



Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club



April  
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Issue 467

NCCC Net  
Thursday 8 PM  
3610+/-

*Guests are always welcome at the NCCC! Please join us.*

**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

## Program

### 1. Show 'N Tell: Shack Accessories

This month we invite all attendees to bring their favorite shack accessories (electronic or otherwise, homebrew or not) and to briefly discuss why these items are important to their operation.

### 2. CQWW SSB Recap

### 3. Annual Elections

**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011

**Time:** 6:00pm schmooz, 7:00pm dinner, 7:30pm program

**Location:** Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 (408) 243-0434

**Dinner:** Purchase your dinner in the cafeteria line and take your tray to the meeting room in the rear.

#### NCCC Officers

President: Jack Brindle, W6FB, [jackbrindle@earthlink.net](mailto:jackbrindle@earthlink.net)

VP/CC: Chris Tate, N6WM, [ctate@ewnetinc.com](mailto:ctate@ewnetinc.com)

Sec/Treas.: Barry Pfeil, K6RM, [barrypfeil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barrypfeil@sbcglobal.net)

#### Directors

Past President: Jack morgan, KF6T, [jackmorgan.usa@gmail.com](mailto:jackmorgan.usa@gmail.com)

Director: Alan Maenchen, AD6E, [ad6e@arrl.net](mailto:ad6e@arrl.net)

Director: Bob Wolbert, K6XX, [k6xx@ihwy.com](mailto:k6xx@ihwy.com)

Director: Hank Garretson, W6SX, [w6sx@arrl.net](mailto:w6sx@arrl.net)

Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT, [w6oat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w6oat@sbcglobal.net)

**Webmaster:** John Miller, [John Miller, K6MM](mailto:John.Miller.K6MM)

**JUG Editor:** Rob Brownstein, [k6rb@baymoon.com](mailto:k6rb@baymoon.com)



#### FB's Message

By Jack Brindle, W6FB

We have rounded the far corner in this year's contest season. With but one major contest remaining on the calendar (WPX CW) the goal line is in sight!

Now it is time to clean up some items and start getting prepared for next season.

#### Awards

The March awards banquet provided a great venue for highlighting our members who stood out in this year's operations. While CQP and Sweepstakes awards provided much of the activity, we were privileged to honor numerous members whose commitment to contesting has enabled them to achieve

great things. Among them are KE1BYL (now W6NN) who has really figured things out in a hurry, starting from her first license to being a major competitor in about a year. For that, we honored Anna with the Rookie of the Year award. Outstanding effort, Anna!

We also have members whose efforts over several years need to be honored. We had two such members who received awards this year. The Contest of the Year was awarded to N6ZFO for his efforts during the year (just look at that Sweepstakes score - top low-power in the club) as well as the consistent work he has put in for the NS and NS Ladder.

The NS Ladder was Bill's brain child, and his work with N6RO have built the NS and NS Ladder into a nationally, if not internationally, recognized competition. Way to go, Bill. Bill will receive his award at a ceremony in Visalia. The other person who I felt needed to be recognized for his efforts in promoting ham radio and contesting not just in the NCCC, but within ARRL as well is W6RGG. Bob has worked tirelessly over many years to help build and support NCCC. My ARRL contacts have relayed the outstanding work Bob had done on the ARRL board as well. For his efforts, I was especially pleased to give Bob this year's President's Award. Thanks a bunch for all your work, Bob!

There were several more honorees who received awards at the March meeting who have done quite a lot to promote the club and to make the club work very well. All of you very much appreciated, and all deserved their awards. Thanks folks! You can check out the entire award presentation at the meeting page on the NCCC web page.

### **Visalia**

If you haven't registered for the International DX Convention in Visalia (April 15-17), hurry and do so! This major event is being led by our own K6TD and K6MM who, along with their great support workers, are doing an excellent job in setting things up. This event includes opportunities to learn great contesting and DXing techniques from the top contesters and DXers in the world.

The NCCC will once again have a booth in Visalia. We will need to make sure the booth is manned at all times the exhibition area is open. The times are from 1-5pm on Friday and 8am-5pm on Saturday. We will need at least two people at the booth at all times, besides the multitude that will naturally congregate around the tables. Please contact W6FB to help out in this regard.

### **April Meeting**

As promised, the April meeting will provide the opportunity to show off the various gadgets, equipment and tools that you use in your own contest shack. Whether it might be

a cool SO2R box, antenna selector, computer interface, or something else, here is your chance to show it off and let us know how indispensable it is. The devices do not have to be homebrew, just important to your operation.

We will also be holding the annual elections at the meeting. The board will present a slate of officers for nomination, but if you feel someone else should serve for a position (maybe you!), then please come and let your views be heard! See you at the meeting.

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## **VP/CC**

Nothing for this month

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## **From the editor...**

### **It's been a very gratifying eight years**

One of the columnists I enjoyed reading over the years is Bob Herbert who wrote for the New York Times. A week or so ago, I saw his column and was saddened to read that it would be his last. He didn't say why it would be his last, but we all know that print media is having its huge share of difficulties in the face of online news and advertisement. So, it's possible Bob was let go by the New York Times, or Bob decided he'd had enough of that and wanted to do something else. The point is, nothing is forever.

I first started as JUG editor with the October 2003 issue. The person who had been editing the newsletter had to stop for personal reasons, and I stepped in as a quick substitute. That has lasted nearly eight years and 91 issues. And, for the most part, I've loved every minute of it. I want to thank Ed Muns for his support for several of those years as my point of contact for getting the newsletter posted on the Website. I also want to thank John Miller for being equally as supportive once Ed moved on from his Webmaster role.

While I'm thanking people, I'd like to thank the presidents and VP/CCs who were diligent about getting their column content to me each and every month. You made a sometimes difficult job that much easier. And, again, I'd like to thank John Miller who as president would give me tons of content, every month.

I'd also like to thank Rusty and John Miller for all the hard work they did recovering nearly all the JUGs ever written and printed, and archiving them for posterity. You guys are awesome. If you take the time to go back along memory lane, and read those JUGs, you'll have more than a few chuckles. But, you'll also notice how much the newsletter has changed and grown over the years.

I know you're thinking, now, he's going somewhere with all this. And, you're right. I am resigning my role as JUG head. I am 64 years old, working full time, doing a lot of travel, and commuting 80 miles a day. I tried juggling all those balls, but I realized as the stress level went up that something had to go. So, editing the JUG was it.

Remember, back when NCCC was first conceived, there was no Internet, there was no email, and there were no laptops. To keep everyone in sync with meeting dates and times and other club information, the JUG was written, printed, folded, addressed, stamped, and placed in a mailbox. Like the first Ford Model T, the JUG type was available in a choice of color – so long as you chose black.

Nowadays, we have the Web, email, reflectors, and all kinds of ways to stay in touch and disseminate information. Much of the benefit of a newsletter can be contained within a dynamic Website. In fact, all our members can easily gather meeting dates and times, and other information by accessing the NCCC Website once a month and subscribing to the reflector. To some extent, then, the JUG is really an anachronism. We could move the president's bully pulpit and VP/CC column to the Website and be done with it. But, that would not change the requirement for those two officers to refresh their content monthly.

My feeling is that NCCC is at a crossroad. If no one steps up to take on the JUG editorship, we could simply add a president's page and VP/CC page to the Website. As long as that is all that's included in the newsletter that should be okay. The newsletter has been the president's message, the VP/CC column, and whatever content others had provided. There have been some good technical articles by members such as K6MM and K6XX. In the beginning, when I first started editing the JUG, I tried to visit some noteworthy stations and write up stories about them. But, by and large, the JUG has been the president's message and the VP/CC column.

Perhaps if I had more time on my hands, I could stir up some creative juices and do more things that make the JUG more fun to read. But, in the end, the editor cannot write all or most of the content. That means others have to provide that content. And, that simply has not been happening.

We are about to elect a new slate of officers and directors. This is an opportune time for someone to step into my shoes, or for the club to decide that the JUG, like so many other print media, has served its purpose and can more efficiently be supplanted by using the Webpage and reflector.

I've enjoyed my editorship but my zeal, these days, is waning. Maybe it is age, being oversubscribed, or just being jaded. In any case, I thank you all for your kind words over the years, your inputs, photos, and suggestions.

73,

Rob K6RB

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