



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



May
2005
Issue 396

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3853+/-

Our Next Meeting

Three Easy Steps to Remotely Access Your Station Over the Internet

A lecture and demonstration by Don Melcher, W6CZ

May 9, 2005: 6 PM shmooze, 6:30 PM dinner, elections and programs.

Location: Tied House Mountain View, 954 Villa St., Mountain View CA 94041 (650) 965-2739 See directions on our website <http://nccc.cc/meetings.html>

RSVP to **W0YK** (w0yk@msn.com) by 5pm Sunday, May 8, 2004

Light appetizers and no-host bar featuring:
Brewery-Fresh Tied House
Beers and California Wine Selections
Dinner entrées (choose one)
Traditional Fish & Chips
Grilled Beer Mustard Chicken
Pasta Primavera

Price: \$20 per person, including tax, tip, and soft drink.

NCCC Officers

President: Mike Heideman, N7MH

mike_heideman@hotmail.com

VP/CC: Kurt Andress, K7NV kurt@k7nv.com

Sec/Treas: Ed Muns, W0YK w0yk@msn.com

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Tom Berson, ND2T berson@anagram.com

Matt Thomas, WX5S mmthoma@attglobal.net

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JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com

Mike's Mic

Mike Heideman, N7MH

I first joined NCCC in late 1975, almost 30 years ago. 1975 was the first year that NCCC won the SS gavel, the first of a streak of six gavels through 1980. We've since had a streak of four gavels won between 1992 and 1995, plus four others, for a total of 14 SS gavels in the 35 year club history.

We've now won two gavels in a row and Kurt, K7NV, and I are committed to securing a third gavel in the current streak. We look forward to working with all club members to help achieve this goal through recruitment, operator and station improvements, "elmer"ing, strategizing, and mobilizing this great contest club of ours.

I've always enjoyed coming to the NCCC meetings, as a member in the 70's, and since I rejoined the club, a few years back. This is because we've had good leadership, good programs, and great attendance by our members.

If you haven't come to a meeting in a while, make an effort to come to one or more this year. We'll shuffle the regular meetings between the different corners of the Bay Area and encourage members to hold "chapter" meetings and attend meetings like the MLDXCC joint meeting.

I appreciate the strong leadership that's brought the club to where it is today and hope to continue in that tradition this year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have offered their time to help me run the club this year. Also, thanks to the outgoing officers, and the members currently serving as officers and on the Board. All of your advice and help are greatly appreciated.

KB,
-Mike, N7MH

VP/CC Report **Kurt, K7NV**

Here we go.....it's the next NCCC contest year!

I'm still trying to get myself sorted out about what it is I'm supposed to do in this position. I've received lots of help from past officers and BOD members. The premise set forth at the election meeting was to utilize volunteers in the club to help the Pres and VP organize various aspects of their responsibilities to make it more manageable. That is the only way someone "out of the area" such as myself can attempt to pull this gig off. So, I will be relying on those of you who can spend some time assisting me with the contest agenda we set for the next year.

What is the next years contest agenda?

So far, being a NCCC member for me has meant getting on for as many contests as possible, putting out my best efforts possible and having fun learning how to become a more capable tester! The learning how to do it better has been the most fun and came from being in there doing it often.

So, my number one goal as VP/CC is to encourage and try to provide opportunities for all of you to do the same!

The rest of the plan for focus contests and related activities is being formulated, and I hope to be able to have this sorted out by the next JUG.

Here are some of my thoughts and observations. Comments are always welcome.

- 1) The CQP is a premier event for the Club and we certainly should continue to put on the best State QSO Party and try to expand activity in it. Putting all the Counties on and promoting CQP out of state are always key ingredients.
- 2) We are capable of establishing another NCCC SS dynasty, even thru the low years of the Solar Cycle. We will need to modify strategies a bit and continue the unique efforts of the past two years to pull this off. A preliminary analysis of the last solar minimum shows that our activity level dropped off dramatically and resulted in other clubs winning the Gavel. We will need to prevent that from happening again.
- 3) The NCCC does well in the Sprints and NAQP contests. These are fun relatively short contests that most members should be able to fit into their schedules. They are also excellent opportunities for operating skill development.
- 4) The RTTY Roundup was a success last year. We should promote this contest again if the stations that operate this mode are still motivated.
- 5) The DX contests are quite popular with most of us. It is difficult to mount efforts that can accumulate winning scores, unless we have large expedition activity. If we decide not to mount big Club efforts in these contests we might consider promoting a little local competition inside the club.
- 6) There is more than a passive interest in the Club for more mentoring and assistance with station and operating skill improvements. We are talking about ideas to implement this and I would like to hear from members

who A) would like to receive assistance and B) would be willing to provide assistance. Making this a year long activity seems more valuable to the Club than doing it just for one contest.

- 7) There may be many good stations vacant for many of the contests. We might want to try to expand our program for matching up available stations willing to host with operators wanting to compete to all the contests, not just for SS. This will allow these partnerships to be more productive when the big efforts, like SS occur.

The next big contest is the WPX CW, May 28 & 29. This is a great contest with good activity worldwide, and you get Monday off to recover!. It has a very challenging format with limited operating time and QSO point structure, making it tough to figure out how to maximize score. It is also a great SO2R practice session because there should be more than one band open most of the time and you can work both stateside and DX stations.

I look forward to another fun year of contesting and seeing the NCCC "K" some "B"!

Kurt, K7NV

2005 Elections

Rob Brownstein, K6RB

At our April 18th meeting, we had a unique situation. In previous years, NCCC had always had a slate of officers to be presented at the election meeting. Not for want of trying, the 2004-2005 officers were unable to pull together a slate of candidates. So, in what may have been another first for NCCC, we had nominations from the floor.

But, before the process began, Tom, ND2T, the outgoing president, did a good job of describing the responsibilities of the office. In addition, other members talked about more delegation of tasks so that no one would be unduly burdened.

With the stage thus set, we were able to nominate and elect a great team of new officers. Mike Heideman, N7MH, who put the greatest number of individual points in our team's SS column last year, was elected as incoming president. Tom, ND2T, graciously offered to continue handling the meeting venues and program selections.

The newly elected VP/CC is Kurt Andress, K7NV, a diehard contester, and one of our few members from across the CA/NV state line. Again, because Kurt is geographically disadvantaged with regard to regular meeting attendance, several members offered to help him handle the many chores of VP/CC.

Our new secretary/treasurer is Ed Muns, W0YK, who has held that post a few times in the past. He credits the good job done by Mark, K6UFO, in setting up our accounting in QuickBooks as a great inducement to do this job once more.

The incoming board of directors is an eclectic group. We have Matt Thomas, WX5S; Jeff Stai, WK6I; Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ; and outgoing president, Tom, ND2T. This year we have also added a new position. Rusty Epps was named "Director Emeritus." This new board represents members from the Bay Area, points north east, and the Santa Cruz Mountains.

With this group of new officers and directors, NCCC is off to a great start in contest year 2005/2006.

NCCC is a club whose members are scattered around the SF Bay Peninsula, southern Marin County, the East Bay, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley. Our monthly meetings give us an opportunity to socialize, but how did we ever achieve cohesion in the years before we had our reflector? And, while you ponder that question, Marc, W6ZZZ, will describe ways of using the reflector to achieve organizational efficiency. Thank you, Marc.

Getting the Most Value from the NCCC Email Reflector (or how to control how much email you receive)

By: Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ

The NCCC Email Reflector is a tremendous resource for NCCC members. It is filled with contesting information/questions/answers and NCCC news.

It is what I would call a “high volume” reflector, which is both “good” and “bad”. “Good” because you can get your questions answered very quickly (and answered correctly). “Bad” because there can be a lot of traffic to read each and every day. But you can limit or eliminate your NCCC reflector email traffic by using ideas #2 and #3 below.

There are three different ways you can receive the NCCC reflector postings. You can choose which way fits your “style” of timeliness of data versus your incoming email volume.

1. **Lots of individual emails** – each time something is posted to the NCCC reflector, an email is immediately sent (“reflected”) to your account. This way you always have the latest information as soon as possible. Current volume is about 8-10 emails per day.
2. **One digest email** – in the digest mode instead of individual emails, all the emails are compiled into a single digest that is emailed to you once a day. Thus, the data you receive is a little less timely and may be up to 24 hours old. The good news is that you only receive one email per day.
3. **Never (web access)** – instead of receiving any emails, you can go to the NCCC Reflector Archives web page, and view the items there. Thus, you control when you spend time reading the reflector news; it could be once an hour, once a day, or once a week.

Purpose

The stated purpose of the NCCC reflector:

“This is a closed email reflector for use by members of the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC). Its purpose is to facilitate effective communication among club members about contesting, contest results, club business, and generally any contest-related topics. For sale and want "ads" are appropriate if related to contesting and likely of interest to at least some of the club membership.”

Subscribing to the Reflector

When you join NCCC you are automatically signed up for the NCCC email reflector. If you are not subscribed please contact Ed W0YK.

Accessing Your Settings

To access your settings on the NCCC reflector you will have to know our account name and password.

Got to the following link:

<http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/nccc>

To unsubscribe from NCCC, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options enter your subscription email address and click on the “Unsubscribe or edit options” button:

<input type="text"/>	Unsubscribe or edit options
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You will then go to a web page where you can enter your password to make changes or have your password emailed to you.

Digest Mode

The easiest way to reduce the number of NCCC emails filling your mailbox is to switch to the “digest” mode. In the digest mode you will receive one email a day containing all the messages for the last 24 hours. The digest email arrives around 9 AM Pacific time.

When posting time-critical information to the NCCC reflector, keep in mind that some people use the digest mode. Thus, if you post your article at 10 AM Thursday the earliest the digest-mode people will see it is 9 AM Friday.

Each digest email has a little “table of contents” at the front. This allows you to decide if there is anything in this entire digest that you are interested in scrolling down and reading. Here is an example:

Thursday, March 17, 2005 9:00 AM
NCCC Digest, Vol 27, Issue 28

Today's Topics:

1. Re: SS CW Scores - Thanks to our HMO's (Mark Aaker K6UFO)
2. Re: SS CW Scores - Thanks to our HMO's (Charles K. Epps)
3. Re: SS CW Scores - Thanks to our HMO's (Garry Shapiro)
4. contest dinner reservation form online (Jeff Stai)
5. Software needed (Jack/AE7DX)
6. Re: contest dinner reservation form online (Jeff Stai)

To set the digest mode, go to your settings and check the Set Digest Mode to “on”.

Set Digest Mode

If you turn digest mode on, you'll get posts bundled together (usually one per day but possibly more on busy lists), instead of singly when they're sent. If digest mode is changed from on to off, you may receive one last digest.

<input type="radio"/>	Off
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	On

Turning Off the Email (or Web access)

You can turn off all email from the reflector (individual emails or digest mode), but still access it when you want from the web page archives. Go to your settings and set Mail Delivery to “disabled”.

Mail delivery Set this option to <i>Enabled</i> to receive messages posted to this mailing list. Set it to <i>Disabled</i> if you want to stay subscribed, but don't want mail delivered to you for a while (e.g. you're going on vacation). If you disable mail delivery, don't forget to re-enable it when you come back; it will not be automatically re-enabled.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Enabled <input type="radio"/> Disabled <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Set globally</i>
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After you disable Mail Delivery, you can still go to the web and read the NCCC postings via the Archive feature for the current month, as shown below.

Archives

You can view the messages from any month/year by going to the archives at <http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/private/nccc/>, and choosing from a table of archive months. First, you will have to log in.

NCCC Private Archives Authentication	
Email address:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Let me in..."/>	

You are then presented with a table of archives. Just click on the “Date” link to see any one-month’s worth of postings sorted by date.

Archive	View by:	Downloadable version
March 2005:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 85 KB]
February 2005:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 217 KB]
January 2005:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 216 KB]

The monthly set of postings is shown to you in a list you can select from:

Starting: Tue Mar 1 01:26:16 EST 2005

Ending: Thu Mar 17 23:54:17 EST 2005

Messages: 214

- [\[NCCC\] CQ160 SSB N6RO Single Op HP](#) Ken Keeler
- [\[NCCC\] WC6H available for ARRL SSB, 20m](#) Ken Keeler
- [\[NCCC\] #2: Our Next Meeting, Monday March 14, Mountain View, Annual Awards!](#) Mark Aaker K6UFO
- etc...

Just click on the message title to read the individual message.

Setting Your "Name"

You can change the name that all your posts are tagged with. Perhaps, add your call sign to the "Your name (optional)" box.

You can also optionally set or change your real name (i.e. *John Smith*).

If you want to make the membership changes for all the lists that you are subscribed to at contesting.com, turn on the *Change globally* check box.

New address:	<input type="text"/>	Your name (optional):	<input type="text" value="Marc Ziegler,"/>
Again to confirm:	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="button" value="Change My Address and Name"/>			

Don't forget the CQ WPX CW contest (see VP/CC column).

-- CL --

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