



Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club

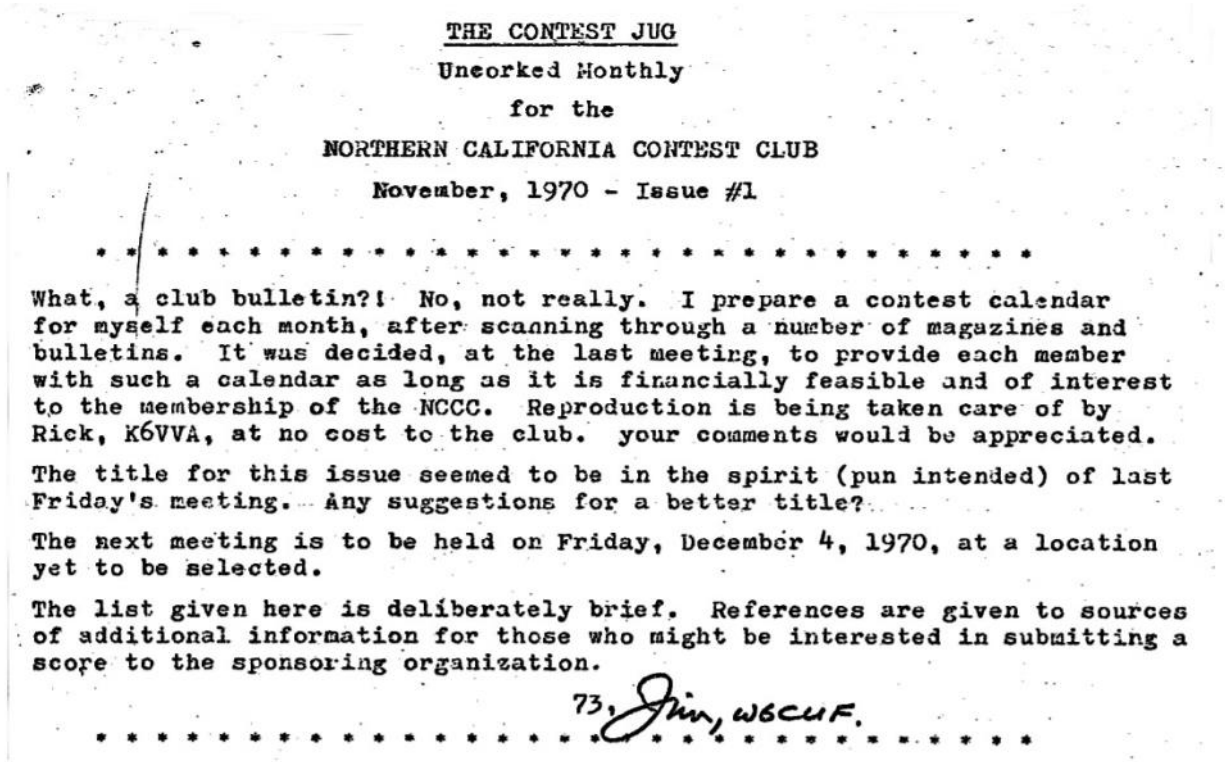


Issue 580  
50th Anniversary  
Edition

November 2020

JUG Editor, Bill, N6ZFO

*NCCC - 50 years of Contesting Excellence*  
*50 years of the NCCC Contest JUG*



Jim Maxwell, W6CUF, with his perfect radio last name, took on the JUG Editorship following NCCC's first meeting. Already well known for winning the CW Sweepstakes in 1950, Jim was highlighted in the results article in the May, 1951 QST: "Jim Maxwell, W6CUF, set a new c.w. score record of 191,250 points, worked all sections, and had 1064 contacts while operating W6BJU. Jim is an 18-year old lad who, it is reported, was participating in his first SS."

Jim, later W6CF "Chicken Feathers" is one of NCCC's most illustrious members. The Maxwell Memorial Trophy is awarded, by ARRL, to the top-scoring CA station (SO) in the ARRL CW DX Contest. *Picture used with permission from ARRL. John, K6AUC (sk) donated our copy JUG #1.*

Meet the all-time Sweepstakes champion, Jim Maxwell, W6CUF, of Los Angeles, who set a new c.w. score record while operating W6BJU.





# Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

## Inside this Issue:

	Page
Tribute to Jim Maxwell, W6CF 1st JUG Editor	1
President's Report — WD6T	2
About the NCCC	3
ON4UN, SK. Ira, K2RD	4
Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, SK; — K6WX, W2RU	5
NCCC, 50 Years of Contesting Excellence, Recollections of NCCC Members	6
New Low Band Switching at N6RO. NA6O	8
Bug Boxes, Gary, NA6O	12
Point Generator Profile, K6JS by W1RH	13
Tube of the Month, Taylor T40 N6JV	15
NCCC Information	16
HRO Advertisement	17

## NCCC November, 2020 ZOOM Meeting Sunday, Nov 15 1330-1600 PDST

### "NCCC's 50th Anniversary "

### K6VVA, N6RO, N6TJ, W6OAT

**Date:** Sunday, November 15, 2020

**Time:** Chat at 1330 and after talk

**Meeting starts at 1400 PDST**

**Meeting ends at 1600 PDST**

Hear from a select group of NCCC founding members on the 50th Anniversary of the NCCC. Bring your questions!

Web Access Instructions — see

<http://nccc.cc/meetings.html>

QUICK START Guide to Zoom:

<http://support.zoom.us>

## President's Report - WD6T

### West Coast Contesting Prospects

Our October meeting included a surprise appearance by three distinguished guests: Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP, representing JARL; Tack Kumagai JE1CKA/KH0AM, representing JIDX; and Christian Janssen DL1MGB, representing WRTC 2018. We were honored to have them join us in order to present to Bob K6XX replacements for awards and memorabilia lost in the fire. In addition, NCCC reincarnated and presented the coveted Founders Trophy, now residing where it belongs at Bob's proto-QTH.

JARL and JIDX are particularly important to us here on the U.S. west coast, with their support of Japanese contesting. This translates, for us, into an offset of the east coast advantage. Nevertheless, counting logs submitted for the major DX contests shows the majority coming from Europe, with North America second, with Asia a distant third. For us, the challenge of working Europe is not only the distance, and the fact that it is over a land path that includes the auroral region. The fundamental issue is the small number of hours of good propagation from here. Short of ripping the Earth open and rearranging its surface, there's not much we can do about that.

So, what can we do to support West Coast contesting, and Northern California contesting in particular? I believe there are four areas on which we can focus:

- ◆ Intra-club competitions and achievement awards
- ◆ Emphasis on contests in which we have an advantage
- ◆ Regional award overlays on major contests
- ◆ Creation of new contests

Concerning intra-club competitions, the KB competition has served us well. Please take the time to fill out Gary, NA6O's survey, which was sent to the reflector. Even if you are not interested in the KB contest per se, please return it anyway; it will provide valuable insight into your contesting interests, and influence where the club puts its energy going forward. In addition, the achievement awards for RTTY Roundup, California QSO Party, and— for our 50th year—Sweepstakes recognize and reward members for developing their contest skills from year to year, providing a sense of earned achievement.

*President's Report Continues on Page 4*



# Northern California Contest Club

*Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting*

## Officers:

<b>President</b>	<b>David Jaffe</b>	<b>WD6T</b>	<b>k6daj@arrl.net</b>
<b>Vice President /Contest Chair</b>	<b>Bill Fehring</b>	<b>W9KKN</b>	<b>bill+nccc@w9kkn.net</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Tom Carney</b>	<b>K6EU</b>	<b>treasurer.nccc@gmail.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gary Johnson</b>	<b>NA6O</b>	<b>secretary.nccc@gmail.com</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Jack Brindle</b>	<b>W6FB</b>	<b>jackbrindle@me.com</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Bob Wolbert</b>	<b>K6XX</b>	<b>K6XX@arrl.net</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Bob Cox</b>	<b>K3EST</b>	<b>bobk3est@gmail.com</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Rich Smith</b>	<b>N6KT</b>	<b>n6kt1@sbcglobal.net</b>

## Volunteers:

Charter Member	Rusty Epps	W6OAT	w6oat@sbcglobal.net
Awards Chair	Gary Johnson	NA6O	gwj@wb9jps.com
CQP Chair	Glen Brown	W6GJB	210glen@gmail.com
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
Webinars	Bill Fehring	W9KKN	bill+nccc@w9kkn.net
JUG Editor	Bill Haddon	N6ZFO	n6zfo@arrl.net

## Thursday Night Sprint:

The Northern California Contest Club sponsors a Thursday Night Contesting session of thirty minutes duration.

Often, on Fridays prior to a major contest weekend, a special practice session is held.

Generally, on Thursday evenings, a special format is followed, called NS or "NCCC Sprint". The NS began in the summer of 2004 as a snappy, concise contest occurring most Thursday nights, North American time. The power limit is 100 watts. Occasionally multi-week ladder competitions are held. See [www.ncccsprint.com](http://www.ncccsprint.com) for details.

Thursday Night Contesting Director and Founder	Bill, N6ZFO
NCCC CW Sprint	Tom, N3ZZ (initially, Ken N6RO )
NCCC RTTY Sprint	Ken, K6MR
NCCC Sprint Ladder	Bill, N6ZFO
Sprint Web master <a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com">www.ncccsprint.com</a>	John, K6MM
Ladder Scores Manager	Tim N3QE
Thursday night Contesting Advisory Group:	N6ZFO, Bill (Chair)
	Mark K6UFO, (with W4NZ, N4AF, W9RE, K4BAI, N3BB, VE3YT and W0BH).
The Thursday night NCCC Net	Ken, N6RO



The second way to address the geographical issue is to emphasize contests where we actually have an advantage. In the DX category, these include All Asia, Oceania and JIDX (Japan). Note that this month is the JIDX SSB contest (November 14-15). Give it a shot, even in a part time capacity, and help support our sister Pacific Rim hams! Domestically, the winter North American QSO Parties are winnable from the West, albeit with stiff competition. Of the smaller contests, the 7th Area QSO Party and the Hawaii QSO Party favor us as well. Distance-based contests also level the playing field to some degree; these include WW Digi (FTx), Makrothen (RTTY) and Stew Perry (CW). While winning is not all that matters, it's nice to have a shot at it.

The third way we can address our predicament is via regional award overlays for the major DX contests. These allow us to leverage the largest contests in the world to compete against each other and those in our region, even if the contest as a whole is stacked against us. We already sponsor several regional plaques, including ARRL RTTY Roundup Pacific Division SOHP, CQ Worldwide SSB SOHP Zone 3, and CQ WPX CW SOHP Zone 3. There are also several regional plaques sponsored by others. The Board of Directors is actively exploring new sponsored plaques for regional DX contests.

Finally, a number of important domestic contests were brain children of NCCC members, including the NA Sprint, the North American QSO Party, WW Digi, the NS CW and RTTY Sprints and the NAQP Challenge. NCCC members are or have been contest managers of the world's biggest DX contests. Let's not rule out the idea of creating a new DX contest! While not easy to make fly, if it were properly structured and caught on, it could be a great boon to West Coast contesting. If you have the time, experience and motivation to explore this area, please contact me.

As of this moment, we are half way through the crazy contesting month of November. One Sweepstakes down, one to go, with CQ Worldwide CW banging on the door to get in. Go KB!

### 73 Dave WD6T

---

**Ed. Note: Two additional NCCC-originated contests, now both QRX or QRT:**

- ◆ **The Locust QSO Party, a yearly event organized by NCCC co-founder Rick, K6VVA (2009-15)**
  - ◆ **"Talk Like a Pirate Contest" by NCCC member San, "Kali," Fraser, W6RRR (2014)**
- 

**ON4UN, SK.** The ham radio community lost a giant this week in the passing of John Devoldare, ON4UN. Those wishing to communicate with his daughter, Marleen, can write to [ON4UN.SK@gmail.com](mailto:ON4UN.SK@gmail.com)

NCCC member K2RD had a close and long-term friendship with John, and provides this picture of them together on one of many visits. From Ira:

John and I were friends for over 50 years. Picture attached is John and me in Belgium in 2006. He visited me many times over the years as did I him. He was sort of my contesting mentor and antenna guide with his publications and personal advice.



# Remembering ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, SK

The phrase “the good die young” was never so poignantly true as on October 31, 2020 when our caring, talented and widely appreciated ARRL Pacific Director Jim Tiemstra, passed away unexpectedly at age 65. The Editor thanks Kristin McIntyre, K6WX, who succeeds Jim in the ARRL Position for her description of Jim’s important and widely appreciated service roles in ham radio, and the ARRL Roanoke Division Director, George “Bud” Hippiusley, W2RU, for personal recollections on what it was like to servc on the ARRL Board with Jim .

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-pacific-division-director-jim-tiemstra-k6jat-sk>

Jim’s role in ARES in the Bay Area, both in the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley fire and in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake are legendary. The family asks that donations in Jim’s memory be to the ARRL. See <http://www.arrl.org/funds>

**From Kristen, K6WX:** It was with great sadness that I learned on Friday morning, October 30th, of the passing of Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT. Before becoming Vice Director in early 2018, I didn’t really know Jim that well. We had met a few times and I’d heard him on the air during contests, but that’s all I could say. Over the course of the next almost 3 years we worked together on ARRL business, but more importantly I got to know him well. We would spend hours at the bar talking not just about upcoming issues in the board meetings, but about his life and his family. I learned about his wife Lilah, his sons, his career in the law, and his brother who went to MIT. I learned about his station and his founding of ORCA in Oakland. I learned that he was an incredible mediator and negotiator - a talent that he used with great success to bring ARRL Board members together. And I learned about his knowledge of the law, which was clear and piercing. He was my mentor in these latter things. and I feel the loss of that mentorship acutely. More importantly, I feel the loss of my friend and colleague. I can only hope to do half as well as I take up the role that he left behind. 73 ES 88 Jim

**From Bud, W2RU:** I first got to know Jim almost exactly two years ago, upon my own election to the ARRL Board. Two months later we met in person in Connecticut for the first time just prior to the 2019 January Board meeting.

During formal Board meetings, Directors occupy three sides of a large open-square table, placed in alphabetical order based on the names of their ARRL Divisions, so Jim and I sat next to each other and shared a microphone for two days each January and July. As a freshman Director I remain delighted at how quickly and easily Jim welcomed me as his “neighbor” and compatriot, and I continue to benefit from the many “off-mic” observations Jim shared with me during our all-too-short time together on the Board.

One of Jim’s assignments the past two years was to chair the Board’s Legislative Advocacy Committee. Although not a formal member of that Committee, I was occasionally party to some of their discussions and I was always impressed with Jim’s approach to the complex and sensitive issues involved, as well as his willingness to fairly consider all viewpoints. One of the finest stand-up presentations I have ever heard by anyone was the one Jim gave on the subject of HOA antenna restrictions during the ARRL Forum at Dayton 2019.

Amateur Radio has lost a strong voice of reason with Jim’s passing, and I will certainly miss his “wise counsel”. But Kristen, K6WX, has been an integral part of our Board discussions throughout the year, so she will be no stranger to the issues – or to my awful puns -- when she takes her seat in the front row, next to me.

**Ed Note:** *With all his attention and devotion to serving the amateur community, Jim remained an enthusiastic contester, having participated this year in the ARRL DX SSB, as an op at KH6RS, in CQP, in the July IARU test, and in WPX SSB, one of his favorites.*



Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, speaking at the Visalia Internations DX and Contest Convention. Photo by Bob, N6TV used with his permission.



## *NCCC - 50 years of Contesting Excellence*

### *Recollections from NCCC Members*

*Ed Note: If you are inspired by these comments from NCCC members celebrating NCCC's 50th, consider putting pen to paper and send us your thoughts and experiences with NCCC, brief or not so brief – what you've learned, what you've gained from NCCC membership, what inspired you to join, and so on. Submit by e-mail to [n6zfo@arrl.net](mailto:n6zfo@arrl.net)*

#### **Dave, KA6BIM**

Thinking back a couple of decades... How did I get involved in NCCC. I'm my early ham radio years I was chasing DX, and what better way to find DX but in a DX contest. After working one of the DX contests, I received a QSL card from W6SZN. Kip had heard me on and sent me a written invitation to Join the NCCC. I do not know if anyone is still doing that, but it worked for me.

#### **Don, AA6W**

The NCCC club WON the sweepstakes gavel straight thru the years 1975-1979 inclusive. What a great achievement! Why does this T-shirt fit a little more snugly now than it did 42 years ago ? Hey - the orange colors are not too faded...not too bad. Bill, also I remember some of the social activities the NCCC club took part in during the summer of perhaps 1979 or 1980. The club members and visitors all gathered I believe at Ken N6RO's property - I am not sure...I think we all gathered at Kens location at 'Radio Oakley' ? There was a large softball field, and we all played NCCC team softball - it was cool. And, during another summer (or maybe the same year), we went out onto the Delta (water region) - maybe somewhere near Oakley ?? Does anybody remember ?? and we went out on the boats along the delta, it was very cool. OK - just a few tidbits from the past. The club has lost some wonderful people. We all miss George WB6DSV, from many years ago. George, was very active in the NCCC club, and he later became the main purchaser for Ham Radio Outlet company. I know there have been many more silent-keys as well, but George was one of the active hams during the boating and softball years of 1979-1980. May all of the recent and past silent keys rest in peace. May they all be long remembered in the NCCC club. The sweepstakes competitions were quite intense in the mid 1970's. I always tried to work at least 500 CW and 500 SSB stations during those years. I would achieve my KB-1000 award, and help the NCCC club as well. Congratulations to the NCCC for the 50 years of fun! Thanks to all the club members and officers which have served the club over the years. Good luck to everyone! KB in 2020 and beyond. 73 for now. Stay healthy! Thanks for reading - Don, AA6W. (Formerly WD6EPV).



## Rick, N6XI

Back in the early 60s there were a few denizens of 40M CW in the afternoon, CD Parties, SS, other contests, and even CW traffic nets who became key friends to a high schooler named Rick K3QDD. One was K2EIU/5 who worked wonders with dirt cheap military surplus gear and wires as I recall. He's Ken N6RO now. Another was K1ZND, now Dave K1ZZ, who went on to lead ARRL for decades, not an NCCC member but a friend to us all. Another was K4BVD whose CW was exemplary and whose people skills were already becoming known. He's Rusty W6OAT now. They were all instrumental in helping me to avoid homework and sharpen my own skills at contesting and CW rag chewing. And there was Art K3OAE, a local who drove me to PVRC meetings and actually taught me in person how to operate a contest. He's K3KU now and rarely heard under his own call but still active at W3LPL. And at PVRC I had the honor of meeting legends like Vic W4KFC and Lenny W3GRF, more stalwarts of PVRC which provided an initial competitive target for NCCC.

As a senior, I visited MIT, planning to apply and hoping to be admitted. My local bud K3OAE was already there. Of course, no ham visited MIT without stopping by W1MX. I went unannounced, just hoping someone would be there to let me in and show me around. There was - none other than aforesaid K4BVD sitting at the controls of the soon-to-be familiar Central Electronics 200V, Collins 75A4, and a rack of homebrew, monoband kilowatts, a dream rig of the day. Of course, Rusty was his usual gracious self, showing me everything I needed to see to realize that MIT was more than just an engineering school - It was an outstanding place to play ham radio! It was a short crossing of paths, as Rusty was about to graduate. I went on to be an officer of the MIT Radio Society and, after graduation as a staff member at Draper Lab, became trustee of W1MX.

But there's more! Upon moving to California in 1977 for a software job in Silicon Valley, I was too busy to check out local radio clubs until a visit by aforesaid K3OAE. Planning his trip, he asked me if any local clubs were meeting during his visit. Long before the Internet, the way to do this was to walk into HRO (a bit of a drive up to Burlingame in those days) to RTFBB ("read the fancy bulletin board!"). Indeed, the NCDXC was planning a meeting during Art's visit. On the appointed day we attended the meeting. Who was the first person we encountered? Rusty, of course! And without the slightest compromise of his still legendary hospitality he essentially asked me "What are you doing here?! You belong at NCCC!" Art explained the circumstances of his visit, Rusty accepted the excuse, and we met many other local stalwarts including W6RGG.

A few weeks later I attended my first NCCC meeting. IIRC, Bob approved my nomination to membership, declaring that he was standing up. I think Rusty did, too. I don't recall the exact date, but soon the club was planning its "Four Straight in '78!" Sweepstakes campaign. I still have the T-shirt. I don't remember whether we won and the online records don't go back that far, but we fought the good fight. I think we did win.

Silicon Valley was good to me but only on the stipulation that I would be good to it. This meant long years raising companies and a family, with little time for contesting except for shorties like Sprint and the occasional Sweepstakes or M/M team effort in CQWW CW. Along about 2001, as I was approaching an early retirement, the club had an election crisis (like today's in the US only quieter). At an election meeting, there were no slate and no volunteers. In that conceptually smoke-filled room, in a moment of weakness or loyalty, I don't know which, I agreed to be President if Andy AE6Y and Ed W0YK would join me as officers. Directors were N6RO, N6DE, and K7BV. K6XX was immediate past-President. We had a blast! It was an honor to work alongside such dedicated contesters and club members. I particularly enjoyed writing a monthly President's column for the Jug that I called "XI-ting Times" ;- ) I have some old columns that I'll share with anyone who's interested.

And the club pushes on, still the premier contest club in the country, still home to the legendary NCCC Brain Trust, still a breeding ground for new contesters, and a pasture-land for old ones like me. What a fun ride it has been!

KB and 73, Rick N6XI

# New Lowband Antenna Switching at N6RO

*Gary Johnson, NA6O*

We've been working steadily for several years to enable remote operation of the N6RO M/M superstation, and that has really paid off during the pandemic. With up to six operating positions, it's all quite challenging and we will be giving a presentation in the near future on how it all works. Antenna switching is of course a key element in remote operation. And in our complex station, it's tricky even when you are operating in the shack. Coordination among operators must be maintained, especially with a shared resource such as a receiving antenna. Also, having to get out of your chair to quickly run over and flip a switch may not be reasonable during a contest.

While switching of most of our main transmitting antennas had already been automated [Ref 1], the lowband receiving antennas and also the 160 m four-square were still purely manual. So I polled the team for requirements and set about building an integrated controller that would support remote and multiple-user control via the network.

## Overall Architecture

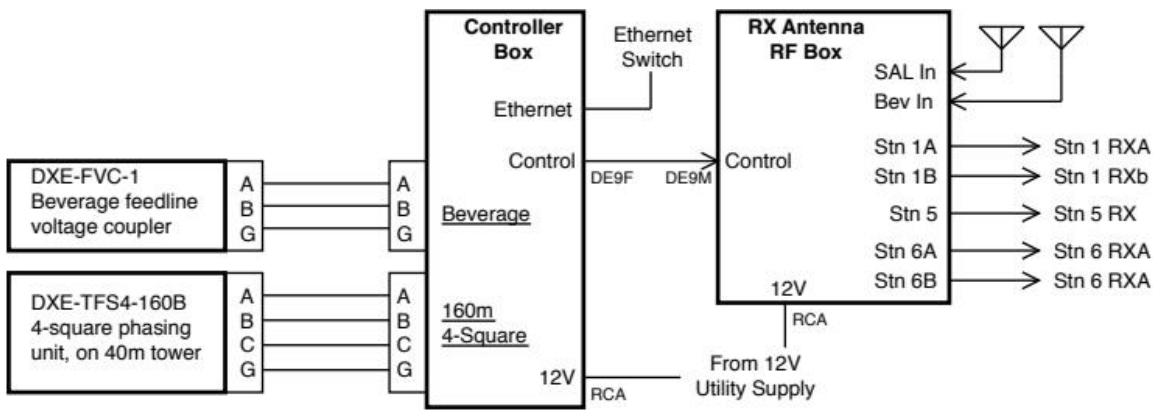
For lowband receive antennas, we have a pair of reversible Beverages and a Shared Apex Loop (SAL-30). My objective is to allow any or all of five receivers in the shack to access either of those two antennas, and also to steer the Beverages and four-square. That requires some RF relays and other things that I'll discuss later. The SAL has its own steering control box with an inscrutable communications scheme. I left that alone since it already has a network control capability, though it's a bit flakey. The Beverages use DX Engineering interfaces and all you have to do is send 12 V to a few control lines in order to change directions. The 160 m four-square has a DX Engineering phasing unit. It also uses simple 12 V control lines for steering. So interfacing to these devices is very easy.

The system is split into two boxes: A central controller and a receive antenna RF distribution box (Fig. 1). The central controller contains the brain and ethernet interface (a Raspberry Pi), and knobs and switches for local control. Some of us still like real knobs and it's quite handy when you're sitting right next to it. Digital outputs from the central controller are connected to the Beverage and four-square steering, with another cable going to the RF box to choose receive antennas. Overall system cabling is shown in Fig. 2.



**Figure 1.** Central controller and RF distribution box.





**Figure 2.** Overall system cabling.

### Central Controller

Inside the central controller is a Raspberry Pi 3B+ running software developed in LabVIEW. This code base is something I came up with many years ago and have reused in multiple ham radio applications at N6RO and elsewhere. LabVIEW is a graphical programming language that dominates the test and measurement industry, and is now available in a free yet comprehensive community edition that supports this kind of application. An interface board was laid out in CircuitMaker, a free community version of the outstanding Altium Designer package, which I find vastly superior to any of the other hobbyist-grade design tools. Board production was done in China through jlcpcb.com which is incredibly fast and cheap. The chassis also contains a very low-noise 12-to-5 V switchmode converter to power the computer, and that board is something I now make available to anyone who needs such a module [Ref 2]. All I/O is carefully bypassed and small common-mode chokes are applied where needed to prevent egress of digital noise.

The LCD display (Fig. 3) shows direction chosen for the 160 4-square and Beverages. The number of remote client connections (users) is also shown. A dancing dot shows that the controller is alive. At startup, the instrument's IP address is displayed for a few seconds. Knobs on the front panel rotate through antenna positions for the 4-square and Beverages. Momentary buttons toggle between Beverage and SAL for each receiver.

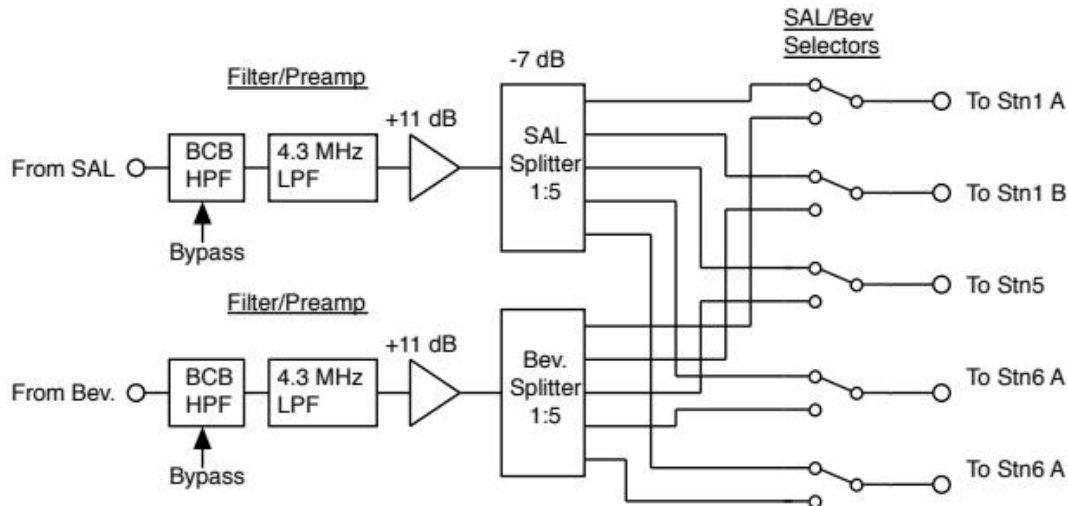


**Figure 3.** Central controller front panel.

### Receive Antenna RF Distribution Box

Routing of receive antennas is handled inside a dedicated RF-only enclosure to avoid any possible noise contamination from the controller or any other sources. Each of the two antenna inputs passes through a broadcast band

highpass filter, then through an 4.3 MHz lowpass to avoid overload from the nearby higher-band signals. A high dynamic range Norton noiseless feedback amplifier serves as a buffer and cancels the loss of the 1:5 splitter that feeds the various receivers. The amplifier also protects the receivers in case of gross overload at the input since its output is intrinsically power-limited. Everything was assembled onto a PC board. Manual toggle switches and LEDs for receiver selection were included for debugging and testing when not connected to the controller. See Figs. 4 and 5.



**Figure 4.** Block diagram of the RF distribution box.

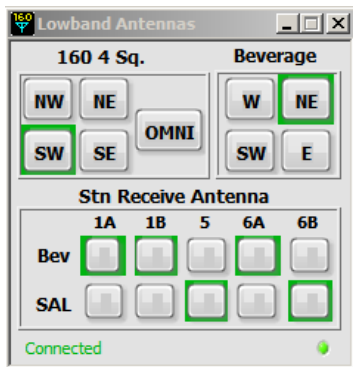


**Figure 5.** Internal view of the RF distribution box.

### Remote Client User Interface

The central controller can be directed from anywhere on the internet. The application, *Lowband Antenna GUI.exe*, is shown in Fig. 6. It, too, was developed in LabVIEW. Multiple instances can run simultaneously on different comput-

ers. Selections made on one instance are reflected instantly on all the others, as are changes made through the physical front panel. This "widget" is similar to the ones I created for the main antenna switching and for the 80 m antennas. It's quite compact and can be tucked in between various windows of the contest logging program. Commands and status are exchanged with the central controller via TCP and are in plain ASCII text. This makes it possible to further integrate this system into a more comprehensive station automation software system if that is ever desired.



**Figure 6.** User interface widget.

## Summary

The system has been in use for several months now and has received good reviews by the users. We could have done some of this with other commercial equipment, such as Green Heron Everywhere hardware, but I see no obvious alternative for the RF routing.

## References

1. Gary Johnson, NA6O, "Antenna Switching Upgrade at N6RO." NCCC Jug, October 2018.
2. NA6O low-noise 12-to-5V 2A converter board. [http://wb9jps.com/Gary\\_Johnson/RFI\\_files/NA6O\\_PS\\_RFI\\_Test\\_Report.pdf](http://wb9jps.com/Gary_Johnson/RFI_files/NA6O_PS_RFI_Test_Report.pdf)

# Bug Boxes

*Gary, NA6O*

Reentering my main hobby, woodworking, I needed a warmup project so I made a couple of bug transit cases for my '38 MacElroy and '63 Vibroplex. These are copies of the one Vibroplex offered as an accessory starting early in the 20th century. Some telegraphers had multiple job sites or employers and needed to protect their delicate investments. Searching the W1TP key museum, I found a few other manufacturer's boxes but none were as nice as the Vibroplex. Mine are made from walnut and mahogany with felt lining, carefully fitted to each key.



# Point Generator Profile

## Jim – K6JS

*Interviewed by Bob, W1RH*

This month's featured Point Generator just happens to be the current president of the Redwood Empire DX Association as well as a long-standing member of the Northern California Contest club.

Besides being one heck of a nice guy and a talented wine maker, Jim does score points for the big club and for REDXA. 109,200 points in the 2020 SS CW contest is not shabby! Jim also did 300,810 points in the ARRL 2020 DX CW contest, 155,400 in the 2020 California QSO Party and scored a nice 321,425 points for the big club in the 2020 WPX CW contest. Besides that, you'll often find Jim in CWops, the NAQP's and other QSO parties. Jim is currently in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Silver Category of this year's KB Awards competition.

So, we know Jim scores points; we know he's a great guy, and we know he knows something about wine, along with several other members of this great club. It may surprise, however, you that there's many other things you may not know about K6JS, so read on:

**Name/Call Sign:** Jim Selmi - K6JS

**Past calls:** I was first licensed as a novice in 1974 as WN6IKQ. I upgraded to General a couple years later and received WA6IKQ. I found K6JS through the vanity program in 2007.

**Location:** Rohnert Park

**How much property do you have?** 100' x 45'

**Describe your antenna system:**

TriEx W51 tower with DB18, 80M Inverted L over K2AV Folded Counterpoise (FCP), Multiband inverted Vee. 2 receive loops and homebrew 2 element Shared Apex Loop into DX Engineering NCC2 phasing system. Six-Pak and KK1L Antenna switch, 5B4AGN BPF and stubs.

**Future:**

2<sup>nd</sup> tribander for SO2R – KF7P hoist plate using 2000lb engine hoist. I have the hoist plate and engine hoist ready to install. I'm tired of cranking. 220V to shack and legal limit amp.

**What's in your shack?**

Elecraft K3 x 2, P3, KPA500, KAT500, YCCC SO2R box, RigBlaster Advantage(FT8), LP-PAN2, DX Engineering NCC2, Green Heron rotor box.

**What are your previous QTH's?** San Rafael, Redondo Beach and Petaluma

**If you're working, what is your career? If not, what was your career?**

I was an electronic technician for RCA, General Electric and Sonoma State University. I made the transition to Information Technology in the 90's. I have worked as a Principal Systems Analyst for the County of Marin the past 20 years. I provide all levels and types of I.T. support for County Fire, Public Works and the Community Development Agency.

**Married? Kids? Grandkids?**

I have 2 daughters and have been with XYL Sue the past 13 years. We have 6 grandkids.

**How many DXCC entities have you worked?**

Clublog says I currently have 284, but that is only the last 14 years. I have numerous deleted DXCC's and many more DXCC in old paper and pencil logbooks

**What's your favorite contest?**

CQP, Sweepstakes and the ARRL/CQWW DX contests – Mainly CW

**Any tips for contesters?**

**Run and BIC!** Do your best to get your station in order well before the contest. Check antennas and configure logging program macros.

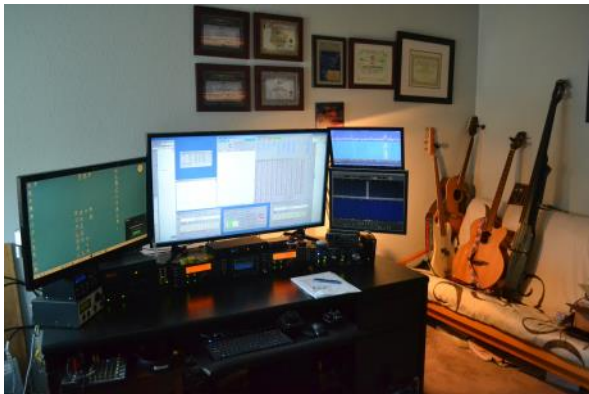
**What would you like to see changed in NCCC?**

Make a run for the SS gavel again.

Re-establish an annual NCCC North Bay meeting. Zoom meetings are great during the pandemic.

**Any other hobbies besides ham radio?**

The XYL will probably say way too may. I enjoy Flyfishing for Sierra trout and coastal surf fishing. I play bass guitar in a couple bands. Racing Laser sailboats. Play bocce ball every Thursday night. We also love to cook and garden. I'm also a winemaker, we pick a couple tons of grapes every year and make our own wine and I still downhill ski and am a cyclist. I knew I'd forget one, I'm rebuilding my 1969 Chevelle Malibu convertible. I have a new 383 stroker V8, T400 tranny and tubular control arms ready to be installed. Retirement is a couple years away, so hopefully will find more time.



**The K6JS Contest Station**

**Ed.: Jim really needs more montiors!**



**K6JS, Jim himself, possibly that home brew wine has put the big smile on Jim.**



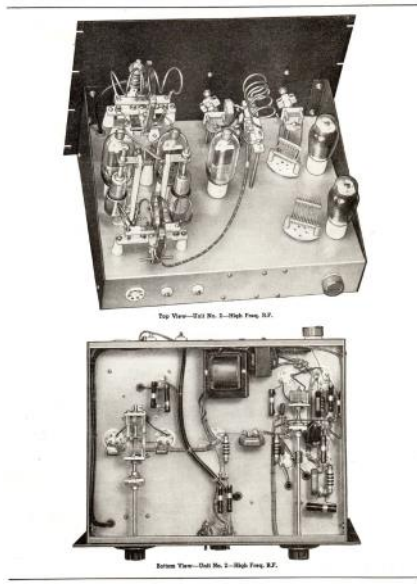
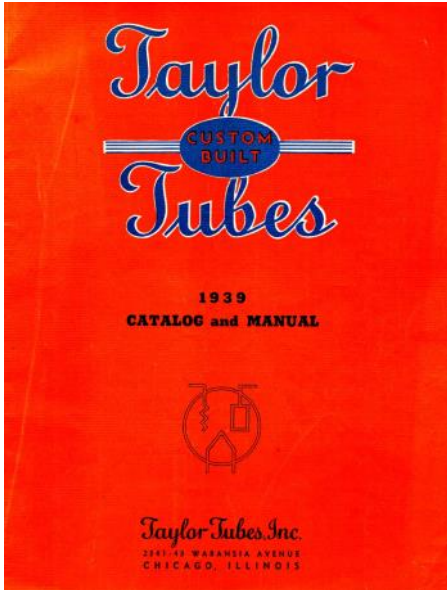
**The K6JS DB-18 Tri-band Antenna**

# Tube Of The Month

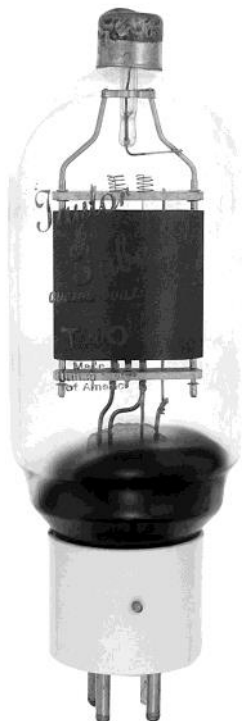
## T-40

### Norm, N6JV

In the late 1930s, tube companies like EIMAC had big competition from several other makers. One of the most successful in the ham market was Taylor Tubes from Chicago, Ill. Taylor produced a big selection of their own designs as well as a few standard types. They also published a catalog and manual each year. These booklets showed data sheets on each tube as well as descriptions on rigs that could use their tubes. If you bought all the tubes for one of their complete transmitters, Taylor would give you all the chassis that were pre-drilled for the parts. Was this the start of the radio kit marketing that would be so popular 30 years later? Taylor survived WWII, but the last catalog I have seen was 1945.



N6JV's Dad, W6LLA working DX using a home-built amp with push-pull Taylor T-40 triodes and using an RME-69 Rx ("6 bands, 9 tubes)



In 1938, my father was W6LLA in Corcoran, CA., and wanted to work some DX. Ten meters was the big phone DX band, so he constructed a new amplifier using push pull Taylor T-40 triodes. This gave him over 100 watts output. The T-40 and TZ-40 were triodes that would operate up to 5 meters. The mu for the T-40 was 25 and the TZ-40 the mu was 62. The TZ-40 was a zero-bias tube. Like most of the Taylor tubes, the T-40s had carbon anodes. At \$3.50 each, the tubes were very popular and in their first year, Taylor sold over 11,000 of the "wonder tubes". Long before I was licensed, I knew about the T-40s on 10-meters and often looked at my father's scrap book with all the DX QSL cards. I was hooked on DXing and that RME 69 receiver became mine in 1959 when I passed the test.

Visit the museum at [N6JV.com](http://N6JV.com) , 73, Norm

The Taylor TZ-40 Triode

- 100 watts out
- Over 11,000 sold in first year at \$3.50 each



## NCCC Membership Information

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

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).

Life Memberships.— \$250.00 Contact [secretary.nccc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nccc@gmail.com). The 80/20 Rule: Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been a NCCC Member for 20 years are eligible for Honorary life membership. Contact [secretary.nccc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nccc@gmail.com)

## JUG Articles Wanted!

Your help allows us to produce a quality newsletter. Please consider submitting an article!

The editor welcomes any and all relevant articles for inclusion in the JUG.

The preferred format is MS Word (.doc or .docx), Arial 11 point. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos separately. Pictures should be full resolution. Avoid PDF files and email text. Please contact us if that's your only format.

Send material to Bill, N6ZFO at [n6zfo@arrl.net](mailto:n6zfo@arrl.net) 415 209-3084

## Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines

The NCCC reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting.

Topics include, for example, contests, station building, dx-peditions, technical questions, contesting questions, amateur radio equipment wants/sales, score posting, amateur radio meetings/conventions, and membership achievements.

Postings may not include personal attacks, politics, or off-subject posts. Such postings will be considered a violation of the Guidelines.



**Find NCCC on Social Media**  
**Facebook: "Northern California Contest Club"**  
**Twitter: "NCCCKB"**





# HAM RADIO OUTLET

MULTI-STORE BUYING POWER!

**ICOM**



**IC-7610**  
*All Mode Transceiver*



**IC-7200**  
*HF Transceiver*



**IC-7100**  
*All Mode Transceiver*



**ID-5100A Deluxe**  
*VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver*



**ID-51A Plus2**  
*VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable*

**KENWOOD**



**TS-590SG**  
*HF/50MHz Transceiver*



**TM-D710G**  
*2M/440 Dualband*



**TM-V71A**  
*2M/440 DualBand*



**TM-281A**  
*2 Mtr Mobile*



**TH-D74A**  
*2M/220/440 HT*

**YAESU**  
*The radio*



**FT-991A**  
*HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver*



**FTDX1200**  
*100W HF + 6M Transceiver*



**FT-450D**  
*A100W HF + 6M Transceiver*



**FTM-400XD**  
*2M/440 Mobile*



**FT-60R**  
*2M/440 5W HT*



- RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
- PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE - [WWW.HAMRADIO.COM](http://WWW.HAMRADIO.COM)
- FAX - All store locations
- MAIL - All store locations

*MRO is family owned and operated by active hams!*

ANAHEIM, CA  
(800) 664-6046

OAKLAND, CA  
(877) 892-1745

PORTLAND, OR  
(800) 745-4267

PHOENIX, AZ  
(800) 558-7358

MILWAUKEE, WI  
(800) 558-0411

WOODBIDGE, VA  
(800) 444-4799

PLANO, TX  
(877) 455-8750

SURBANK, CA  
(877) 892-1745

SAN DIEGO, CA  
(877) 520-9625

DENVER, CO  
(800) 444-9476

ATLANTA, GA  
(800) 444-7927

NEW CASTLE, DE  
(800) 644-4476

SALEM, NH  
(800) 444-0047

ONLINE STORE  
[WWW.HAMRADIO.COM](http://WWW.HAMRADIO.COM)