



**Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club**



Issue 509

October 2014

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

**NCCC Meeting**

**Monday, October 13th**

**Time:**

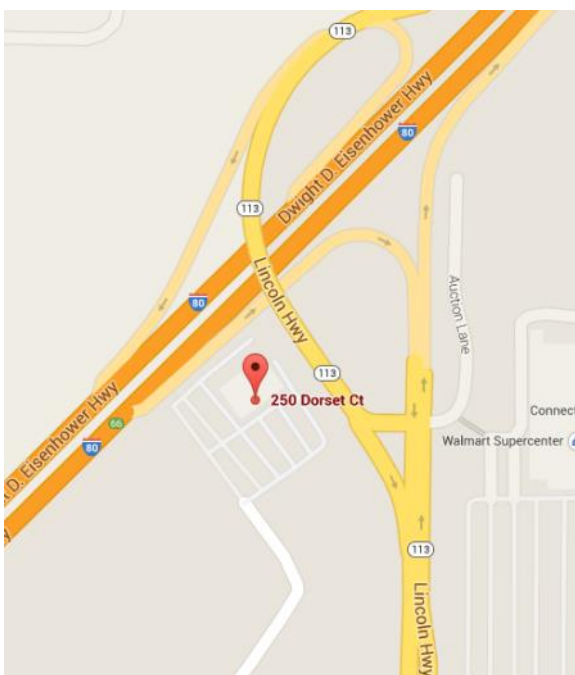
6:00pm Schmooz, 6:30pm Dinner,  
7:00pm Program

**Program:**

- 2014 Sweepstakes Bryon N6NUL

**Location:**

Cattlemens; 250 Dorset Ct, Dixon, CA 95620  
(707) 678-5518



**President's Report**

This month's meeting will be held at the Cattlemen's restaurant in Dixon right off of I-80. I hope we will get some of our northern members who don't normally attend meetings to come to this one in person.

Contrary to rumors, the location was not chosen to save me driving. Dixon is a somewhat arduous 1.5 hour drive on 2 lane back roads from Galt. On the other hand, I plan my frequent trips to the Bay Area around NCCC meetings, so it is "free" for me to attend those. I also hope that our regular south bay attendees will be able to car pool to this meeting. This is an experiment, and if there is insufficient interest, it may not be repeated.

**WEBEX:**

The board is continuing to work with the Webex/ audio team to improve the webex experience, for geographically challenged members.

Also, some members may not be able to attend because of prior time commitments on Monday night. Yikes!

The 49'ers are playing this Monday night, is that worth missing for an NCCC meeting? For these chronologically challenged members, I hope we can record future meetings on Webex.



## Officers:

President	Rick Karlquist,	N6RK	richard@karlquist.com
Vice President /Contest Chair	Byron Servies,	N6NUL	byron@n6nul.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Carney	K6EU	k6eu@arrl.net
Past President	Alan Eshleman	K6SRZ	doctore@well.com
Director	Tom Hutton	N3ZZ	n3zz.tom@gmail.com
Director:	Ron Castro	N6IE	ronc@sonic.net
Director:	Don Taylor	K6GHA	k6gha@sbcglobal.net

## Volunteers:

New Member Mentor	Al Rendon	WT6K	wt6k@arrl.net
Charter Member	Rusty Epps	W6OAT	w6oat@sbcglobal.net
Awards Chair	Joanna Dilley	K6YL	joanna.k6yl@gmail.com
CQP Chair	Chris Tate	N6WM	ctate@ewnetinc.com
CQP Certificates	John Miller	K6MM	k6mm@arrl.net
K6ZM QSL Manager	George Daughters	K6GT	k6gt@arrl.net
K6CQP,N6CQP,W6CQP QSL Mgr	Ed Muns	W0YK	w0yk@arrl.net
NCCC Email reflector Admin	Phil Verinsky	W6PK	kb-w6tqg@verinsky.com
Webmaster	John Miller	K6MM	k6mm@arrl.net
JUG Editor	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com



### NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM  
 Freq: 3.610 +/-

### NCCC

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

## 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).

An enthusiastic volunteer has agreed to help out with audio and/or webex. Let's welcome Chris, KG60. He has also agreed to help at Visalia with the hospitality suite and NCCC table.

## **JUG TO BECOME BLOG?**

I also have a possible volunteer for the Jug editor job. We are also trying to decide if we should re-design the Jug as a blog. I don't know much about blogs. Can anyone make suggestions about whether a blog would make sense?

## **CQP:**

Let's thank Chris N6WM for managing a fantastic CQP. It was a blast. I would also like to thank all the operators who made a superhuman effort, especially the county expeditions. The publicity campaign apparently was very successful in Europe, as everyone reported being deluged with EU callers. Now that we have momentum in EU, maybe the next frontier is JA.

This year, JA participation was dampened by a serious typhoon. Maybe we can publicize the contest in JA next week and get them to turn out. I worked a smattering of JA's off the side of my beam. With EU, I actually turned the beam toward EU and announced that I was beaming Europe. The club competition was fierce and the Motherlode club is no longer a shoo in. (Your president is also a member of MLDXCC). Finally, I would like to acknowledge the wine contributions, which should amp up interest in the contest.

There is a lively debate taking place on the reflector about fine tuning the rules. I am very encouraged by the enthusiasm here, whether or not we actually end up changing any rules. I am not so sure that the present rules are "broken" and need fixing, but lets see what ideas come forth.

Also, let's try to get something going in VE5 land next year. Some VE4's proposed an L-expedition, but VE4 is also very thinly staffed, so we need to plan that carefully.

## **PROCESS FOR AMENDING BYLAWS:**

Scott W6CT is active in politics in the Libertarian Party and is something of an expert on such things as Robert's Rules of Order. He is going to draft a proposed change to the process of amending by-laws which would replace the mail in ballot system with a town hall type process where a suggested amendment would be published in the Jug, or NCCC Announce, etc for consideration by the members. A future meeting will have an agenda item concerning the amendment.

A sufficient amount of time between the announcement and this meeting will allow discussion on the reflector.

At the meeting, in person discussion in real time will allow the amendment to be fully hashed out. Amendments to the proposed amendment would be allowed to fine tune it. Then a vote would be taken at the meeting, yes or no. More on this in the future. The hope is that an improved process will make future amendments go more smoothly than the most recent amendment.

## **PACIFICON:**

I would like to thank the volunteers who manned the table at Pacificon. We handed out a good number of membership applications. We will have to see how fruitful this effort turns out to be. I spent some time at the table myself and tried to learn how to break down "sales resistance". Some people admitted to being mildly interested in contesting, and some even operated CQP last week.

The resistance part came down to various factors:

1. Lack of a good station
2. Insufficient operating skill. Low rates are a drag
3. Insufficient time to operate in a 24 hour contest like SS.

I tried to explain that our crack operators will help elmer the newer guys coming up, and they are not there to denigrate them. The other issues can possibly be addressed by offering them operating slots at well equipped stations. We might start them out in an interesting, but non critical contest, such as All Asian. If they don't run up a big score, no big deal. Perhaps next year we could prearrange some operating slots in Sweepstakes that we could post at Pacificon. Prospective members could sign up on the spot for these operating slots. This might be more effective than an abstract offer of station access. The time issue is also addressed by offering 2 or 3 hour shifts. A few hours at a big station might very well produce more QSO's than the operator could manage at his home station with wires, and the fun factor would be a lot higher. Running pileups might increase the chance of catching the contest bug.

K6GHA had an interesting angle: the club is an opportunity to meet a lot of high power silicon valley engineers and executives. Although not directly related to ham radio, this might work to pull people in.

I would like to congratulate the many NCCC presenters at Pacificon. I am wondering if, in the future, we could get away with having them include a little "commercial" for NCCC at the end of their talks. I was greatly impressed with the talks in general, whether by NCCC members or not. There was an atmosphere that Pacificon is special, being in silicon valley, and is not just another regional convention.

## **SWEEPSTAKES:**

Byron N6NUL will be sending out a paper tri-fold mailing to members active in SS in previous years to remind them to get on the air. We will see how productive this is. The board felt it was worth the small amount of money needed to fund it. Everyone please make a maximum effort for SS, and remind other members about SS. If you are an operator in need of a station, or a station owner in need of a guest op, please notify Byron so he can do matchups.

Rick N6RK  
President



## VP/CC Corner

What a month!

First off, CQP once again dominated the air waves the first weekend of October! Good conditions and lots of DX stations were a highlight for me personally, as were reading about all the exceptional County Expeditions that went into the field to operate! Among them were a few truly epic scores.

The NI6T multi-multi expedition to Tehama County looks like they will break their own previous record with 3660 claimed QSO's and 526,623 points. As Jim K9YC pointed out in his write-up, "six old guys and one slightly younger one did all the work" and set up four (yes, 4!) dedicated stations and truly KB'd all weekend! Well done Glen W6GJB, Jim K9YC, Garry NI6T, Tom N3ZZ, John K6MI, Rich N6RNO, Rob K6RB, Ranjeet KK6GRP, and Tom WB6HYD.

Continuing with the mind-blowing scores was the N6A multi-multi expedition to Alpine County. Richard N6DQ, Joanna K6YL, Kristen K6WX, and Daniel KJ6SEE used 3 stations sharing a hex beam through a tri-plexer to turn in a possible new county record with 3097 QSOs and 423,458 points! Both efforts were terrific, and they might not when high score for M/M County Expedition HP! The K6Z expedition to Inyo may well take that honor with a claimed score of 638,696!

And you can go on and on: N6O at N6RO was within spitting distance of a megapoint. Bob K6XX and Bob N6TV were not only both heard on phone, but both claimed more phone Qs than CW Qs! Shocking, I know.

But now, CQP is over until next year and it is fast approaching time to concentrate on the first of our 2 club Focus Contests: ARRL Sweepstakes! For focus contests, remember, we expect every club member to do their best to get on the air and submit a log no matter what the size.

At the club meeting this month I will be presenting our plan. Here's a preview: first, call every NCCC member you know that has not submitted a Sweepstakes log in the past few years and convince them to turn on the radio. Second, read the Sweepstakes Handbook available on the website. It's got it all.

73, Byron N6NUL  
VP/CC 2014-2015



## **My Townhome Shack**

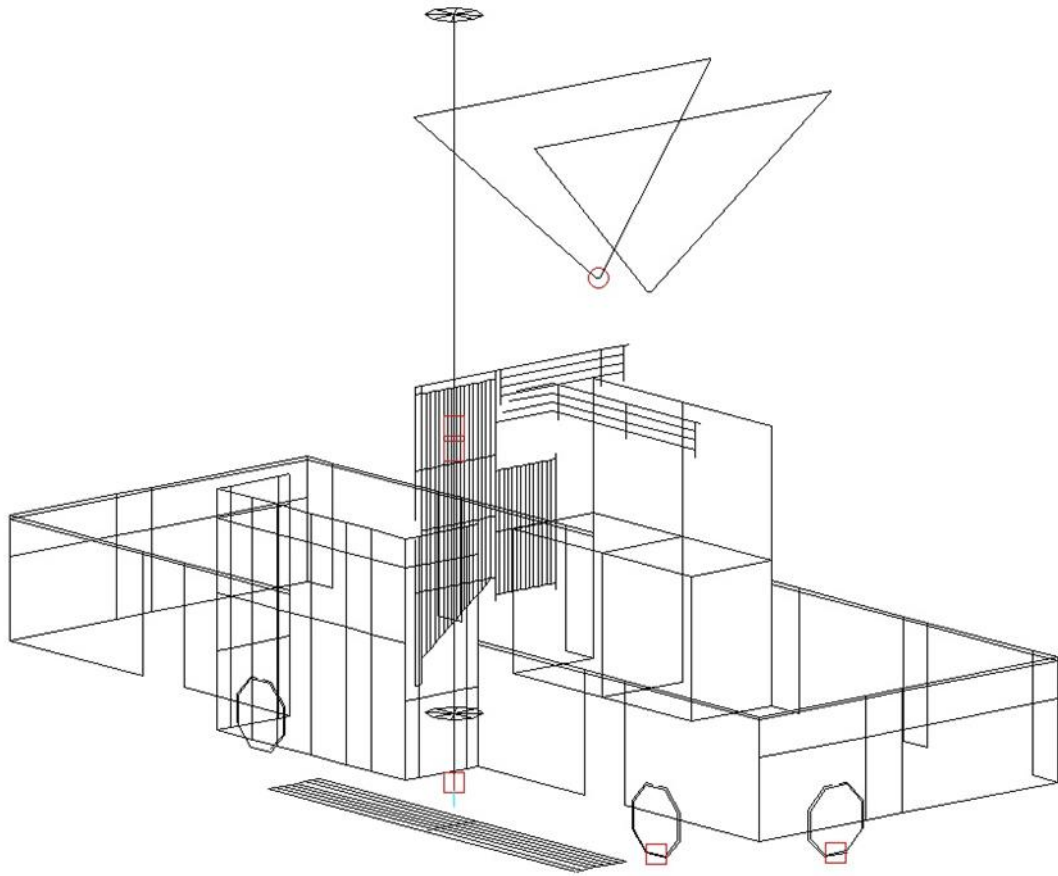
### **Byron N6NUL**

This past weekend I had the opportunity to present the work I have done with My Townhome Shack over the years at Pacificon. It was a nerve-wracking but fun day, and I received a lot of compliments from attendees after the presentation was over.

This month I am mostly concentrating on my other club duties, but I have not shared neither the images of the installed Claw nor of my updated wire-frame model EZNEC+. Here they are:



continued on next page



Soon, perhaps even later this week, the vertical shown in JUG #504 will be installed and I can start making sure everything is working in time for Sweepstakes!

Byron N6NUL



# Contest Calendar—October page 1

CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 1 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 1 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 2
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Oct 2 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Oct 2 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 2 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Oct 2 (Dig)
+ SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 2
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-1000Z, Oct 3
YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4
15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest	0000Z, Oct 4 to 2359Z, Oct 5
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
WAB HF Phone	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1200Z, Oct 5
TRC DX Contest	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1200Z, Oct 5
GTC CW Cup	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1200Z, Oct 5
Russian WW Digital Contest	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1159Z, Oct 5
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 4
International HELL-Contest	1600Z-1800Z, Oct 4 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 5 (40m)
<b>California QSO Party</b>	<b>1600Z, Oct 4 to 2200Z, Oct 5</b>
New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 0359Z, Oct 5 and 1400Z-2000Z, Oct 5





# Contest Calendar—October page 2

4 State 4x4 QRP Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 4
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 5
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 7
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 8 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 9
432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 8
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Oct 10
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 11 to 1559Z, Oct 12
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 11 to 2359Z, Oct 12
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 11 to 1200Z, Oct 12
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 2200Z, Oct 12
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0600Z, Oct 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 12
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 11
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-0900Z, Oct 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 15



# Contest Calendar—October page 3

CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 15 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 15 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 16
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1300 local, Oct 18
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 18 to 0200Z, Oct 19
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1459Z, Oct 19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 18 to 1800Z, Oct 19
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 19
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2359Z, Oct 24
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 22 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 22 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 23
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 29 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 29 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 30

# 12 STORE BUYING POWER

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### ID-51A VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz\*\* • AMV FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chis • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible



### 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

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

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## YAESU

The radio



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