



The JUG

CLUB REPEATERS W6RGG/R
147.24,(+), 444.200 (107.2 PL)

Thomas, N6ST
Report

Steve Sez



Make plans now to attend the NCCC Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 19th at the Pleasanton Hotel. This is always a fun event. Look elsewhere in this issue for your reservation form. Please note that your payment must accompany your reservation.

I understand that a good time was had by a much larger than normal crowd at the January NCCC meeting - except that the pizza ran out sooner than would have been hoped. I had posted a message on PacketCluster asking those who didn't normally attend meetings to let me know they were coming. I was surprised to receive only 6 responses for a topic that I thought (and which turned out to be) very popular. At the last minute I had to attend to some business matters and had to miss the meeting. Thanks to all who pitched in and helped during my absence.

The board of directors has started to formulate a list of possible nominees for the club officer and director positions for the next year. If you are willing to throw your hat in the ring, call any officer and make your willingness known. At the next meeting Ken Silverman, WM2C, will present a slide show about his recent contest expedition to South America. I expect this will also be a popular meeting. To avoid conflict with the ARRL DX contest that starts at 4 PM local on Friday, the normal day of the meeting, we will be moving the meeting one day to Thursday, February 17th, unless I hear a roar of protest. The meeting will be again at HP Santa Clara.

I've received some ideas for other meeting places and will follow up on them.

Alert: Date change

Next Meeting, Thursday, February 17

Grab the February calendar, cross out the third Friday, the one you have reserved for NCCC, move to the left one space to the third Thursday. That's February 17. Now write NCCC Meet, 6:30 Pizza, 7:30 program. Ken Silverman, WM2C will present a slide show of his contest operation at 4M5I. Promises to be another popular meet-

ing. If you are planning to be there, packet Steve your intentions so we can keep up with Pizza and soda demand. Meeting will be at Hewlett Packard, Santa Clara, same building, Santa Cruz room, which is adjacent to the lobby on the main floor. Map and Directions are on page 2. See ya THURSDAY, the 17th!!

Approaching Contests

(all in QST, Feb., p. 111 except as noted)

- February
- 12-14 NA Sprint PH
 - YL-OM Contest PH
 - PACC Contest
 - 19-20* ARRL DX Contest CW
QST, Dec. p. 125
 - 26-28 CQ WW 160m PH
QST, Dec. p. 129
 - RSGB 7-mHz Contest
 - REF French PH
QST, Dec. p. 130
 - YL-OM Contest CW
- March
- 5-6* ARRL DX Contest PH
QST, Dec. p. 125
 - 19-20 BARTG Spring RTTY Contest
Bermuda Contest
 - 26-27* CQ World Wide WPX PH
[Note: * indicates NCCC club entry]

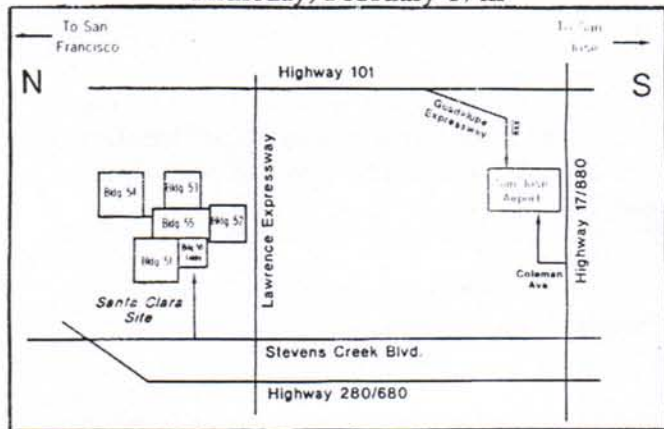
Awards Banquet March 19

Pleasanton Hotel, Pleasanton
Details and Reservation Form, Page 5

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Directions and Map
Next Meeting
 Thursday, February 17th



From North on 280, exit at Stevens Creek Blvd., turning left onto Stevens Creek, and left at first stop light.

From South on 280, exit Lawrence Expressway, take middle lane and make left turn onto Stevens Creek.

de W6ISQ
Bulletin Board

DICK, AA6MC reports he was featured in the Willow Glen Resident paper, tower and foto and all which created "bad vibes" with some of the neighbors. But he had his permit in hand and got a clean bill from the city "code enforcement" officer. Seems to be all legal so far, but you never can tell, Dick sez. He also reports the following exchange with the YF:

Mrs. D: "What are you doing in there?"
 Mr. D: "I'm working Peter the First."
 Mrs. D: "Well stop it before you go blind."

AWARDS BANQUET. Gets better every year. Again this year at the Pleasanton Hotel, on Saturday, March 19. Caps, glasses, bottles, plaques, are all at the ready for the awarding. Send your reservations in as early as possible



FLASH...Just had a phone call from JAY, VYIJA who wants all to know he will be on for the CQ 160 meter phone contest the end of February. He just got his TS-850 back from repairs and will be barefoot loaded into his 110 foot tower. He will also be in the ARRL DX Contest. He'll try for the WPX Contest but needs info on the rules, etc. Will see that he gets it.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB

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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.

ABOVE. Jay's "cool" station in its full locale. Look at the base of the tower and you'll see his trailer which holds the equipment he has to haul out there for each contest.

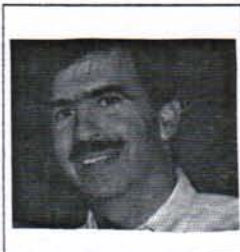
UNDISCLOSED SOURCE: Just got a newstory from Taipei, announcing the possibility that Tiwan sea patrols will be extended to the Spratleys which we know, are claimed by several countries out there. DXpeditioners may have already had enough high adventure in that area so we can be glad they got there when they did. Sorry I can't disclose the source of this information--Journalistic privilege ya know. That and the fact that I have lost the envelope it came in so even I don't know the source. Help. A DUB to anyone who owns up.

de AE6Y

Andy's Aphorisms

NCCC Hat Awards

The current list for team hats is as follows (note a few changes from last month's column—I'm still not sure it's complete): N3AHA, W6BIP, W6BSY, W1FEA, N6IP, W6ISQ, AA6KX, WA8LLY, AA6MC, K2MM, W6OAT, WA6SDM, N16T, N6TV, N6WFK, AE6Y, KJ6DL, N6ZB. Congrats to you all! We're closing in on the awards banquet, so if anyone feels slighted, please plead your case pronto.



There have been some close rules interpretations in deciding on the hats. I've used the general principle that the purpose was to encourage participation in CQP and to encourage participation and also club score in SS. Thus, someone who would qualify but for accidental trashing of a CQP log can get a hat, at least this year. So reprove is offered, having done a bit of trashing ourselves, in lieu of retrieve, an illusive process!

IARU Reported Scores

Did you notice the IARU scores in February QST? Numbers 3 and 4 in the whole country, in single-op, mixed-mode class were our own N6IP and N6NF. Congrats! There's been lots of chatter on the Contest Reflector about geographic advantage to the Northeast in DX contests, but this shows that we can still be competitive in the summer when condx are down. N6IP has a terrific location in the East foothills — for Japan, that is. His signal has to navigate several thousand vertical feet to reach out to the east, so working Europe is real tough. As the bard would say:

"The Triumph of N6IP"
 With a QTH aimed at Japan
 During summer Bob is THE MAN.
 No Europe, but hey,
 Don't need 'em this day.
 Come July, he's no also-ran.

Top West Coast Contesters?

From Trey, WN4KKN's contest reflector comes this attempt by Jack Fleming, WA0RJY, to stop the debate raging on the reflector over equalization of scores and or regional reporting (mainly caused by gripes from the rest of the country that they can't compete with the East Coast in the big DX contests:

"OK, OK, OK, OK! I can take a hint. All this back-and-forth whining about East Coast/West Coast bias and special boxes in the contest results is just an organized effort to get me to come out with the best contesters on the West Coast. OK. I sat down and did the work. You win. Here are the results. And I don't want to hear "Why don't you use average score instead of total?" or "This doesn't give guys like me credit because..." or "Those aren't them contests that I entered"!!!! With that clear, here are the results. The only contesters rated were those from the 6th and 7th

districts. And they are only competing against each other. Remember that the contests that are included are the 1992 CQWW, ARRL DX, Sweepstakes, and WPX. Both modes.

All single op categories (including assisted, single band, QRP...). The score is the total number of competitors that were defeated in all the contests. So when I finished 86th in the 1992 Sweepstakes CW and had a score better than 158 other area 6 and 7 contesters - I got 158 points from that contest.

1. N6TV	1,077	t6. W6BSY	810
2. AA6KX	875	t6. W6QHS	810
3. W6UQF	864	8. KI3V	804
4. N7TT	855	9. W7HS	756
5. N6IP	849	10. W7WA	753

There they are, the best operators on the West Coast. In cases of guest operators the points went to the operator - not the host station. Now remember no whining!"

Scores

Scores this month are mainly stragglers from a variety of contests. I have some unreported CQP scores but since all will be published soon, I defer to K6PU's full wrapup.

CQ WW Phone Scores (SO/Single op, S/A/Single-op astd

Call	QSO's	Zn	C	Score	Class
N3AHA/6	1056	122	326	1,312,192	SA

CQ WW CW Scores

Call	QSO's	Zn	C	Score	Class
K6PJY	311	31	83	103,056	SO-40

SS CW Scores (class: A= Low power, B=High power,

Call	QSO's	M	Score	Class
N3AHA	206	58	23,896	B

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Call	QSO	Mult	Score	Class
K6HNZ	604	69	83,352	SO-PH
KC6QHA	739	105	193,200	MS-LP

(+W6BSY)

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Call	QSO	Mult	Score
N6GG	590	88	51K
WA6SDM	549	75	41,175

North American QSO Party, CW

Call	QSO	Mult	Score
N6TV	708	218	154,344

(5TH in USA)

N4TQO	552	195	107,640
AA6MC	364	152	55,328
NV6O	243	125	30,375
K2MM	209	106	22,154
N2ALE	44	35	1,540

JA International DX

Call	QSO	Mult	Score
WA6SDM	51		7,242

Send scores by DXPSN packet or mail to: 16321 Ridgcrest Ave., Monte Sereno CA 95030. (408) 395-9193

CONTEST NOTES

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

This is a timely reprint from the PVRC Newsletter edited by K3ZO, in Silver Springs MD. Fred is one of the top World Class Contestors and Dxer's. He is editor also of the IARU Region II News, published in both English and Spanish. His wife is from Thailand and you'll hear him on the air from there on their visits to her home.

At recent meetings Rich, KE3Q, has been showing videotapes of some of the presentations at YCCC's "Contest University." They are a very thought-provoking series. For one thing, I was glad to hear Rich, K1 CC, say right out in public that you should use the widest filter you can stand. I have long been saying that the best filter in existence is the one between your ears and most people don't give it enough of a workout. And I didn't come by this idea on my own, I learned it from Bob Cox, K3EST.

As I was operating the CQWW CW I thought of a few things that might be added, perhaps more obscure but no less important, particularly for operators who have gotten past the basic stuff and are now looking for the little "edge".

There was a time when, in my pride, I said to myself, "I don't care how weak a station who calls me is, I WILL get his call." Eventually I learned that this is a recipe for disaster. If he is so weak that you have to strain to copy him, you will waste time getting his call right. And if he is that weak for you, another operator won't hear him and will begin calling "CQ" on "your" run frequency. Chances are that later on conditions in his area will improve and you will be able to copy him without difficulty the next time he calls. Which leads to Laun's Law #1: When running stations, learn to judge instantaneously which callers you will be able to copy without difficulty and which ones you will have trouble copying, and ignore the latter.

While going around searching and pouncing, I was surprised at the number of operators who don't have a clue where they are transmitting. No doubt this is because in using their transceiver they assume that if they are hearing the station they must be on his frequency. For some reason designers of transceivers have made the assumption that CW operators like to copy at a pitch of 500 or 600 Hz., when in fact 300 Hz. or lower would be the norm for your top contest operators. This means that in using his transceiver the operator will be 200 or 300 Hz. away from the listening frequency of the station he is calling unless he does something to change the situation. That might be just enough to avoid getting a contact if the station you are calling is using a narrow filter. If several stations are calling, you might eventually get him but it might take a while before he tunes to your transmit frequency.

What if the station has a big pile-up and is working the pile-up edge? You have to be able to transmit where he is

listening. How do you know where that is? In my own case, long ago I took a separate receiver, tuned in another station's signal, zero-beat it with my transceiver, and then tuned my transceiver's RIT to the point where I was copying that station at my favorite pitch. Ever since, I keep my RIT on all the time and keep it set at that setting (which on my TS-830-S is the first mark to the right of straight up — we used to say this was the "one o'clock" setting but digital watches are so common now that a lot of people don't know where "one o'clock" is any more.)

When I encounter a pile-up I immediately try to find out the transmit frequency of the station the rare DX is working. Since I have my RIT on already and set to track my transmit frequency, I find the station I want to zero-beat with my main dial and then use the RIT to go back and listen to the DX station. After I work the DX station I reset my RIT to my transmit frequency.

From time to time, you find that there are others in the pile who have figured things out the same way and you all end up transmitting zero-beat with each other and the DX station keeps coming back to people on a different frequency. OK, if he's moving away from his frequency each time, set your transmit signal just a little further away than the last guy's. If he's tuning back toward his frequency, put your signal just inside of the last one. And if he uses a special pattern, take note of it. In this last contest, S92SS was taking one guy on his own frequency and the next guy 2 KHz up, then back to his own frequency and then 2 KHz. up on alternate contacts.

If you are single-operator all-band, you can't afford to stay long. If none of your finesse works, leave after you have called him three times without success, but make a note of his frequency for when you make your next sweep through the band.

Here is an actual snapshot of my log when I was searching and pouncing. You should strive for this sort of rhythm as an ideal if you are going to turn in a top score. Admittedly I have a good antenna farm but in most cases I was competing in the piles with others with pretty good antenna farms. It doesn't make any difference how loud you are, if you're not transmitting on the right frequency the DX station won't hear you.

15 meters, 27 Nov. 1993:
19:07 ZPOY 19:18 VP5RX
19:08 PJ2/WJ20 19:19 KP2A
19:08 CX3ABE 19:20 TII C
19:10 LU4FD 19:20 ZD8Z
19:11 XEIVV 19:21 8RIK
19:11 VE6BF 19:22 ZD8VJ
19:14 VE7VR 19:22 XM4VV
19:14 PYOF 19:23 WD5N/HC8
19:15 7Q7XX 19:24 VP2E/N4CD

Good luck in the ARRL 10-meter contest

Northern California Contest Club

1994 Awards Banquet

You are cordially invited to the 1994 Awards Banquet of the Northern California Contest Club.

Date: Saturday, March 19, 1994

Time: Cocktails at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main Street, Pleasanton, California

--Menu--

choice of

Oven Poached Mahi Mahi with Ginger Vinaigrette. Served with rice pilaf
-or-

Roast Prime Rib of Beef, Au Jus, served with Garlic Butter New Potatoes.

Both entrees served with Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Baked Focaccia Rolls, and Coffee. Deep Dish Cinnamon Apple Pie for Desert

Cost: \$23.50 per person, service charge and tax included. Reservations must be accompanied by payment, and must be received by Monday, **March 14, 1994**. Your check should be made payable to NCCC. The hotel can accomodate a few people who arrive without reservations, but cannot make a guarantee that space will be available.

Send reservation to Bruce Sawyer, AA6KX, 15430 Bohlman Road, Saratoga, CA 95070.

Callsign: _____	
Name: _____	Choice of Entree: _____
Name: _____	Choice of Entree: _____
Name: _____	Choice of Entree: _____
Number of Reservations: _____ x \$23.50 each = Amount Enclosed: _____	

de AA6KX

CQP Lake/Colusa County

Santa Clara County is one tough neighborhood, at least for a contester. CQP '92 convinced me I would have to get out of town if I were ever to win anything in this contest. I had exceeded the records in 33 different counties, yet came in a distant third place in Santa Clara. But then I let nearly the whole year pass and still hadn't made preparations for CQP '93. Finally the PacketCluster pleas from N6TV got to me with about 10 days to go before the contest. I knew N6BT had operated from the county line between Lake and Colusa counties, and Bob said he still needed operators for both counties. So I got directions from Tom to his old spot, checked that I could indeed rent a generator for the weekend, and gave Bob my commitment to put Lake and Colusa on the air.

From previous field day excursions I have a 5-section push-up

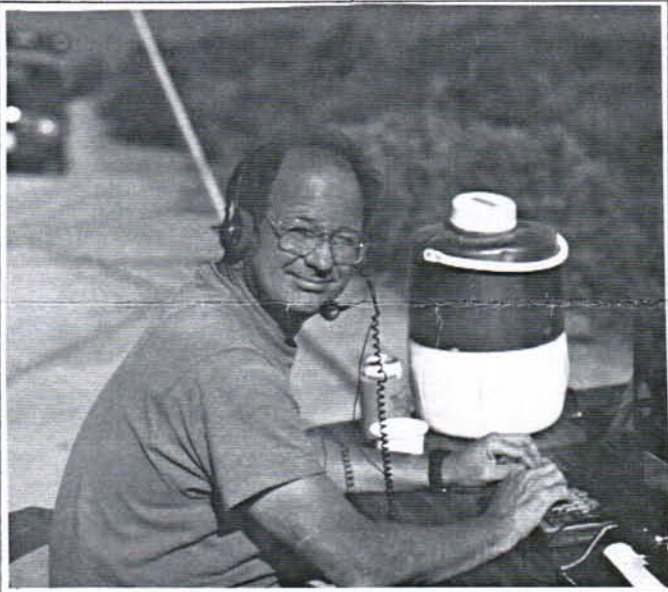
mast and a Cushcraft A-3. These get used just once a year, and it has always been a challenge for me to get the combination erected. I solicited advice from the Internet on how to erect this setup by myself and got plenty of suggestions. So the Saturday before the contest I decided to hold antenna drill and make sure the advice was worth following. I put 40' of mast together, mounted the A-3 on the end, attached a rope at the 30' point on the mast and then ran the rope through a pulley I tied high in a nearby tree. After

putting a couple of side guys on the mast, I began pulling it up. I alternately pushed the mast up with my head and pulled hard on the rope until finally I had the whole combination at about 45 degrees. With one more good pull the line suddenly went slack as the wire holding the pulley broke. A second later the mast came down directly on my head. I saw stars, and when the stars faded I saw the A-3 sadly bent out of shape on the ground. But by the end of the day I had it repaired and even managed to get it up and check it all out.

With my CQP antennas all packaged and ready to go, I took off the next day to go make sure of my site. It's 180 miles up to the point where Hwy. 20 crosses the Lake/Colusa county line, but it was a beautiful day for a drive with the top down. I had no trouble following N6BT's direction to the site. It was a good spot. Not great...just good. Staring at my map, though, I couldn't help but wonder if there weren't better spots. So then I started driving down those roads marked by dotted lines

on the map. The dust on those dirt roads was like nothing I had ever seen and my green Miata soon blended in with the dust. The map just didn't do the labyrinth of fire lanes justice, and soon I was hopelessly lost. I went down over 70 miles of dirt roads before I pulled up in the absolute middle of nowhere, on top of a ridge line, and spotted a mobile pincushion with ham plates. The owner turned out to be Tom, KD6CJX, a Lake County VHF buff who quickly observed that only another ham would ever venture to such a desolate spot as that place where we had met. Tom knew all the good spots in those hills, and he directed me down the ridge line to an abandoned repeater site directly on the county line. This spot had a 20' guyed mast already in place, and it wasn't just a good location; it was great! The hill dropped away quickly to the east, and from my location up over 6000' I could look all the way across the Central Valley to the Sierras.

I was at the door when the rental shop opened the next Friday, ready to take their largest generator, a 4500 watt



Honda. By 10:00 a.m. I was on the road, my pick-up loaded with so much junk it looked like something out of a Steinbeck novel. Up scenic I-5 to Colusa, then west on Hwy 20 to the county line. Another 3 miles and there's Walker Ridge Road on the right. Up, up, for 11 miles of washboard and I was at my site by 1 p.m. Then the fun began. The antenna drill had paid off. By late afternoon I had the mast and A-3 in the air. I put up a monoband vertical for 40 meters, spread out the radials, and went to work on my low-band dipole. It's 290' long and I finished dragging

the legs out through the thick chaparral by flashlight. I hoisted the feed point and ladder line up to top of mast by a rope run through one of the mast guy lines at the top.

Then came the big moment to try it all out. I had brought along my pride and joy, my Alpha 87A, to make sure the old county records would fall. (The Colusa County record is held by K6AAW and Lake County by K6HNZ. Between them, they hold 8 other county records, so I figured they wouldn't mind if I took these two away.) The first time I keyed up the amp, it shut down almost immediately due to low line voltage. This amp is just too smart. A second and a third attempt with the exciter drive set to absolute minimum yielded the same result. Reluctantly, I realized that this entry was going to be a low power entry. But the A-3 worked fine, the 40m vertical seemed to be doing a good job for me, and the location just couldn't have been better. Maybe, just maybe, I still had a shot at the record books. But when I tried the dipole, I couldn't get

County CQP Con't Page 7 Col 1

my transmatch to load it on either 80 or 160. A quick check revealed that one of the ladder line connections to the dipole was broken, so I brought it down and quickly fixed it. When I pulled the dipole back up, it loaded on 80 but in no way could I get the SWR down on 160. By then it was almost midnight, so I decided to work on it in the morning.

Next morning I dropped the dipole again, added some wire, and pulled it back up. Just as it reached the top of the mast, the hoist rope sawed right through the guy rope on the mast. Never run rope over rope without a pulley! The dipole and hoist rope came down and the A-3 swayed precariously in the breeze. After giving quick silent thanks for having used 4 guy lines instead of 3, I readjusted the remaining 3 to steady the mast. Then it was 9 a.m., time for the games to begin.

Very quickly I learned the hazards of operating from a county line. On CW the ops seemed to understand my "LAK/COL" exchange, but on sideband every third contact came back with "How do I log that?" The next most common question was "What county are you really in?" And try as I might to hold my frequency against the onslaught of the guns of Santa Clara Co, my 100 watts at 30' was no match. Still, it was a great contest! I tried 2m at the appointed time and managed to raise Jack, W1FEA, which is a fairly long haul, and got KI6CG out on a nearby expedition. For over 20 minutes I tried to break the pile on W6QHS but just couldn't get through. That was almost 4 miles a watt on 2 meters! When 20 died out, I mined 40 CW for all it was worth, then tried 40 sideband. It sounded like wall-to-wall broadcast stations, and the vertical just wasn't yielding any contacts. In desperation, I tried loading the 290' of wire now just lying on the chaparral. Within 10 minutes I had a call from VY1JA. After pulling 70 or so contacts on 80, I got cocky and tried my ground wire on 160. But the farthest I could get was K6XO in Utah, and my signal was so puny that even W6OAT was reduced to shouting into the mic at me. The low bands were not particularly kind, yielding only a total of 88 contacts on 80 and 160. But realize, that was with a wire lying on the ground!

When I shut down for the night, the first thing I realized was that it was nearly a new moon. The sky from a mountain top in Colusa county doesn't filter through bay area smog, and it was a spectacular sky with shooting stars constantly in view. That sight alone was worth the trip. The second thing I realized was that my air mattress had a leak. Next thing I knew the sun was rising over the Sierras and 20 was alive once again.

When the bell rang to stop, I had 1120 Q's in the log, a long way from a record for either county. And where was Idaho? Not even a sweep to show for all my efforts. If there were such a thing as a prize for low-power, single-op, county expedition...well, but there isn't. Still, it was a fun trip, and I'd definitely do it again. As in any expedition, there were plenty of lessons learned. "Wear a hard hat"... "use a pulley"... "get a line conditioner"...etc. Will those lessons pay off next year? Guess I'll just have to wait until October to see.

de AA6WM ex VE3SUN

Peter's NCDXSPN Stats

Everything you wanted to know and didn't even know you wanted to know, about DX factors, has been computed and recorded by Peter Jennings, AA6WM (ex VE3SUN). Everything from 9/9/92 to 7/15/93 that came over the NCDXSPN he recorded and programmed to yield a lot of interesting stuff. Here's a sampling we extracted.

Total DX announcements:	39439
Number of different DX callsigns:	10368
Number of different reporting calls:	1022

Top DX stations reported:

AH1A	313
C9RJJ	261

The BIG EARS making the spots:

K6OZL	1442
W6OA	1207
KK6H	1026
KA6ING	927
AB6LJ	848

Most often used frequencies by 10KC segs:

1820	120	14020	2131
1830	130	14190	1523
3500	684	18070	623
3510	159	21010	594
3780	152	21020	916
3790	963	21290	543
7000	3364	24890	239
10000	11271	28020	371
14000	1536	28480	494
14010	1792	28490	723

43% of all DX announcements have a comment.

Most popular ones are:

FSK	713
ao13B	538
CQING	416
LP	213
Loud	156

Ones we would like to see more of:

on 6's	7
calling 6's	3
NOW ON 6's	3

A few for the record books:

oops	21
NO LIST	9
Handholders Net	9
ESP HERE	8

Last Meeting

You'll have to excuse possible omissions in these notes of the bang-up NCCC meeting of Jan. 22. Due to a curious confluence of forces yours truly ended up pressed into service in two capacities at the meeting: to run the meeting as prex N6ST, couldn't be there due to a schedule glitch, and to report on the meeting for the JUG as editor W6ISQ, was temporarily disabled by the new Tasmanian flu [actually Jack heard a rumor that Peter I would come on 10 days early]. Since it's difficult to take notes while talking, I may have missed some highlights (though it's unlikely, come to think of it, that said highlights would have occurred while I was talking).

The big news of that day, of course, was the acquittal of Lorena Bobbitt on charges of using her own unique methods to teach her husband a lesson. I announced at the start of the meeting that Tom, N6BT, our own prex of the Force 12 antenna company, was starting a new business and, in honor of the acquittal, was naming it "Force 6." Tom said he'd like to talk about it, but would have to cut it short (later he did say he'd give us a few tips, though).

Several announcements. N6TV mentioned that N6AA's house had sustained damage in the San Fernando Valley earthquake, and that those who know him, may want to offer help. Contest discussion centered on the upcoming VHF contest, with Walt, AJ6T, and Robert, N7STU, reminding us of appropriate fm and ssb frequencies and welcoming support from the unwashed.

Bruce, AA6KX, our intrepid treasurer, spent most of the meeting valiantly shaking down those present for pizza contributions, but did give a treasurer's report. Seems we do have money. Actually, it's better than that. We are on budget, the only potential problem being paying for the CQP wine glasses that Al, AD6E, is planning to send out. Somehow, the idea of sending out wine glasses to top scorers or those with over 100 qso's has gotten expanded to the grand plan of sending a wine glass to everyone who sent in a log (I think Al is requiring, however, that the log contain at least one qso, to discourage frivolous entries from wine glass seekers who weren't actually on the air). This will certainly stimulate interest in next year's CQP—if we can afford to put it on, hi. So far we have gratefully acknowledged contributions of \$900 from HRO, \$300 from Kenwood, and \$300 from Force 4, but more is needed, so anyone with ham industry contacts is urged to use them. Please remember these sponsors when you go to purchase products. When you think of buying out-of-state to save the sales tax, remember how HRO came through in the clutch for us.

Bruce passed around sign up sheets for the 1994 Awards Banquet, a definite "Don't Miss", March 19 at the Pleasanton Hotel. See elsewhere in Jug for details. (Use the "SEND/CHECK" command to wire money automatically to him).

Two new members were introduced and voted into membership. I had told them that part of the criteria for membership was the ability to fog a mirror within 30 minutes, but Rich, N6KT, rightfully pointed out that the fogging requirement is normally waived if they have paid their dues. Anyway, it was academic, as these new guys are obviously interesting people. They are: Dan Ford, KD6WKX and Jay Selwitz, KB6LYO.

A brand new, beautiful 5 meg award was presented to a deserving Rusty, W6OAT.

The main event of the evening was a talk and demonstration by Larry Word, NF6S, on Digital Signal Processing units. Larry had brought his DSP-59 unit, and a tape recorder with recorded data from on-the-air experiments showing the effect of the filter on noise reduction, heterodyne elimination, bandpass filtering, etc. He also had another hour of recorded signals, so that we could try out the unit ourselves afterwards.

"Ode to the DSP"

That digital unit is slick

It cuts down the noise mighty quick

Its filters bandpass

Will help you kick...er, butt.

Says Larry: "It sure does the trick."

The third generation DSP-59, which costs \$299, has numerous filter modes. It can reduce noise dramatically, eliminate carriers and heterodynes with very little signal degradation, and has several lowpass, highpass and bandpass modes. One drawback is that since it's in the audio line, not the IF, it can't deal very well where you are trying to dig a weak signal out of the qrm of adjacent strong signals, since the strong sigs will overload the receiver's agc and cause too much gain reduction on the weak one. Larry says the military has had digital IF filtering (which is clearly the way to go) for years, but it's very expensive. Apparently a commercial rx made by Watkins-Johnson also has it.

Emblematic of the widespread interest in these units among hams is the extensive dialog on CompuServe's ham forum for the past few months. There have been dozens of messages about the merits of such units. Larry's talk covered it all. On CompuServe most of the CompuServe relate to noncontesters. For example, owners of rigs without CW IF filters want to know if a DSP can take the place of a 500 Hz IF filter. General opinion seems to be "no", since the aforementioned agc problem will prevent good weak signal reception, even though the DSP will be just as sharp, or sharper, than the IF CW filter.

The demo sparked lots of discussion and debate of the relative merits of the DSP-59, the DSP-9, W9GR, and NIR-10 units. Suggestions for the future included more pattern recognition and artificial intelligence in the units. N6BT suggested that DXpeditions could incorporate call recognition to prevent dupes by having the DSP simply null out the offending signal. As Jim, WA6SDM, said, "It would give a whole new meaning to the term 'worked before'".

Next month— Be there or be square.

Date: Saturday, March 19.

1994 Awards Banquet

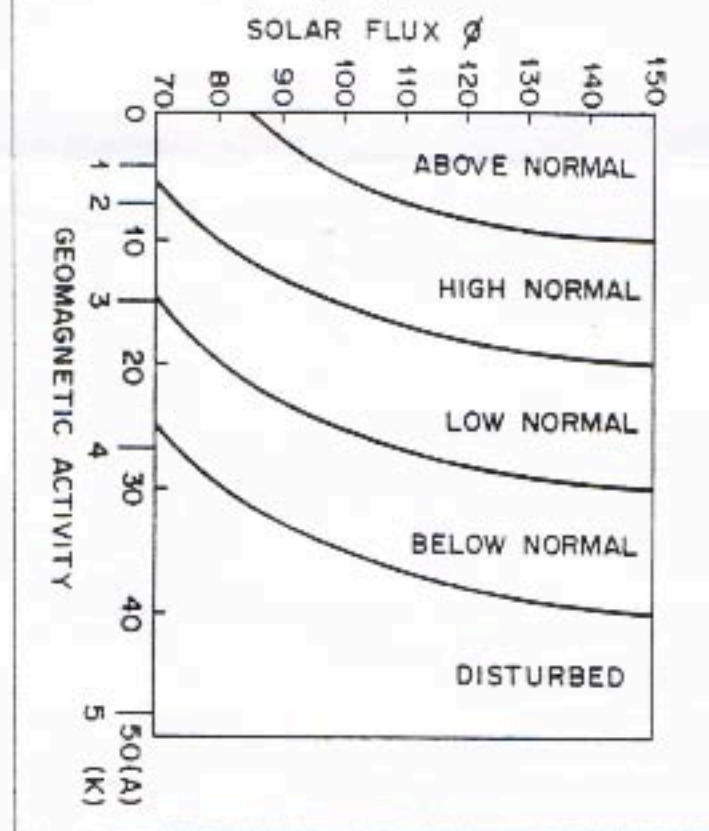
By popular demand, we will return to the Pleasanton Hotel again this year for our annual awards banquet. Whether you won a NCCC contest team hat, a wine glass, a bottle of CQRed, or whatever, you're sure to have a great time reliving the year's events at this grand finale to contest season. Get your reservations in now!

Happy Hour starts at 6, dinner at 7. Place: Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton, CA. Map and Directions in next month's JUG

Entrees: your choice of Oven Poached Mahi Mahi with ginger vinaigrette or Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus. Please indicate choice of entree on the reservation slip on page 5, return with check for 23.50 for each reservation, payable to NCCC, to Bruce Sawyer, AA6KX, 15430 Bohlman Rd., Saratoga CA. 95070. NOTE: We must receive payment in advance to confirm your reservation.

All reservations must be in by March 14.

This graph is reprinted from "The BAD News", The Bay Area DXers Newsletter, of November 1993.



There once was a Ham, had a new Valentine.
 Ahh, sayeth he, I wouldst make her mine.
 But she didn't DX and she wouldn't CQ
 So wadd was the poor guy going to do?
 Put up the antenna and give her a line.
 de the Old Timers' Handbook

De AA6KX

Treasury Notes



Financial activity thus far this fiscal year, compared with the budget approved by the Board of Directors:

	Budget	Actual
Membership Dues	\$3768.00	\$3802.00
Contributions to General Fund	-	\$ 332.00
JUG & Roster Advertisements	\$ 310.00	\$ 270.00
JUG Publishing	(\$2340.00)	(\$1321.40)
CQP	(\$ 500.00)	\$1233.50
Membership Awards	(\$ 600.00)	(\$ 31.39)
Visalia Hospitality	(\$ 200.00)	-
Christmas Banquet	-	(\$ 219.10)
Awards Banquet	-	(\$ 108.50)
Other Self-Funding Events	-	\$ 38.05
Contingency Fund	(\$ 200.00)	(\$ 88.38)
Total	\$ 238.00	\$3906.78
+ Balance at Start of Fiscal year		+ \$2480.89

Current Account Balance (General Fund): \$6387.67

Contrary to appearances above, the Club has not turned CQP into a profit-making activity! We estimate the cost of the wine glasses alone to be close to \$2000 and total CQP expenses will be in the vicinity of \$2500. The positive balance above is due to some very generous contributions recently received: \$300 from Kenwood USA, \$900 from Ham Radio Outlet, and \$100 from N6TV. Be sure to let the folks at HRO know how much you appreciate their help for NCCC.

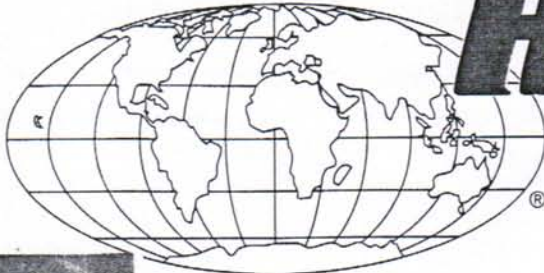


Phone Hours:
9:30 AM
to 5:30 PM

Store Walk-In
Hours:
10:00 AM
to 5:30 PM
Closed Sundays

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West
1-800-854-6046

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Special prices on most ICOM products.
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Free Drawings for an IC-T21A on ICOM Days for specific locations (see schedule below).
Need not be present to win. No purchase necessary.

HOURLY PRIZES!
Hourly drawings for jackets and gift certificates on ICOM Days at specific locations (see schedule below). Must be present to win.

FREE ICOM HATS!
Get a free ICOM hat with any purchase over \$200 for the first 1000 customers!

NEW RADIOS!
ICOM personnel will be demonstrating the new IC-Δ100H, IC-281, IC-T21A, IC-2GXAT, and IC-737 on the following Saturday dates at the eleven H.R.O. store locations:



The most desired HF features at a most desirable price!



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Tom, KB6LUC, Mgr.
Lawrence Expwy.
So. from Hwy. 101

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2210 Kingshoe St.
(510) 531-5757
(800) 854-6046
Rich, W4SWYB, Mgr.
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IC-2GXAT \$ 10 Off	IC-735...\$ 75 Off	IC-V21AT...\$ 50 Off
IC-2330A...\$ 150 Off	IC-737...\$ 100 Off	IC-W2A.....\$ 30 Off
IC-725.....\$ 50 Off		IC-X2A.....\$ 165 Off



February 1994
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