



Publication of the Northern California Contest Club



Issue 496
September 2013

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

Monday, September 9th, 2013

Time:

6:00pm Schmooz, 6:30pm Dinner, 7:00pm Program

Location:

Chevy's, 979-A Edgewater Blvd, Foster City, CA, 94404 phone: 650-572-8441

Program:

1. CQP: Lets kickoff the 2013-14 contest season NCCC style!
2. Checkpoint
3. County Activation status
4. 2013 objective
5. And more!

To register:

Please RSVP to Tom nccc.treasurer@gmail.com



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Northern California Contest Club



Excellence in Amateur Radio Contesting



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

Officers:

President	Alan Eshleman	K6SRZ	doctore@well.com	Penngrove CA
Vice President /Contest Chair	Alan Maenchen	AD6E	ad6e@arrl.net	San Jose, CA
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Director	Steve Dyer	W1SRD	w1srd@arrl.net	Redwood City CA
Director	Jim Brown	K9YC	k9yc@arrl.net	Santa Cruz CA

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Thursday Night Contesting:

NCCC—Sprint	Ken Keeler	N6RO	kenkeeler@jazznut.com
NS Ladder	Bill Haddon	N6ZFO	haddon.bill@gmail.com
Slow NS (SNS)	Chris Tate	N6WM	ctate@ewnetinc.com

NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM
 Freq: 3.610 +/-

NCCC

Monthly meetings
 take place on the
 second Monday of
 each month !

Details in May JUG

NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, you must fill out an [application for membership](#), which will be read and voted upon at the next monthly meeting. ([PDF application form](#))

To join, you must reside within [club territory](#) which is defined as the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).

From the President...



President's Report for September

I don't have a lot to say this month, having taken a little time away from ham radio to smell some different roses. I spent a week up along the Oregon Coast and yesterday I checked out the bicycle lane on the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge [photo]. In a few hours I'll get back into contest mode with the NA sprint. It is currently 101 degrees F. outside and 90 degrees in the shack.

It is less than a month until CQP and soon after the Fall and Winter contesting season will be upon us. A big focus for the club this year is to retake our unlimited club championship in Sweepstakes. There are a number of ways to maximize our Sweepstakes score, but perhaps the most important is to get lots of logs submitted with Northern California Contest Club in the Cabrillo header. I spent a few evenings doing the Sweepstakes phone tree and quite frankly I'm a little worried.



I'm worried because too many of the folks I talked with asked "when is Sweepstakes?"

I'm also worried because others said they'd be on, but "only for CW".

And I'm worried because some thought they'd be on "if there wasn't something else happening."

Now I know full well how difficult it can be to balance work and family life against an activity that can take up a full weekend, can keep you up late, and can be glacially slow on the Sunday of each Sweepstakes weekend. But those are exactly the problems to be overcome to do well in the contest. Those of you who are contemplating a full-bore effort on both weekends don't need any further prompting from me.

But for those of you sitting on the fence or contemplating a less than full time effort, let me suggest:

- That you go to the calendar right now and circle the Sweepstakes dates. After you've done that, make a point of telling your wife, husband, children or other significant others that you have something planned for that weekend. You'll need to repeat this frequently—trust me!
- If you can't do a full time effort, consider getting on for the Sunday of each Sweepstakes weekend. You'll be "fresh meat" and this will help your rate.
- Yes, CW is more fun than phone for lots of us, but phone also generates higher rates and higher scores than CW. NCCC has too often had the highest scores for CW, but lost in the overall standings when the phone scores from our rival—the Potomac Valley Radio Club—have come in. Take some time to find that dusty microphone with the spider webs on the cord. Try plugging it in. Get on for SSB Sweepstakes for as long as your ears can stand it and submit your log.

There are NCCC members ready, willing, and able to help you with any technical issues that might interfere with your getting on the air. There are also some multiop stations that can use your help if you don't have a station of your own.

There are damn few radiosport events that have a level playing field. The East Coast advantage is pretty large in most contests, but not for Sweepstakes! And not, to a lesser extent, for WPX. Get your station up and running, find a nice soft pillow, and get your butts in the chair. That's how we will win.

73,

Alan/K6SRZ

p.s.

We still need volunteers to help with WebX

From the Vice President/Contest Chair – by AD6E



Lost Members?

It's been several months now since past-Pres K6TU asked me to take on the VP/CC job. My arm swelling is reduced, and I'm back to normal again, if "normal" has any meaning these days. Stu's whole argument was based on the member survey done a year ago wherein 80% of the responding members voted to return to Sweepstakes as a major club activity. Of those who wanted this action taken, the very next question in the survey was "would you be willing to help organize this effort?" Amazingly, out of all those who want the club to get back in this game, only one said "yes". That was me.

So, now that I've taken on this challenge, what's the secret sauce that will make winning a reality? Well, there is no secret. SS has always been about member participation. Get more logs than any other club, and we'll likely win. It really doesn't seem to matter much if they are big logs from the big guns or small logs from little pistols. It's the total that matters. We'll need plenty of both.

With this in mind, I took a look at our roster. We have well over 500 members at this point. Given the past many years of voluntary dues, no one has dropped out. Yet, many have slipped away even though they remain on the roster. A quick check of scores reported on our web site for various contests indicates that there are about 100 active testers in our ranks. That means 400 who are not active. That's a huge ratio! (OK, not precise numbers – but you get the drift)

With 100 active members in SS, we can't win. That's what's happened the past few years. The obvious way to turn this around is to mine our roster for those who can be convinced to get back on the air. All of these "lost members" joined NCCC professing an interest in contesting. Maybe it's time to re-establish that contact and talk up the fun side of contesting, the camaraderie of NCCC, and team spirit. If we can get just 100 additional logs from these 400 lost souls, we'll win. And "winning" isn't just winning SS in this context. The whole club can win by re-igniting that contesting flame in those who have drifted away.

Now, the nuts-n-bolts solution: Several weeks ago, I asked for volunteers to help the club by calling each and every member in our roster; active or not. The intent is to establish a personal connection between the inactive member and an active one with the hope that some of the active members' enthusiasm will rub off and get that inactive member on the air. Fortunately, 37 active members have stepped forward to help with this "calling tree" effort. The results so far are mixed. We do have some lost members who will be active now for SS (and other events). Some have expressed they no longer have the interest. Some have problems that keep them QRT, and we're trying to provide the help necessary to solve their problems .. RFI issues, antenna problems, whatever... This is an on-going effort and it's far from over. If you haven't been contacted yet, you will be. A big THANK YOU to the volunteer callers who are making this happen.

AND ... While the SS effort has taken more of my time than is available; I want to extend my THANK YOUs to Chris, N6WM for taking on the chairmanship of CQP ... to Dean, N6DE for continuing his effort to push the inter-club competition in NAQP ... to Bob, W6RGG for his push in the Sprint ... to Ken, N6RO and Bill, N6ZFO for their continuing leadership in the Thursday NS.

There's a lot more going on than SS, and I'm hopeful that this personal "reach out and touch someone" effort will pay dividends in other ways as well. Time will tell.

JUG October Deadline

The last date to submit articles for the October JUG is Monday 30th September.

We would welcome articles and information from other reader ! Please submit you material to Ian W6TCP, via email at w6tcpian@gmail.com

Going Somewhere for CQP?

If your planning a DXpedition for this years CQP why not consider writing an article for the JUG! Just send us your write up and pictures and we take care of the rest !

There is no better way to let your fellow contesters know what you have been up to?

Please submit you material to Ian W6TCP, via email at :-
w6tcpian@gmail.com



NCCC Sierra Chapter BBQ



L to R, back row: K6DGW, KU6J, AE6RR, WB6CZG, W6SX, N6XI
L to R, front row: K9JM, AD6E, WX6V, K6ST

Submitted by :-
Hank, W6SX & Rick, N6XI

NCCC/NCDXC member Jake, K6MP operating Champ's E21EIC station using Jake's new Thai callsign HS0ZLI. Submitted by Rusty W6OAT



Tri-Club Meeting—by Tom NS6T

On August 10, we had a meeting of the NCCC, Mother Lode DX and Contest Club, and the Redwood Empire DX Association at the Rockville Grill in Fairfield, CA. 52 members of the three club joined together to talk and share a meal together. Alan (K6SRZ) was the emcee for the program that featured a CW Pileup Competition run by Ira (K2RD) and a talk by Tom (K5RC) titled "Failure is NOT an Option."

In a short business segment, we voted KB6DI Bob into NCCC membership. Alan also pointed out that we're still seeking volunteers to help with Webex streaming of meetings. Webex only requires basic computer literacy and working with audio equipment that any ham can handle. We will train anyone who volunteers for this service to the club.

The CW Pileup Competition featured a constructed 5-minute pileup audio where all the callsigns are known in advance. Each contestant had a chance to listen to the audio once and log as many calls as possible with a laptop computer. Points were given for each correctly logged callsign.

Eight brave volunteers participated in the contest. The first heat was K6SRZ, N6ZFO, N7MH, and W6CT, and the second heat was W6OAT, K9YC, W6OSP, and K5RC. Mike (N7MH) won the contest and received a bottle of wine.

In his presentation, "Failure is NOT an Option", Tom (K5RC) gave the history of the Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN. This station exists through the perseverance and dedication of Tom (K5RC), Grady (W5FU), and Midge (K7AFO). Tom covered the logistical and legal challenges that he had to overcome to maintain and expand their station to its current state (8 towers and numerous antennas). He also discussed putting W7RN on the Remote Ham Radio service which makes stations such as his available via the internet.



The Winner—Mike N7MH

Tom had a link to the W7RN station at the meeting and at least one of attendees--KU6F, Saraj managed to work a little DX on 20 M Phone.

California QSO Party

CQP & improving your operating skills

Quick! Mark the weekend of October 5th and 6th on your calendar and start planning for a weekend of radio fun! The first full weekend of October marks the annual running of the California QSO Party (CQP) – the most fun you can have with a radio if you live in the Golden State! This year marks the 47th running of CQP sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club.

Why contest? From an operating point of view, most aspects of Ham Radio from Public Service, chasing DX to working contests have one thing in common – accurate and timely copying of information often under stress.

Entering a contest—either casually to or as a serious, full time effort—is a great exercise in operating “under fire”.

The first full weekend of October (October 5th & 6th this year) sees the annual running of the California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

We are the DX!

Whether you’re a “Big gun” or “Little pistol”, CQP is a great opportunity for you to be on the receiving end of a pileup or to search and pounce for other states and countries. You can easily Work All States in a single weekend especially with everyone looking for you. And there’s DX to be worked: it’s possible to work all continents during CQP.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to be on the end of a really big pile up? Plan a County Expedition to one of the rarer California counties—the rest of the world will beat a path to YOU. Check out the counties activation planning map on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org/Counties-Plan-2013.html> - you may be surprised that some of the rarest counties often lie on your doorstep.

Low Power, High Power? CW or SSB? CQP is a fun contest for all.

CQP is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club, and organized by a group of dedicated, experienced volunteers coordinated by Chris Tate, N6WM – CQP Chair.

CQP continues to see healthy growth in submitted logs. In 2011 we had almost 1000 logs submitted! CQP rivals many national and international contests in participation and awards. Our goal is to break the 1000 log level in 2012.

Every station that submits a log is eligible for an achievement certificate and there are several operating categories where the leader receives a special CQP plaque for proud display on the shack wall. Of course, since we are in California, the top 20 scores submitted in California and Outside California qualify for a special award – a bottle of NCCC Private Reserve Wine with personalized label. The wine is graciously donated by Twisted Oak Winery and is a limited production Tempranillo crafted by wine maker and NCCC member Jeff Staj, WK6I.

Three categories are designed to encourage operation in contests:

- YL award
- Youth (< 18) award
- California New Contester

So if you've never entered a contest or have only dabbled in the past, this award category is for you!

If you work all 58 counties, you qualify for the "Worked All California Counties Award" sponsored by NCCC.

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>.

Part time or full, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast! We hope you will join us this year and have a lot of Fun!

Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, NCCC President

Chris Tate, N6WM, CQP Chair

12 STORE BUYING POWER

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 638-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(877) 892-1748
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
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(800) 444-4799
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- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • MH-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



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- 32 bit DSP

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- Li-Ion Battery



TM-V71A 2M/440 Dual Band

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IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver

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- 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
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ID-51A VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

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IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters - 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 In WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS)
- CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

ID-880H Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver



YAESU
The radio



FTDX-3000 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP/Down Conversion 1st IF



FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/al-pha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in
- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FT-857D Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100W HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
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