but freeway all the way.

Bring the whole family. Lots of activity for all of em-- swimming, riding the carriage pulled by miniature horses a computer controlled contest station to study and operate in a glorious air conditioned shack. It is an afternoon when you can learn everything you always wanted to know about a top flight contest station.

Bring something for the pot luck that will serve 8 - 10 happy campers. Bring according to the LAST LETTER of your CALL:

A-F

Salads, soup, dip, chips, salsa, paper plates, plastic forks, napkins, paper cups.

G-N

Appetizers, finger food, hot dawgs, sandwiches, casseroles, vegetables, hamburgers.

O-T

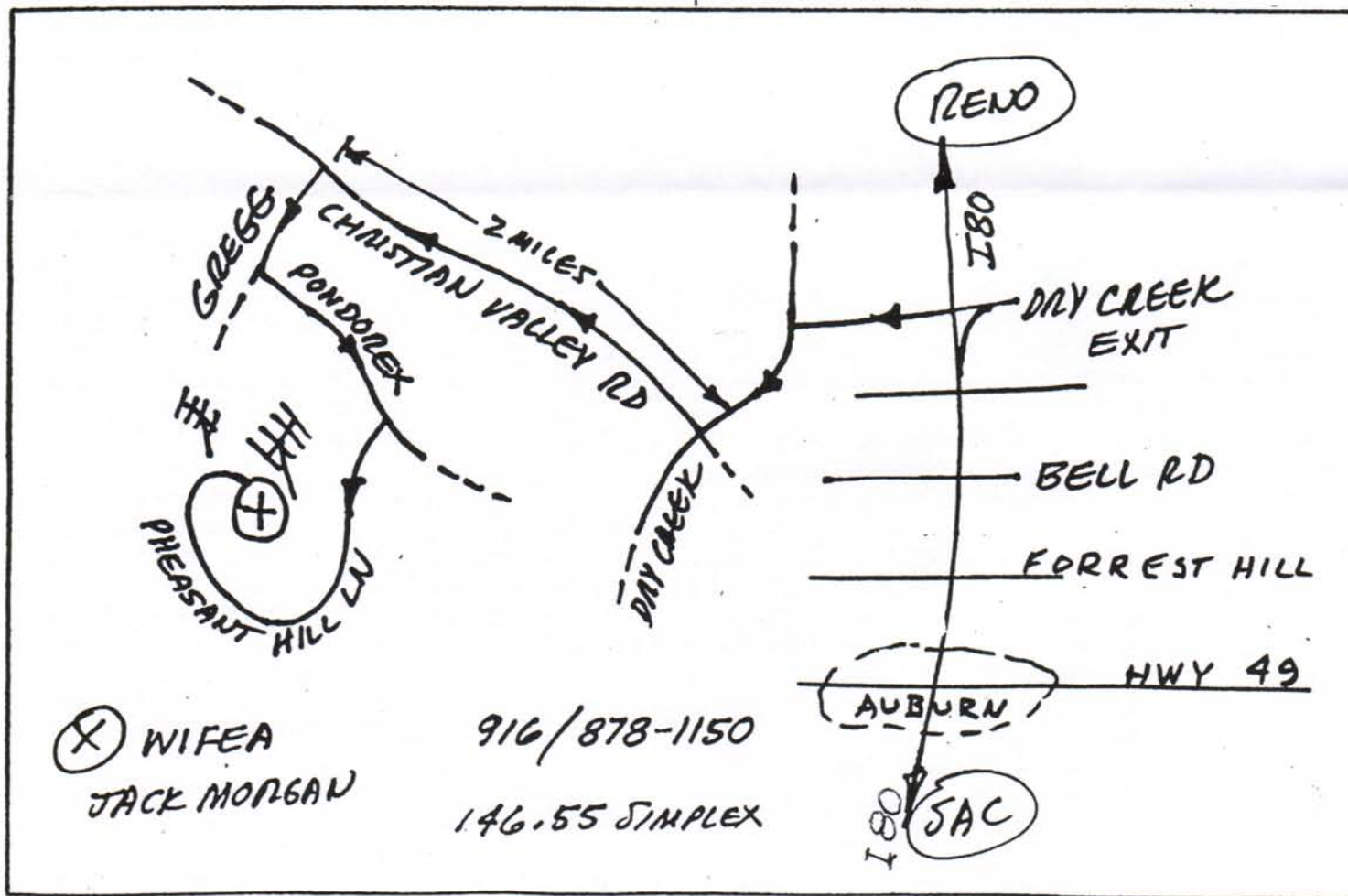
Drinks, iced tea, lemonade, fruit juice, soft drinks, beer, ice and ice buckets.

U-Z

Fresh fruit, cookies, desserts, ice cream, cake, with cake knives.

That is the recipe worked out last year by TV-Bob and host Jack, WIFEA, and it worked so well we'll stick to it for this year. But Please, everybody come, not just the A to Fs. We need a balanced diet!

Make RESERVATIONS. Let Prexy STEVE, N6ST, know you are coming. Write or packet or phone Steve at home 408-741-1203 or work 408-553-6841. Tell how many adults and kiddies and what you'll be bringing. Or call WIFEA directly on phone, see map below for number and directions.



(Nodes don't from page 7)

before its time. There are several problems with the system now, as I see it.

First, it fills the screen with spots that are of no or of marginal use. Some claim that the spots are super helpful, for they tell us what the fives are doing and we can anticipate similar activity in the west an hour or so later. And so they do. But how many times have you seen an announcement on packet from someone in Northern California or Nevada saying "I hear fives working Romeo above 14200. Not audible here yet." Isn't that enough? Do we need to respond to fifteen beeps to be told the same thing fifteen times by fifteen spots directly from Texas?

Second, it creates an additional load on the system that causes it to slow down, with the result that many waste valuable time fighting retries. On contest weekends the mail and bulletin features are frequently locked out to avoid slowing the system down. I understand that the SYSOPS also won't put the spots from five-land on the cluster during contests, which certainly makes sense. Still, even when no contest is in progress, every night is now contest night, from the standpoint of activity. Ever try to read a bulletin while the fives are pouring spots into the system? Retry, retry, retry. Wait, wait, wait.

Third, although I support the idea of hams helping hams, and really appreciate how packet has made DXing and contesting easier for me, I sometimes wonder if we're not moving down the path of too much reliance on others. DXers and contesters have traditionally been rugged individualists. Sometimes I wonder if packet isn't turning us all into a bunch of spoon-fed wimps. Some of the questions that occasionally pop up on the screen suggest very strongly that a few folks don't even try to answer their own questions - they go to the screen and let someone else do the work. Could this reliance on more information (spots) from more individuals (fives now) be another manifestation of this trend to rely more on others than on ourselves?

Again, I think the experiment that's brought nightly spots from five-land has been great, and I stand in awe of those who have been able to pull it off. But I believe the time has come to bring the experiment to a close.

This is the sampling of opinion we've gotten to date. What's gonna happen now? Who nodes? Further comments are welcomed.

TREASURY NOTES

DE AA6KX

As required by the bylaws, the BOD met on June 12 and drafted a budget for presentation to the NCCC membership. This budget was approved by a voice vote of the members present at the June meeting. Each line item of the budget was derived by examining the actual expenditures for the 1992-1993 fiscal year and making adjustments only for the growth in membership. The budget contains no fundamental changes from the operating plan followed during the previous year. The budget as approved appears below, along with actual results to date as of June 25, 1993.

	Budget	Actual
Membership Dues	\$3768.00	\$1020.00
Contributions to General Fund	-	100.00
JUG & Roster Advertisements	\$ 310.00	\$270.00
JUG Publishing	(\$2340.00)	-
CQP	(\$ 500.00)	-
Membership Awards	(\$ 600.00)	-
Visalia Hospitality	(\$ 200.00)	-
Self-Funding Events	-	-
Contingency Fund	(\$ 200.00)	-
Total	\$ 238.00	\$1390.00

As of this date, the club has \$3910.29 in the general fund. Additionally, we have \$1216.65 in the club repeater fund.

DUES TIME AGAIN

NCCC membership dues for the year 1993-1994 were due on July 1. Please check your mailing label on this issue of the JUG to verify your membership expiration date. If your dues payment was received by June 25, it should be reflected on the label. If you have not yet sent in your dues, do it now! Use the renewal form below.

- Full membership: \$24/year
- Family membership: \$24 for first member
\$12 for each additional member at same address
- Associate member: \$12/year
- Student member: \$12/year

USE THIS COUPON TO PAY DUES FOR 1993-1994 YEAR

Name: _____ Full Memberships _____ x \$24 = _____
 Call: _____ Family Memberships _____ x \$12 = _____
 Address: _____ Associate/Student _____ x \$12 = _____
 _____ Donation to General Fund _____
 _____ Donation to Repeater Fund _____
 Email Address: _____ TOTAL: _____
 check type: Internet CompuServe
 Prodigy America Online

CUT OUT FOR MAILING LABEL

Bruce B. Sawyer, AA6KX 15430 Bohlman Road Saratoga, CA 95070
--

— TGIK DAY - JULY 31ST - OAKLAND —

SUNNYVALE, CA 94086
 510 Lawrence Expwy. #102
 (408) 736-9496
 (800) 854-6046
 Tom, KB6LUC, Mgr.
 Lawrence Expwy.
 So. from Hwy. 101

OAKLAND, CA 94606
 2210 Livingston St.
 (510) 534-5757
 (800) 854-6046
 Rich, WA9WYB, Mgr.
 I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp



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KENWOOD

TGIK DAY IN OAKLAND

Saturday July 31st
 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM

- Factory Representatives
- Special Discounts
- Demonstrations • Prizes
- Refreshments

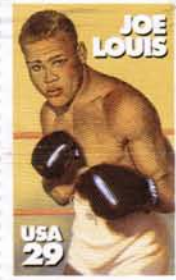
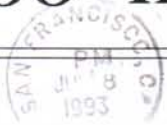
To celebrate TGIK, **ALL HRO STORES** will
 have special discounts on Kenwood July 31st
 Call or visit any store!
See the New TS-50S!!!

NCCC JULY 1993

44 Toyon Terrace
 Danville, CA 94526

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS
 FIRST CLASS



Membership paid thru: **June 1993**
 Charles Epps, W6OAT
 651 Handley Trail
 Redwood City, CA 94062