



The NCCC 75 meter net
meets on Thursdays at
9PM,
3830 approximately

NCCC Meeting

Guests are always welcome at the NCCC!

Please join us.

Program

"DXPedition and Contest from the Galapagos"
by N5KO

A report on 2002 WPX Phone with XE1KK.

Monday, 13 May 2002

Mt. View Tied House

Schmooze @ 6:30, Dinner @ 7:00, Meeting @ 7:30
954 Villa Street. Mountain View, CA 94041
(650) 965-2739

Menu: 1. Burger (your way) + fries
2. Fish & chips
3. Chicken sausage + beans

Price: \$14 (soft drink, tax & tip included)

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ANNOUNCING The New England QSO Party NEQP May 4-5.

As sponsors of the world's greatest QSO Party -- CQP --there's always that feeling that we should support other clubs similar events. It's tough because there are just too many. Well, here's a big new chance: The New England Clubs (incl yccc) have done it right by organizing a single call area QSO party. It's the weekend of May 4th, and they've made it especially easy on us by breaking the event into two segments:

Seg 1: Sat May 4 2000Z to Sun May 5 0300Z (2000 PDST)
Seg 2: Sun May 5 1100Z to 2400Z (1700 PDST)

Details can be found at www.neqp.org. The contest will encompass 67 counties. Q's for each band and mode are 2 points cw/dig and 1 point SSB.

Seven reasons to participate (last reason is the most important):

1. These guys have done a great job and it looks like fun.
2. CQP/NCCC will sponsor a plaque, for top CA/NV score.
3. NCCC is proposing a NEQP-CQP club-to-club competition, also under discussion with NEQP. You will hear details shortly. It's likely that the competition will be based in part on how much we participate in their QSO party, and vice versa.
4. The NEQP is favorable toward CW, with a 2:1 point's ratio for CW/digital vs. SSB.
5. Very important – this is a good chance to get your station oiled and ready for WPX CW, our big club event for May. You need to do this anyway, so here is a chance to help nccc and yourself in two ways at the same time.
6. It's a chance to go after the Worked All New England award and several state counties awards. I'm afraid, Jack, I can't promise Vermont on 160, but we can bug 'em about it.
7. Most important: That having been said, maybe the biggest reason for participating in NEQP is that many gain from both partnering and competing. By participating vigorously in NEQP, CQP gains additional support for CQP. So a Q for them now is a Q for us in Oct. And we're hopeful that a reciprocating plaque will come our way for CQP.

I'm betting this will be a big, successful event. I'd love to see NCCC make a strong showing emphasizing number of stations, but realizing some of you will want to chase the CQP-sponsored plaque. I thank our former Pres, Rick N6XI for bring this event to the club's attention via the reflector.

RULE NOTES:

The rules don't state the definition of Low Power. I checked, and it's 150 watts. Assume QRP is 5.

1. Major logging programs will have modules to support NEQP. Andy has also included this contest in his logging program. However, please don't let logging s/w stop you from jumping into this contest, even if it's just to make 10 Q's. They have manual forms.
2. As far as I know, there's not a club category except for New England clubs.
3. Categories: Single-operator high power, low power [150w] and QRP categories, plus multi-operator, single transmitter. Same four categories for mobiles. Single-operator stations using assistance during the contest (packet or Internet spotting nets, etc.) will compete in the multi-single category."

Perhaps even more interesting,
there's the lobster dinner for
two to the USA single op (non-
New England) winner

73....Bill, N6ZFO



Dave's Wave's



Let me start my first column with a big "Thank You" to last year's board. They did a FB job and I hope your new board can do as well this year.

April Meeting Report

Please welcome the three new members voted in at the April meeting. Mark K6UFO in Cupertino, Kent K6ENT in Sunnyvale, and former member Chuck AA6G returns to the family. K6ENT, K6GT and I have our own little QRM alley going... the three of us are well within the 500 meter limit of the multi-transmitter rule. AA6G wisely chose to get as far away from us three as possible, and is building a new station in the Sierras.

We had field reports from returning warriors fresh from the WPX Phone battles. The NCCC put up some big numbers from DXpeditions as well as some impressive hometown operations. We have a great start on winning the club competition again this year. More on that topic later.

Mike K6PUD demonstrated how to do a really big-time Field Day operation. 18A or some other unimaginably large number. Organization and logistics for this size of operation create a whole different class problems from the typical casual FD that most of us have done.

And of course, we had the annual NCCC "reverse coup d'etat" where the current government insists on putting someone else in charge.

Contests

The last of our club focus contests for the current season is coming up this month: WPX CW. Did you find yourself making excuses instead of talking about big numbers back at the April meeting? Are you sorry to have missed out on the fun? Well, cheer up, bunky! You have another chance! We need to get everyone out for the CW weekend, putting up the biggest number you can for the NCCC. We have a very good chance of winning the club competition so get your log in there and get it counted for the NCCC!

Coming up very soon is the brand new NEQP. Strikingly similar in format to the CQP, this looks like a fun contest and a fine addition to the contest season. Your new board has been hatching a scheme to challenge them to a club v. club competition over who can put on the biggest-funest-bestest QSO party – look for more info from Bill. Details are not final yet, but expect some part of the score to be

based on support for the other guy's QSO party. In other words, to win the proposed club challenge we need to show up in their logs in big numbers (and vice versa). On top of that, we are working on a Cal/Nev plaque that really wants to have a home in an NCCC'ers shack. So mark your calendar for the inaugural running of the NEQP.

Looking Ahead

It's time for the club to start thinking about focus contests for the coming year. I'd like to see some discussion of this on the reflector, and also get some discussion going at the next meeting. WPX is a fun contest from the West Coast, and it is a contest the NCCC can win. Do we want to go for it again?

And then there is the November Sweepstakes. Let's admit it, the NCCC has been knocked around a little bit with this one. We've put on great efforts and really worked hard, but the SMC has simply out-organized us. Because of the compressed nature of SS scores, winning the unlimited club competition is a matter of turning in lots of logs. NCCC logs are bigger, and at least as accurate. We just need more of 'em.

How do we get more logs in SS? One way is to get everyone to run that "other" mode, at least for a few hours. But realistically speaking, to win we will also need to recruit more members, more of the kind of members that will get on for SS and turn in a log for NCCC. That will require everyone to help with the recruiting effort, and will probably require that the club do a few things differently to make it more attractive to more people. It requires a growth-oriented mindset.

Speaking for myself, the idea that the SS club competition is won by getting everyone to turn out, and the fact that every log makes a difference, are what make the SS a great club competition. But it is clear that to win back the SS gavel we have our work cut out for us, as the SMC has certainly done a great job of recruiting and organizing. Let the board know your thoughts.

Upcoming May Meeting

The intrepid Trey N5KO will be presenting a program entitled "DXpedition and Contest from the Galapagos", detailing his exploits with XE1KK in the 2002 WPX Phone. I hope to see you all at the Tied House in Mt. View for Trey's talk and some discussion of focus contests for the coming year.

73, Dave N6NZ

NCCC Board of Directors 2002



Rob Brownstein, K6RB, Secretary/Treasurer, John Lore, W6LD, Director, Rick Tavan, N6XI, Past President, Bill Haddon, N6ZFO, VP/CC, Ken Anderson, K6TA, Director, Mike Shapiro, WA6O, Director. Submitted by Ed, W0YK

Contest Calendar for May 2002

Compiled by N6ZFO Events of particular NCCC interest in bold .

HF Contests

Contest	Start time	Date	End time	Date	Ref
AGCW QRP/QRP Contest	1300Z-1900Z,	May 1			WA7BNM
IPA Contest, CW	0000Z-2359Z,	May 4			ARRL
MARAC County Hunters Contest, CW	0000Z,	May 4-	2400Z,	May 5	ARRL
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z,	May 4-	2400Z,	May 5	ARRL
Indiana QSO Party	1300Z,	May 4-	0500Z,	May 5	ARRL
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z,	May 4-	1959Z,	May 5	ARRL
New England QSO Party	2000Z,	May 4-	0300Z	May 5	www.neqp.org
IPA Contest, SSB	0000Z-2359Z,	May 5			ARRL
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z,	May 11-	0600Z,	May 12	ARRL
VOLIA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z,	May 11	1200Z,	May 12	WA7BNM
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z,	May 11	0200Z,	May 12	ARRL
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z,	May 11			ARRL
CQ-M International DX Contest	2100Z,	May 11	2100Z,	May 12	ARRL
Anatolian RTTY WW Contest	1800Z,	May 17	2100Z,	May 18	ARRL
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1800Z,	May 18	1800Z,	May 19	www.ure.es
Baltic Contest	2100Z,	May 18	0200Z,	May 19	WA7BNM
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z,	May 25	2400Z,	May 26	ARRL
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 -2400 local	May 26			ARRL
QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z,	May 27	0300Z,	May 28	ARRL

50 MHZ and Above

Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local,	May 4			Feb QSI
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z,	May 11	0300Z,	May 12	ARRL

Log due Dates for May

WPX SSB **May 1**

Sources: ARRL and WA7BNM web sites.

WPX Interview with Famous North Bay Contester, K6UM

Nccc: Well, Steve thanks for agreeing to this NCCC Roving Reporter Interview, possibly a first for the JUG, and very possibly a last. Anyway, congratulations on achieving a top low power score for the En Triple See Gang in 2002 WPX CW. Do you have any words of wisdom about WPX?

K6UM: Well, WPeeX is a grueling contest. Because it's one of those EXPO-nential affairs, you have to just keep it moving, hour after hour after hour after hour.

Nccc: But you operated for only 12 hours.

K6UM. Why do you think I call it WPeeX? Have you ever tried to operate 36 hours, drink enough water to stay alive in this hot North Bay climate, and not take any breaks? You can't even declare five minutes off, it has to be 30 minutes -- think of the multipliers you'd miss.

Nccc. But couldn't you just take five minutes off and sacrifice a little bit on rate?

K6UM. Hmmm never thought of that. Guess you learn something from these interviews. Maybe I'll try that on the CW weekend. Of course the wx will be good, so I could move the rig out under a tree. Better than that stupid ARRL trick of chewing gum. Ever try that in an SSB contest? Your mouth sticks shut, then a JT1 calls you.

Nccc. We need to get this interview back on track. One notable aspect of your WPeeX, er WPX effort was that you used your own call, K6UM, whereas most of the so-called hot-shot WPX ops thought it was important to borrow a call with an unusual prefix.

K6UM. Hogwash. Yes, I saw that seemingly endless debate on the reflector about call-borrowing. But the prefix K6 actually became rare because of all those ops who borrowed weird calls. So I just stuck with K6. Worked like a charm. Guys, and a few yl's, thanked me right and left for the rare, new prefix. Furthermore, I heard that one famous South Bay Contester (FSBC) actually borrowed a call with contorted

pho-netix, and then found out he couldn't even pronounce it over the air. So much for that idea. No wonder that call was available for lending. What really worked, though, was the 6 points per Q for domestic contacts on 40 meters.

Nccc: Good point. Wait a minute -- 6 pts/Q on 40 for working US stations? Are you going to be selling the Golden Gate Bridge to this interviewer next?

K6UM. Well, now we're getting at the real strategy for success as a LP WPX'r. Bear with me -- this gets a little complex. Now most everyone knows about the call-borrowing custom, but that's a technique for amateurs. By the way, that was a little joke :) The sister-city method is what really gets your score up.



It's there somewhere in the rules, I'm sure, but you have to read them pretty carefully, and do a little interpretation. It's kind of like the call-borrowing issue in that sense, i.e. not really stated in the rules. Now you'll note in the picture below that the city of Chihirin, Ukraine happens to be one of the two sister cities of Sebastopol, my home QTH, so that's what I chose for my borrowed sister city. But of course there's more to it than just borrowing the sister city -- you have to make yourself actually sound like DeeX. Now I use two simple techniques to accomplish that, both perfectly legal. First, I mention my QTH when calling CQ WPX, but I pronounce it in the Russian

way: “See-vah-STO-pl”. And by talking in a kind of wavering voice to mimic polar flutter, and using a fake Russian accent, US guys think I’m DeeX. Now you would think the call K6UM would give it away, but there’s a trick there too: I actually give the call twice, but the first time just whisper the first K6, and same with the UM part the second time. So folks think my call is UMK6. Works like a charm. They hear UMK6, connect it with the “See-vah-STO-pl”, and bingo, pile up city. And of course they never ditch the Q when they find out it’s really just California. And if they don’t figure it out, too bad. It’s their dumb error, not mine.

Nccc. Wait a minute, do you think this is the April JUG? That sounds like a real stretch to this interviewer. On the other hand, some folks thought call borrowing was illegal, so maybe you’re right about this. Wow, the sister city technique could have potential for the club score.

Nccc: But you must have some special equipment secrets as well. What about those antennas, for example? Especially that funny looking, spherical one.

can sit on all that aluminum at one time. I did use it as an antenna years ago, but now I use the spherical ground-based device in the second photograph. You see, after a thorough analysis of the Yagi-Uda equations, carrying out reverse Fourier transforms, and computing exponentials on the imaginary parts of the equations, etc etc, it became clear to me these hidden, transformed terms actually predict superior performance from a kind of a spherical design down close to the ground. Very exciting. And to think, we’ve been putting these antennas up on towers for years, thinking they were optimum.



Nccc. This interview really is getting out of hand. That second antenna is a lot to swallow. It’s a good thing we’re out of space. We’ll be signing off now, and thanking Steve, K6UM for this interesting, but possibly controversial WPX interview.

K6UM. Well I’m honored to interviewed by such a prestigious publication as the JUG, and I’ll look forward to seeing it in the April issue.

Nccc: No, no Steve, this interview is for the MAY issue.

K6UM. Well first, what looks like a traditional tri-band Yagi antenna to your readers is actually the xyl’s bird roosting station. You should see how many birds

Until next time,
73 and kb from the **Nccc Roving Reporter**.

Go WPX!! by Andy, AE6Y

WPX – We Can win it!

What a great effort the club put on in WPX SSB! Mega-points were earned – can't say the total here, but you can check it out on the members page of the web site. There were several noteworthy contest expeditions, including P40V (AI6V, KI7WX), HC8N (N5KO), WP2Z (N6DE and K6EP), and ZF2AF (more on that one below). The NR6O gang contributed their usual fine M/M score, as did fledgling M/M WX5S at the heretofore non-M/M location of W6YX. I'm also very gratified by the guys who got on from home stations, or who made a special effort to find a better opportunity to help the club. There were many significant efforts, and many members who normally ignore WPX made a special point of operating to help out the club. Check out all the scores on the web site.

Now, don't forget WPX CW. We have a real chance to win the club competition this year with a major effort, but it requires work in the CW contest as well. It's at the end of May (May 25-26), and I've found in recent years that it often has particularly good conditions. Often 15 is open late into the evening, and 20 can be open most of the night from California. In addition, unlike the SSB contest, where 40 and 80 are mostly useless for ordinary SO stations, in CW 40 is a primo band. In fact, I had my best two hours last year on 40 from about 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. local time running JA's on 40 CW. Since the contacts count double on 40 and 80, you can do quite well even if the rate is slower than on the high bands.

We already have mega-pledges from the gangs at NR6O and W6YX, yours truly promises some real points from P40Y (from P49V's QTH, which, somewhat intimidatingly for the likes of me has produced various stupendous scores in a number of WPX contest categories). Team Vertical, led by Contesters of the Year K2KW and N6BT, is planning a maximal effort from 6Y, and we are promised some kind of operation from the HC8N super-station.

Furthermore, the great thing about WPX is that stay-at-home left coasters CAN do well from California/

Nevada in this one, even from a relatively normal station. Last year I came in third in California both phone and CW from my home station – and CQ is actually quite good about sending out wallpaper for such accomplishments. Since I'll be at P40Y for CW, my traditional third-place spot is up for grabs this year, hi.

So let's get on the air and beat the heck out of the club record! We can do it with a strong showing in CW. BTW: in case anyone didn't hear the announcement at our last meeting, or missed the current issue of CQ Magazine, NCCC was the club champ last year with 189M points, and we are well on our way to going way beyond that figure this year.

The ZF2AF Expedition – Reader's Digest Version

Well, I am now a confirmed contest expedition convert. It's like going on photo-safari in Africa – after you've seen sleek, non-neurotic animals in the wild, you are completely spoiled for visiting a zoo. They say if you've heli-skied in Canada, you'll never want to stand in line again at a ski area. Anyway, regardless of the analogy, the warning I got from N6TJ is true: having a taste of operating from a great site in the Caribbean surely has changed my perspective on contesting. When Steve, K6AW, mentioned in the chow line at Harry's at the last meeting that conditions at NR6O had been so poor that they only ended up working a handful of EU's on 10 meters, it was immensely satisfying to be able to remark that I had the good fortune to have work about 1300 of them on 10 from the Cayman Islands.

Some months ago, when I started pushing the club to focus on WPX for 2002, I decided that I should do my part as VP/Contest Chairman by doing some serious contesting from top-flight locations away from home. After doing considerable exploring of rent-a-QTHs on the internet, I accepted Bruce's invitation to visit him at ZF2NT, his delightful spot in the Cayman Islands. Since Bruce hates phone contests with a passion, he was willing to entertain a club member to help out the club in WPX SSB, and I was the lucky guy able to go.

You have to see Bruce's station to appreciate not only the site, but all the hard work that went into building the house that he now enjoys. First the island: Little Cayman Island is the smallest of the three islands that make up the British crown colony of the Cayman Islands (ZF). Little Cayman has about 10 square miles of land area, and a permanent population of not much more than 100. The main attraction is what Bruce and many others call the best scuba diving in the world. There are several small dive resorts on the island, and diving aficionados flock there to dive the "walls", coral cliffs just offshore that approach close to the surface of the water, and then drop off for thousands of feet

The diving was the main feature that attracted Bruce, who bought a piece of beachfront property and proceeded to build, just about single-handedly, a fine modern house.



Virtually all supplies had to be barged in from Tampa, and there was just about no help available in building the house. Imagine undertaking a project like this when you've never built a house before, and almost nothing is available locally if you forgot to bring it. For more details on the construction and final state of the house, visit Bruce's web site. The radio shack boasts an FT1000MP with automatic Acom amplifier, feeding a Bencher Skyhawk tribander at 65 feet, a 40m dipole and a 3-element 12/17m beam. The station plays extremely well, no doubt aided by being surrounded by salt water.

Contrary to popular opinion, Bruce does own a microphone, but I brought along my own Heil Proset anyway, along with my laptop running CQPWIN 9.1 (actually, one reason for the trip was to see if my software was up to handling the demands of a major contest with high rates from an exotic location – it was, and everything worked perfectly on the software end).



Bruce, ZF2NT

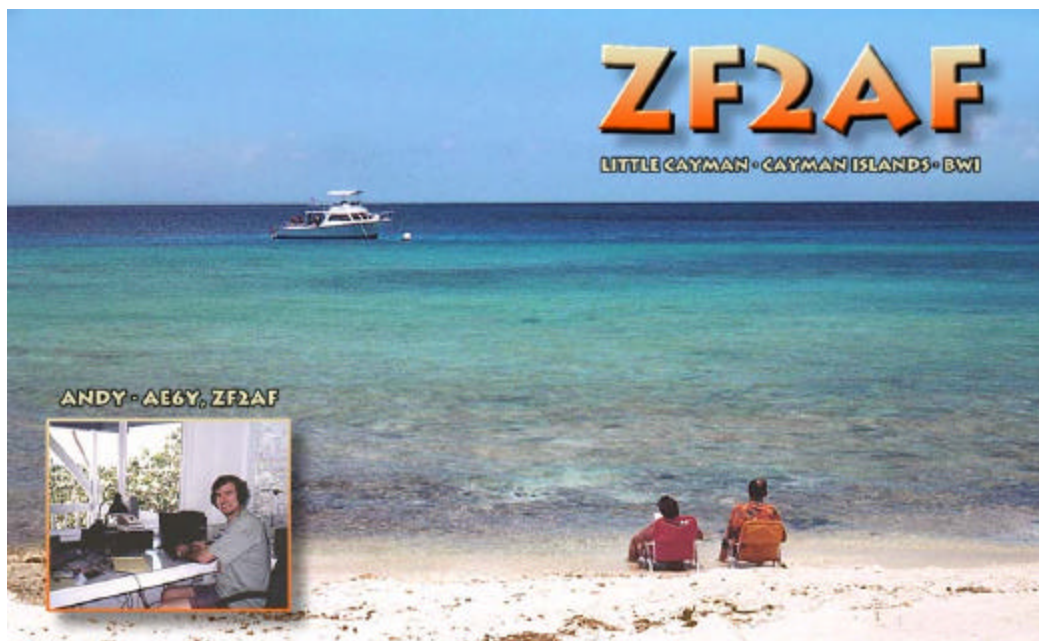
We spent lots of time chewing the rag, and Bruce took me on the full tour of the island (didn't take long), lent me his flippers for a snorkeling expedition, and generally treated me very well. During the contest, he was very supportive, but pretty much let me do what I liked, with only an occasional mild criticism of my practice of taking 10-minute breaks every 4 or 5 hours to stretch, eat some candy, etc. ("Your competition isn't taking breaks!").

The contest itself was a great experience. Nearly constant high rates (high for me, in any event). Best hour was 234 on 15m, on Friday night. Averaged 143 per hour for the whole contest, and one of the best aspects was that the Sunday afternoon let-down was quite mild (i.e., steady 10m rate averaging 136/hr all day). I had to make a strategy call late in the contest, when it turned out due to time mismanagement that I had to take about 40 minutes off, or end the contest 40 minutes early. The rate had been slowing a bit by late afternoon (contest ends at 7 p.m. there), so I elected to take an hour off (the minimum off time in WPX) at 4:30, resuming at 5:30 to go until the end of the contest. This meant that I lost about 20 minute of potential operating time, but the trade-off was worth it, as this loss was balanced out by an hour and a half of 175/hr rate that put me well over the 5,000 QSO mark, and over 13M points.

I did learn that I definitely need more experience in handling phone pileups. There were times when there was just a buzz of S-zero stations all calling for exactly the same length of time and none with a signal that stuck out much above the noise level. As you more experienced testers know, it demands a lot of concentration to work a pileup like that. I feel that I got better as the contest went on, but still need more practice. Even so, of the single op scores reported as of this writing, I have the second highest QSO total worldwide (behind a terrific effort from T93M/HI9, who edged me by about 300Qs in claimed score).

The bottom line was that I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and am very grateful to Bruce for providing the hospitality and support. BTW, it's really a pleasure to work a club member in a pileup and receive a cheery "KB." I'm now answering QSL requests that have been flooding in from all over the world (amazing how rare ZF seems to be). I can't wait to try out the CW contest from Aruba. See my QSL card photo for an idea of the population density on Little Cayman.

73, Andy, AE6Y, Ex-VP/CC



NCCC Newbie by Marc, W6ZZZ

ARRL Increases Contest Coverage on the Web

On April 19 the ARRL started offering increased contest coverage on the web. Currently the two biggest additions are:

- a searchable on-line database for contest results
- increased web narratives and side bars about the contest

The first contest results to be posted in the new format is the 2001 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW).

This information is available at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/>. Access to the contest results is limited to ARRL members.

On-line Database for Line Scores

The database includes score, QSOs, multipliers, band-by-band QSO breakdowns for all entrants, as well as hours operated and any club affiliation. The database is searchable and sortable by ARRL section, division or club.

The ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) results are at http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html?con_id=1 and the database contains 1268 entries.

The search/sort criteria are at the bottom of the web page. Here is an example of how to search for the entries that claimed NCCC affiliation and then sort them by score.

Select Entries to List			
	Class	Section/Division	Club
Select:	All	and All	and Northern California Contest Club
or Call sign:	<input type="text"/>		
Choose Sort Order			
Sort by:	Score	then	--- then ---
<input type="button" value="Select and Sort Entries to Display"/>			

Besides listing all 75 of the entries claiming NCCC affiliation you get the club totals at the bottom:

#	Call	Score	OSOs	Mult	Hours	160	80	40	20	15	10
Totals		7,205,842	46,183	5,421	1,266		2,714	6,011	10,779	11,203	14,685

Download the Contest Data

The entire (single contest) line score database can be downloaded to a comma delimited or tab delimited file. This allows you to load the data into your favorite spreadsheet or database on you home computer.

Once this data is on your home computer, the opportunities for analysis and comparisons are endless.

Band by Band

Each entry in the database shows the QSOs by band. Lets say that you wanted to compare your QSO percentage band-by-band with the average of the top five NCCC entries in class A (there were 17 class A NCCC entries). You will need to have the contest data in a spreadsheet. Sort the spreadsheet by club, then class and score. Sum the QSOs by band for the top five entries, divide by the total QSOs and you get:

160m	80m	40m	20m	15m	10m	Band (top 5 class A NCCC entries)
0	394	497	769	1244	685	QSOs
0%	11%	14%	21%	35%	19%	% by Band

One thing to keep in mind is that there are many, many variables associated with this data. The data doesn't tell you where they found their multipliers or what sort of antennas they were using on each band.

Increased Web Narratives and Sidebars

The expanded contest web report is located at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2001/SS-CW/> and includes sidebars and pictures.

continued next page

Here is a quote:

“Bob, K6XX, operated Field Day style from this shack in the Santa Clara Valley section. Bob ended up 5th in the Unlimited category -- 1110 Qs and a Sweep -- proving once again that a skilled operator in the right location can do very well with modest antennas.”



Photo courtesy of ARRL/QST Magazine

- 73, Marc
- the NCCC Newbie

Remembering Visalia

by Alan N2ALE/

For some of us, Visalia is an infrequent experience but always worth the time. My first visit was in 1993, where I first learned about NCCC, and lead to my interest in contesting. I've noticed that at larger Conventions; DXers stress the details of going from point A to point B geographically, whereas Contesters get into the details of operating.

This year at the International DX Convention was no exception. Carl, K9LA reviewed “Propagation- Cycle 23” and predicts losing 10 meters later this year. VOACAP (www.http/elbert.its.bldrdoc.gov) was recommended as “free” propagation software. Tom, K5RC gave a 60 point PowerPoint photo quiz titled “Where are They Now”, which was repeated at the

Banquet. Wayne, N7NG updated the progress on “Computerized QSL Confirmation”. The ARRL will eventually issue “free” digital signature keys and solve this QSL problem for contesting, it would appear. Ward, N0AX explained “Log analysis with EXCEL: Sprint Doofus Power.” The basic principle is to import a log as an ASCII file into Excel, and sort the data. He advised caution with time data as this is stored internally as fractions of a day. See your fellow NCCC members for details. Two points were noted in his Sprint log. Using COUNTA on multipliers, he pointed a jump in the cumulative multiplier count and suggested a review of the actual log could reveal something of interest. The Doofus factor was based on a QSO to QSO time average exceeding the total contest QSO average. Doofus Power is the square of the difference, if above average, and is an indicator of operator brain freeze. Ward suggests that we all compare notes as to other worthy analysis parameters. Dean, N6BV gave an interesting antenna talk about his concept of the “Cross-5 array” on a Dxpediton that included several NCCC operators. The experience of handling 43 vertical antennas shows a lot of perseverance. Dean did explain in detail the rational of antenna choice and beam orientation for the DXpediton. I asked him earlier about his use of VOACAP and the methodology of inserting an antenna profile rather than the default whip antenna. He said that he wrote an article in QST, perhaps Jan. 2000, in case anyone wanted to explore other approaches.

Finally, it was a wrap up with the Contest Forum. QST coverage on Contesting will be reduced (except for Field Day, which is not a contest). The journal is reduced overall by 16 pages and we all share the pain. Transferring detailed contest listings to NCJ is not being considered, but Internet summaries will be increased.

Dick, N6AA addressed the question of paper logs at CQ, and revealed that this was a “management” decision. Some logs were being handled by third parties, and he established that the no-paper log policy was not popular with the staff at CQ. [Perhaps CQ will accept paper logs via Fax? We'll have to ask.] Dick was asked about the often-asked idea of 24-hour category for single Ops. He explained that this would not be well received by the small Dxpediton operator

who would be asked to terminate after a brief 24 hours, or by the DX operators who would not be able to make that contact because the DX station was shut down. Dick did note that he had never won a contest,

and such a rule change would perhaps not make much of a difference in any contest standings.

de Alan N2ALE/6



“Attitude Adjustment Hour”



“Convention Banquet”

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