



Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club

March  
2003  
Issue 370



NCCC Net  
Thursday 9PM  
3830+/-

### Reminder – Upcoming Meetings

**April 14** – Monthly NCCC Meeting at Tibco (in Palo Alto)  
– Elections

**May 2-4** – Visalia Contest Dinner, organized by K2KW,  
along with NCCC Hospitality Suite  
<http://www.qsl.net/visalia2002/>

**July 19** – Joint NCCC MLDXCC Meeting in the Sierra  
Foothills – details to follow in subsequent issues of the JUG

### NCCC Officers

President: Dave Curtis, N6NZ [n6nz@arrl.net](mailto:n6nz@arrl.net)  
VP/CC: Bill Haddon, N6ZFO [n6zfo@arrl.net](mailto:n6zfo@arrl.net)  
Sec/Treas: Rob Brownstein, K6RB [k6rb@arrl.net](mailto:k6rb@arrl.net)  
Webmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK [w0yk@arrl.net](mailto:w0yk@arrl.net)  
Directors: Rick Tavan, N6XI [n6xi@arrl.net](mailto:n6xi@arrl.net)  
John Fore, W6LD [jfore@wsgr.com](mailto:jfore@wsgr.com)  
Mike Shapiro, WA6O [wa6o@qsl.net](mailto:wa6o@qsl.net)  
Ken Anderson, K6TA [k6ta@arrl.net](mailto:k6ta@arrl.net)  
JUG Editor: Diana Henneuse, [dhenneuse@yahoo.com](mailto:dhenneuse@yahoo.com)

### Dave’s Waves



We opened the February meeting on a somber note last month. Two of our members passed away within a few days of each other, which was quite a shock to us all. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, was a founding member of the NCCC, the first editor of the JUG, and of course was well known as the ARRL Pacific Division Director. See page 2 for a tribute to Jim from our members.

Sandy Lynch, W7BX, was a Sunnyvale native, but had been living outside the Bay Area for many years. After returning from Japan, he settled in Portland. He maintained his NCCC membership throughout and was an active contester.

### In this Issue:

- Dave’s Waves – N6NZ – page 1
- Tribute to Jim Maxwell, W6CF – page 2
- CW: Accuracy and Courtesy Transcends Speed – page 3
- The NCCC Roving Reporter – page 4
- New Year’s Resolution – page 5
- Mar/Apr/May Contest Calendar – page 7
- 2002 CQP Results – Special Insert

Thank you to all the members who signed JIM in the February NCJ Sprints in memory of W6CF. I can’t think of a more fitting way to honor a long-time contester and NCCC founder. Our friends up North were doing the same for Sandy.

F

The February program was outstanding, and I’m glad I had the chance to attend. W0YK put together a highly informative panel discussion comparing 5 different contest-logging programs. The panel all made entertaining and educational

presentations, did straight-shooting Q&A, and everyone attending learned a great deal. A poll asking “Who plans to try a different logging program after tonight?” caused over half the attendees to raise a hand.

Someone (sorry, I don’t know who) requested that the program be video taped. So, at the last minute, I said to myself: “Self, what the heck, go for it!” and threw a video camera and a couple of wireless mics in a bag. I now have two hours of raw video, and am scheming about various final formats. This seems like a good excuse for learning how to put video clips onto a computer CD. Watch this space.

Be sure to keep sending fresh stories and photos to our new JUG editor, Diana Henneuse. Thanks to Kenny, K2KW, for scouting a great East Bay location. Nice private room, low priced, tasty menu, and close to the freeway. Kenny has discovered the secret to having a meeting close to home. Thanks to Bill, N6ZFO, for running the meeting – my planned absence got rescheduled so it was pleasantly relaxing to have a night off to simply enjoy the program.

### **WPX is Here!**

Mark your calendar now for **March 29-30** if you have not already done so. That is WPX sideband. The NCCC traditionally does well in WPX, and we would sure like to win it again this year. WPX is a really fun contest, and with 36 hours max for SO’s it is highly civilized.

The CW weekend is **May 24-25**.

There’s still time to plan a trip to an exotic location for this one. If you’ve never done a rent-a-shack style DX-pedition, you will be surprised at how easy it is once you try it. I’ve only done one, but it was a blast! Warning: you can really get hooked on this kind of thing.

As always, your input and feedback are welcome at [n6nz@arrl.net](mailto:n6nz@arrl.net).

73, Dave Curtis, N6NZ

### **Tribute to Jim Maxwell, W6CF**

As many of you know, Jim Maxwell passed away on February 6. He was 69 years old. Sadly, Jim was just six days shy of his 70th birthday. Many members of the NCCC had wonderful comments to share about their memories with Jim. The following provides a glimpse into the man who touched so many lives and changed the course of amateur radio.

“He was one of the finest people in this hobby, without question,” said Garry Shapiro, NI6T. “His intelligence, wit, wisdom and commitment to amateur radio and, particularly, his willingness to give of himself marked him as a unique and unforgettable personality.”

Dave Curtis, N6NZ, described Jim in this way: “One of the tall trees of the forest has fallen.”

“I have known Jim for many years, and I shall deeply miss him,” said Al Burnham, K6RIM. “Of all the folks I have met in my 45 years of hamming, Jim was one of my all-time favorites: a really good guy, a gentleman, and - as we all know - totally and selflessly devoted to our beloved hobby.”

And Bob Wilson, N6TV, provided the following fitting limerick:

“There once was a man named Jim  
Maxwell,  
He had wit and charm, knew his facts  
well.  
Now the N-triple-C  
Must say seventy-three.  
Rest in Peace, good man Jim, fare thee  
well.

## **CW: Accuracy and Courtesy Transcends Speed**

I was licensed in 1960 and, after nearly 30 years, went QRT in 1990. I returned to the air about a year ago. During the 12 years I was QRT, much had changed in ham radio. Particularly noticeable to me was the reduced requirement relating to CW skills and operating practices. And I also observed that most of us, myself included, are now 'appliance' operators – something I looked upon with disdain in past decades.

Despite operating continuously on HF for nearly 30 years, I had never participated in a single contest! Rather my main interests were HF CW and SSB rag chewing and experimenting with homebrew electronic devices, kits etc. I also was somewhat active on 220 MHz FM mobile. Now, after being QRT for nearly 12 years, I discovered I had gotten rusty regarding CW. However, before figuring out how to get my speed back up to a respectable level, I had to clean the oxidation off the contacts on my trusty Vibroplex keyer, which had been in that attic for 12 years.

In searching for possible CW QSOs, I occasionally ran across someone calling CQ FISTS. Not knowing what FISTS was, I used the Internet search engines to locate the [www.FISTS.org](http://www.FISTS.org) web site. There I learned that the FISTS organization was founded in 1987 by Geo Longden, G3ZQS.

FISTS is headquartered in Darwen, England and has a membership of nearly ten thousand from more than 50 countries worldwide. Also, on the web site is the best book I've ever seen regarding tips for building one's CW speed - "The Art & Skill of Radio Telegraphy" by William G. Pierpont, NOHFF. In addition, I learned that FISTS members share three simple and worthwhile goals:

- To further the use of CW on the amateur bands.
- To encourage newcomers to the CW mode.
- To engender friendship within the membership.

It seemed like my kind of organization so I applied for membership. Within a few days, I received my member ID number. It wasn't long before I started responding to those CQ FISTS calls and exchanging member numbers with other FISTS members. And, concurrently, my CW speed quickly returned to more than 20 wpm.

But then another change occurred because of FISTS. I was reading the FISTS member newsletter and found an item that encouraged me to join in the next FISTS Sprint. Contesting! Never before had I considered it interesting. I had always thought it was just a bunch of rude guys who hogged the bands on weekends. But, if FISTS was sponsoring a contest, I decided to find out what it was all about. So, I 'dropped in' on the next FISTS sprint and, as they say, the rest is history. It wasn't long before I joined the NCCC and became hooked on additional contests.

FISTS sprints are fun, probably because of the courtesy and friendliness of the participants. Some participants are just getting up to speed, and it was clear that the FISTS participants always adjusted to the slower speed. And everyone was willing to repeat the exchange until it was copied correctly. After all, the FISTS motto is "ACCURACY TRANSCENDS SPEED."

Yes, not all FISTS members are mature, knowledgeable coaches and mentors. In fact, many FISTS members are just getting into CW so not only is their speed slow, but their operating skill may be lacking as well. Some are just becoming aware of the difference

between “K” and “KN”. Others have yet to become aware of the CW beacon frequencies. Some are on CW “training wheels.” But, in an age when CW seems to be declining, the existence of an organization like FISTS is welcome.

Joining and participating in FISTS is one way for seasoned CW contesters to pass along their skills to others. And, it seems to me, if interest in HF CW in general is on the decline, it’s likely that interest in HF CW contesting can’t be far behind. So, it seems like participation in FISTS Sprints and the FISTS coaching/mentoring program is a small thing CW aficionados, especially CW contesters, can do to assist in preserving our past time.

I credit FISTS with re-energizing and improving my CW in general and with getting myself into CW contesting. I credit NCCC with picking things up from there. For more information, check out: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

73 de Jim WA6PX FISTS #8802

## **The NCCC Roving Reporter Bill Haddon, N6ZFO**

Greetings. After an absence of what may seem to some like many years – one of the NCCC Roving Reporter’s so-called permanent retirements – compelling events, too amazing to disregard, have once again revived the so-called talents of this erstwhile NCCC author.

Before proceeding with this month’s startling revelation, this Roving Reporter wishes to clarify, for the benefit of future JUG historians, what many of you may have figured out already, namely that the NCCC Roving Reporter and the JUG Roving Reporter of previous issues should not be confused in any way – these two entities being totally separate and unrelated – but both features of this

famous and enduring rag. Now for the shocking news, herein to be dutifully reported . . .

## **NCCC Thursday Night 3830 Net Changes Venue**

After many years of meeting on Thursday nights at the famed (or defamed) 3830 frequency, the BOD has just announced that the Thursday 3830 Contest Net is relocating to a new, off-the-air location, depicted in the dim and barely discernable photograph below, secretly obtained by an NCCC member.

Is it remotely possible that this new 3830 Net location is, in reality, an actual BAR? Nothing could be closer to the truth: Look carefully at this dimly lit image. You may see the NCCC BOD members emerging from this here-to-for secret ~~drinking~~ contesting location.

Now, you ask, why would the NCCC gang decide to hold contest discussions and practice events in a bar? While this does indeed seem like a pretty good idea, the real truth is more amazing than this Roving Reporter would ever have believed and he encourages you, the loyal members, apparently with much time on your hands to waste, to read on.



### **Does New Contesting Method Actually Work?**

With SS Phone now in the distant past, the club should now attempt to answer the question: How *many* NCCC members have adopted this important new radio contesting technique? The Roving Reporter respectfully suggests that what is needed here is, you guessed it, a *straw poll* of the membership. With that, the RR had better sign off permanently, before he is ejected from the pages of this fine journal forever.

### **President Addresses Straw Technique Problem**

Our esteemed club president, Dave, N6NZ wishing as always to be as helpful to club members as possible, immediately posted to the BOD-plus reflector that he has in hand, a catalog of portable urinals, an important accessory to the N6BV contesting technique. For further discussion of this topic, the reader is hereby referred to an earlier NCCC Roving Reporter Article "Interview with Famous North Bay Contester, K6UM" in the May 2002 JUG regarding the previous and again upcoming WPeeX contest.

### **Are Your NCCC Dues Delinquent?**

About 50 members are only paid up through 30 June 2002. You can find out the status of your dues payment by checking the online roster at: [www.nccc.cc/members/pdf/roster.pdf](http://www.nccc.cc/members/pdf/roster.pdf) using the username/password currently in use. (If you have forgotten the username/password, drop an email to [w0yk@arri.net](mailto:w0yk@arri.net).) The online Roster is updated monthly, so you can always check the status of your dues.

We encourage members to drop their subscription to the paper JUG and download it online from the NCCC web site where past JUGs are also archived

indefinitely. If you want a paper copy, it can be printed locally. The cost savings from decreased JUG mailings are, in part, being applied to financial support of the hosting facility for [www.nccc.cc](http://www.nccc.cc), [www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org), the NCCC email reflector/archive and the NCCC BOD email reflectors. The NCCC communication channel is being transitioned and expanded from the paper JUG of the past to these online communication channels.

Not to be confused with the club's financial support of contesting.com for the NCCC online services, are the many other contesting.com services available to all Hams ... email reflectors for 3830/Tower-Talk/contest-logging-software/etc., contest articles and station/antenna-farm pictures, handy links, eHam, etc. Each of us should consider an annual financial donation to [contestng.com/eHam](http://contestng.com/eHam) for the great services we receive beyond the NCCC online services.

In November 2002, the paper JUG was stopped being printed and mailed to delinquent members and in February 2003, delinquent members were dropped from the NCCC email reflector. These actions are not intended to be punitive, but rather to serve as an additional reminder about delinquent dues.

Based on feedback from members, an enhanced "dues due" reminder system is being implemented in the future that hopefully will make it easier for everyone to respond to.

### **New Year's Resolution Rob Brownstein, K6RB**

Most of you know me as a reasonably active contester. Only a few know that I also fix up old 1950s vintage transmitters and receivers and put them back on the air. One weekend, I might be manically running mults, and the next

I'm laid back in my chair having an old buzzard AM QSO on 10 meters.



I also do a lot of casual CW rag chewing on 160 through 10 using my Globe King 500 and 75A-4. As a result, I'm often asked what my ham interests are, and when I mention contesting, the more polite OMs say they have no interest; the more vocal lament about the number of contests, the number of contesters, and the loss of spectrum almost every weekend. Some go even further, complaining about contesters that break up their QSOs by calling "CQ contest" without first asking if the frequency is in use.

I always feel a little bit put on the spot by such comments because I feel like they are expecting me to say "it ain't so," or "mea culpa." But, the truth is, there are a lot of contests, and during the more popular, the HF bands can be wall-to-wall contesters. In my opinion, contesters tend to be the more considerate operators, but one bad experience can easily sour someone's opinion of us all.

In a recent contest, I asked if the frequency was in use, twice, and hearing no response, began calling "CQ." A station called me and said I was just up from a net frequency and causing some adjacent-signal interference. He asked me politely if I might QSY, and I said

"no problem," and did. That guy may never tell anyone he ran into an accommodating tester, but I bet if I told him to go get stuffed, he would have told a dozen operators about what a nuisance testers are.

I'm not worried about a regulatory backlash against contesting, because I think we have equal right to spectrum with those casual operators that want to commiserate about the weather, the state of the economy, or their spouse's gall-bladder surgery. But I would feel better if I got fewer negative comments about testers.

We could argue that contests are only weekend affairs, and everyone else has full access to the bands all the rest of the time. But, I know, I don't have much time for radio during the week – especially during the daylight hours. The bands get most crowded on the weekends, and that's when the contests are scheduled, too.

So, my 2003 resolution is to try my best to minimize negative feelings about contesting and testers by being as polite and accommodating as I can. I won't give up my rights in the process, though. If someone says, "you're on our net frequency and the net starts in five minutes," I will politely explain that no station, or net, has a right to any frequency.

But if it starts getting contentious, I won't argue the point; I'll QSY. The time wasted arguing is time not spent building up my score. I'm hoping that if we all try to be sensitive to tester and non-tester communications motivations, we'll increase the odds of a positive rather than negative encounter, and add to what should be a harmonious environment.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Contest Calendar for Mar/Apr/May 2003</b>					
2	<i>Compiled by N6ZFO, Vp/Cc</i>					
3						
4	Special NCCC Club contests in red.					
5	Events that may be of particular NCCC interest in <b>bold</b> .					
6	<b>Note:</b> For additional special interest contests in February,					
7	consult <a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html</a>					
8	or <a href="http://www2.arrl.org/contests/months/mar.html">www2.arrl.org/contests/months/mar.html</a> (Careful -- Many Errors)					
9	Rules Links: Good example: <a href="http://www.yccc.org/Links/Rules.htm">www.yccc.org/Links/Rules.htm</a>					
10	State/Prov. QSO Parties in March/Apr: WI, VA, MT, OK, <b>FL</b> , MO, <b>MI</b> , ON(VE3), NE					
11						
12						
13	<b>HF Contests --March 2003</b>					
14	<b>ARRL Intl. DX, SSB</b>	<b>0000Z</b>	<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>2400Z</b>	<b>Mar 2</b>	<b><a href="http://www2.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/intldx.html">www2.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/intldx.html</a></b>
15	Elecraft K2 QSO Party 1500Z	1500Z	Mar 8	1500Z	Mar 9	<a href="http://www.elecraft.com">www.elecraft.com</a> or contact Jerry, k6iii@juno.com
16	--					(Don't have to use Elecraft rig in QSO Party)
17	<b>NCJ RTTY Sprint</b>	<b>0000Z</b>	<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>0400Z</b>	<b>Mar 9</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a></b>
18	WI QSO Party	1800Z	Mar 9	0100Z	Mar 10	<a href="http://www.warac.org">www.warac.org</a>
19	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 17	<a href="http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk">www.bartg.demon.co.uk</a>
20	Russian DX (CW and SSB)	1200Z	Mar 15	1200Z	Mar 16	<a href="http://www.rdx.org/rules.asp">www.rdx.org/rules.asp</a> (w/ Club Competition)
21	VA QSO Party	1800Z	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 17	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm">http://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm</a>
22	MT QSO Party	2300Z	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 16	Flathead ARC. No web page.
23	OK QSO Party	1300Z	Mar 22	1300Z	Mar 23	<a href="http://www.okdxa.org">www.okdxa.org</a>
24	<b>*** CQ WW SSB WPX ***</b>	<b>0000Z</b>	<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>2400Z</b>	<b>Mar 30</b>	<a href="http://home.woh.rr.com/wp/">http://home.woh.rr.com/wp/</a>
25						
26	<b>HF Contests --April 2003</b>					
27	MO QSO Party	1800Z	Apr 6	0500Z	Apr 7	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/w0ma">www.qsl.net/w0ma</a>
28		1800Z	Apr 7	2400Z	Apr 7	
29	SP DX Contest	1500Z	Apr 6	1500Z	Apr 7	<a href="http://www.sp5zcc.waw.pl/spdxc/en/index.php">http://www.sp5zcc.waw.pl/spdxc/en/index.php</a>
30	MI QSO Party	1600Z	Apr 20	0400Z	Apr 21	<a href="http://www.miqp.org/MiQP_Rules.htm">http://www.miqp.org/MiQP_Rules.htm</a>
31	Holyland DX Contest	0000Z	Apr 20	2359Z	Apr 20	<a href="http://hamradio.iarc.org/contests/holy2003rules.html">http://hamradio.iarc.org/contests/holy2003rules.html</a>
32	ON QSO Party	1800Z	Apr 20	1800Z	Apr 20	<a href="http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html">www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html</a>
33	<b>FL QSO Party</b>	<b>1600Z</b>	<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>0159Z</b>	<b>Apr 28</b>	<b><a href="http://www.qsl.net/fqp">www.qsl.net/fqp</a></b>
34		<b>1200Z</b>	<b>Apr 28</b>	<b>2159Z</b>	<b>Apr 28</b>	
35	NE QSO Party	1700Z	Apr 27	1700Z	Apr 28	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/hdxa">www.qsl.net/hdxa</a>
36						
37	<b>HF Contests --May 2003</b>					
38						
39	<b>*** CQ WW CW WPX ***</b>	<b>0000Z</b>	<b>24-Mar</b>	<b>2400Z</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<a href="http://home.woh.rr.com/wp/">http://home.woh.rr.com/wp/</a>

12 Store Buying Power!



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



E-mail for price!

ICOM IC-746PRO & ICOM IC-756PROII  
NOW BOTH WITH FREE PS125 POWER SUPPLY !  
E-MAIL or call for SPECIAL LOW PRICE DROP !!!!



YAESU FT-897 HF/VHF/UHF MULTIMODE  
PORTABLE/BASE TCVR  
Price : \$1039.95  
Coupon/special : \$25.00  
Your Final Cost : \$1014.95

YAESU FT-1000MPMKVFIELD  
100W TCVR AC/DC W BUILTIN  
PS  
Price : \$2399.95  
Coupon/special : \$525.00  
Your Final Cost : \$1874.95



**ANAHEIM, CA**  
(Near Disneyland)  
833 N. Euclid St., 92801  
(714) 533-7373  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KI2MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

**BURBANK, CA**  
2452 W. Victory Bl., 91506  
(818) 842-1786  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Eric, KA6HT, Mgr.  
Victory Blvd. at Beena Vista  
1 mi. west I-5  
burbank@hamradio.com

**OAKLAND, CA**  
2210 Livingston St., 94606  
(510) 534-5757  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.  
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp  
oakland@hamradio.com

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
5375 Kerry Villa Rd., 92123  
(619) 560-4900  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Tom, K4MK, Mgr.  
Hwy. 163 & Clearmont Mesa  
sandiego@hamradio.com

**SUNNYVALE, CA**  
510 Lawrence Exp. #102  
94085  
(408) 736-9496  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.  
So. from Hwy. 101  
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NCCC  
44 Toyon Terrace  
Danville, CA 94526

check us at:  
<http://www.cqp.org>  
<http://www.nccc.cc>  
repeaters:  
W6RGG/R 147.24+  
and 444.2 (PL107.2)

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS