

# The Contest JUG



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB  
44 Toyon Terrace  
Danville, CA 94526  
August 1986

No. 170

PRESIDENT: WR6R  
VP/CC: W7MAP  
SEC/TREAS: NV6Z  
MEMBERSHIP: W6REC

AWARDS: K6ZM  
FINANCE: WA6AUE  
JUG EDITOR: W6SZN  
DIRECTORS: WA6VEF, W6REC, KA6ING

## BE LOUD ON 160

### COMING EVENTS

September 13-14	European Phone
September 14 (September 13 local)	North American Sprint CW
September 20-21	Can-Am
September 21 (September 20 local)	North American Sprint SSB
September 27-28	California QSO Party

### 160 METERS IN AUGUST?

September starts the contest season and the club's CQP promises to be a great way to kick off the season! A modest station (tribander and wires) can make hundreds of QSO's, so mark the last weekend in September for this 30 hour contest. If you don't have a station, Gary, WA6VEF, will find you one as there will be single and multi-single stations available.

The August meeting will have as our guest speaker Paul Mason, WA6EUZ, who will talk about his 35 foot vertical 160 meter antenna that enables him to be a big signal on top band. If you have stayed away from that band because of lack of real estate, this might be the answer to an economical antenna that's possible on a city lot. Furthermore, Bill, NA8T, of Mad River fame (?), will be in the area and may bring some slides of KS8S's big 160 system. Lastly, Ron, N6AUV, will show us how to get a G5RV antenna into trees with a sling shot. So plan to attend!

Louese, KA6ING, will bring homemade chocolate cake to the August meeting to raise funds for CQP Awards. Have a slice and contribute to CQP.

The 80 meter net keeps on growing. We meet on 3.825 Mhz each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. It's a great way to hear from the members that can't always use the two meter club repeater.

Gary, WA6VEF, has arranged for NCCC QSL's for a very reasonable price. At the August meeting he will have all the details as to price and delivery. Gary brought samples to the BOD meeting and they looked great! If you cannot attend the August meeting, this month's JUG includes a sample and all other necessary information for ordering cards. Thanks to Gary for getting this project to the membership.

For those with social calendars to mark, keep the following in mind -- the September and November NCCC meetings will be the fourth Monday at the Hall in Hayward. The October meeting will be the third Monday in Hayward and there are plans to serve a dinner salad and garlic bread at the Hall that night. December 13, 1986 will be the annual Christmas Dinner and it will be in Los Altos.

73, A1, WR6R

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 1986

The meeting was called to order at 19:09 local time.

Attendees: Louese, KA6ING; A1, WR6R; Duane, W6REC;  
Gary, WA6VEF; Ron, NV6Z

Guests: Ron, N6AUV

### Minute 1: Club Roster

The BOD discussed the roster. NV6Z reports that with help from WA6VEF, the roster is now in good shape. The roster will be mailed to all members in August.

### Minute 2: August Club Meeting

The August Club meeting will be held on the 25th of August at the Hayward CWA Hall at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Paul, WA6EUZ, subject: 160 meters on a city lot.

### Minute 3: "T" Shirts

Ron, N6AUV, and Gary, WA6VEF, will look into T-Shirts for the 1986 CQP. CQWW T-Shirts will be discussed at the September BOD meeting.

Minute 4: CQP

Gary, WA6VEF, reports plans and notices are going well for the 1986 CQP. Jim, W6SHS, donated \$300 for CQP awards. Thank you Jim.

Minute 5: 80 Meter NCCC Net

Net check-ins are increasing. We need 15 check-ins to have a mini-contest to win a bottle of premium wine. Frequency is 3825 KHz LSB, Wednesdays at 20:00 local time.

Minute 6: By-Laws

The By-Laws with recently approved amendments will be mailed to all members in August.

Minute 7: Badge Mailings

The BOD discussed what to do with badges that are not picked up at the meetings. Ron, NV6Z, moved to put a notice in the JUG that the badges will be available at the next meeting; if the badges are not picked up at that meeting, they will be mailed to the Club member. Gary, WA6VEF, seconded; passed 5-0.

Minute 8: Future BOD and Club Meetings

September: BOD Meeting  
Club Meeting: September 22, 1986  
Program: CQP

October: BOD Meeting  
Club Meeting: October 20, 1986  
Program: CQWW

November: BOD Meeting  
Club Meeting: November 24, 1986  
Program: CQWW

Minute 9: North American Sprint

September 14 (CW) and 21 (SSB) are Sprint days. A four hour fun contest. Contact Bob, W6RGG, for team assignment.

Minute 10: QSL Cards

NCCC QSL cards are available from NU6S. They come in various colors and are \$35 per 1000, \$55 per 2000,

\$115 per 5000 cards. You can order the QSL's in one color or a variety of colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:30 local time.

### FROM THE VPCC

Summer doldrums have hit hard on the bands. Activity was down sharply for the CW weekend of the Armadillo Run and net activity has been sparse as well. Let's all try and get on the 75 meter net on Wednesday evenings and share information and enjoy a mini-contest. I'm offering a bottle of vino as a prize for the winner of the first mini-contest (minimum of 15 contestants for 5 minute contest). Please join us!

As you can see from the upcoming contests, there are several "Big" ones coming up. Gary is working very hard on the CQP for the end of the month and I am seeing a lot in the journals as well. Plan to be on for the best QSO party ever!

Along those same lines, Bob Vallio is offering to do the North American Spring CW coordination for September. Thank you in advance and let's all try to help make this as big a success as the previous Sprints.

CQ World Wide is just around the corner and now is the time for planning your effort. I'll be sending a separate mailing and questionnaire in 1-2 weeks. Be sure to watch your mail.

73, Chuck, W7MAP

### NCCC QSL CARDS ARE BACK!!

Stock up for the Fall Contest Season!!!

-- Available in NCCC orange, plus six other colors.

-- Prices (includes shipping):

\$35.00/1000

\$55.00/2000

or

\$115.00/5000

-- Allow 2 to 3 weeks to process order.

-- Order may be placed with WA6VEF at any NCCC meeting, or you may obtain an order form and color samples by sending an SASE to:

Cedar Press  
 c/o Tim Coad, NU6S  
 10292 Judy Avenue  
 Cupertino, CA 95014

A sample card has been enclosed with this issue of the JUG.

## 1986 CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

Sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club  
 September 27th and 28th, 1986

Well, here we go!!!

We're only a month away from the 1986 running of the California QSO Party and, by all indications, this year's contest promises to be the biggest and best ever.

For this year only, we have moved the CQP to the last full weekend in September (because of a scheduling conflict with RADIOSPORT Magazine's new IRSA DX Contest). We will return to our traditional slot, the first full weekend in October, in 1987. So, be sure to mark your calendar for September 27th and 28th for this year's test.

Our goal for the 1986 California QSO Party is, plain and simply, to bring about a dramatic increase in overall participation in the contest. CQP activity in the past few years has been on the decline, both in and out of state. We really need to beef things up, especially if we want to maintain our position as the biggest state QSO party of all.

To do all of this, a large core of the NCCC faithful has volunteered to help with coordinating this year's event. We've divided the Club up into sections and, by now, you should have been contacted by one of our CQP Area Coordinators to find out your plans for the contest. If, by some chance, you haven't been contacted, here are the Coordinators and their phone numbers:

Marin County and North -- Doug, WA0JRB, (707) 526-5131  
 SF and Upper SCV -- Jim WA6AUE, (415) 665-3974  
 Middle SCV -- Steve, WC6I, (408) 964-1428  
 Lower SCV and South -- Tim, NU6S, (408) 996-1572  
 Upper East Bay -- Mike, K6MBV, (415) 531-5197  
 Lower East Bay -- Mike, WE6G, (415) 783-1538  
 Eastern East Bay -- Gary, WA6VEF, (415) 689-7500  
 Sac Valley, Nevada and River City Contest Club --  
 George, K6SG, (916) 944-7400.

We'll have, as well, help from the Southern California Contest Club in generating activity for the contest, as the SCCC has decided to participate in this year's CQP as a club project.

We'll also be using the United States Postal System to help publicize the 1986 contest. All amateurs who have sent in a CQP log during the past two years will be receiving a three-page promotional announcement for the contest. A similar announcement will be mailed to about 500 active contesters throughout the country, and KA6ING will be stuffing about 700 CQP flyers into 8P9AR QSL returns. We've also sent out CQP announcements to the usual magazines and publications in time for inclusion in their September '86 issues.

The awards program for the 1986 CQP has been greatly expanded as well. As this is the 21st birthday of the Cal QSO Party, the Club is giving away a special prize for this year's contest -- a personalized bottle of NCCC Private Reserve California wine to the top 20 single-op entries outside of California, as well as to the top 20 single ops in state. There will be lots of trophies for the top scorers, and a participation certificate for any station that achieves at least 100 QSO's in the contest. Please see the CQP announcement elsewhere in this issue of the JUG for a complete listing of our awards program.

All in all, this is shaping up into a major Club operating event. We anticipate participation by at least 200 California stations, and should have no problem activating all 58 California counties. And, by the way, we are also making a big push to increase overall CW activity, which should please our vocal code-only contingent! Next month's JUG will feature a complete breakdown of who's going to be where for the test.

73, Gary, WA6VEF  
Chairman 1986 CQP

### A NOTE FROM RON, NV6Z, SECRETARY/TREASURER

My apologies to those of you who may not have received your JUG lately. I have been transferring the membership records from one computer to another and it has taken a couple of months to get all the errors corrected.

I believe that the mailing list is now complete and all members should receive their JUG starting with the August 1986 issue.

If there are any errors on your mailing label, please drop me a note in the mail: Ron Reuter, NV6Z, 4415 Tilbury Drive, San Jose, CA 95130.

Thank you for your patience.

Ron, NV6Z

### BADGES

The following badges are ready and will be at the next meeting (August 25): KB6LVA, WR6R and KK6X.

The following badges have been ordered but NOT received from the engraver: N1EE, WA0JRB and WA0YQM.

\* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS to Rich Hudgins, KB6JK. On Friday, August 8, 1986, Rich passed his Amateur Extra License Test and became a Grandpa -- all in one day -- Congratulations, Rich, from all NCCC'ers.

Doug Bender, WA0JRB, has a new call sign. Doug is now WW6D. Lyle, N6BLN, took the leap as well as is now WW6F.

### NCCC NET CHECK-INS

Wednesday's 20:00 Local 3825 KHz

July 23, 1986

July 30, 1986

W7MAP	NCS
KI6EZ	Alex
W6GO	Jay
W6ISQ	Jack
KB6JK	Rich
WR6R	Al
W6REC	Duane
AA6T	Lloyd
WA6VEF	Gary
K6XO	Alan
K6YT	Fred

No Report Received

August 6, 1986

WA6VEF NCS  
 N6BLN Lyle  
 KI6EZ Alex  
 W6GO Jay  
 W6ISQ Jack  
 WA0JRB Doug  
 KN6K Keith  
 K6LRN Dick  
 WR6R Al  
 W6REC Dwayne  
 AA6T Lloyd  
 AK6T Pat  
 K6TMB Lou  
 K6XO Alan  
 WI6Y Mary

August 13, 1986

WA6VEF NCS  
 WW6F Lyle (Ex N6BLN)  
 KB6JK Rich  
 K6LRN Dick  
 W7MAP Chuck  
 W6OMR/M  
 AA6T Lloyd  
 KE7X Fred (Montana)  
 NV6Z Ron

## AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTING

by Tom Schiller, N6BT  
 (Continued from July 1986 Jug)

### RUNNING RATE (It's Rate Time!!)

RUNNING RATE is not the same as referring to simply RATE. RATE is your QSO's per unit time. RUNNING RATE refers to a special, unique situation.

- \* Def.: When your number of contacts is limited ONLY by your ability to select calls and to send and receive exchanges.

#### TO RUN RATE -----

- ) Recognize it as a "rate situation."
- ) Send calls and exchanges only ONCE.
- ) Limit the times you send your own call.
- ) Limit "Thank you's," "Good luck's," etc. to ZERO.
- ) Keep your signal on the air.
- ) Remember that there are others waiting.
- ) Come back to or with a partial call.



- ) Try to take tail-enders.
- ) Have a "stack" in your mind.
- ) Listen off your own frequency.
- ) JA's - have them stand by occasionally.
- ) Return to the faster and/or louder signals, because chances are that they will not stay around, but the weaker/slower ones will since they don't expect to get through.
- ) Maintain a sense of urgency.
- ) Listen for encroaching signals.
- ) RESPOND AFTER THE CALLERS GIVE ONE CALL. This will set a pace, or rhythm, to your operation.
- ) Be in command and in control at all times. Otherwise, it will appear that you do not know what you are doing.

#### MAXIMIZING SCORES

There is always a controversy over what to do when it comes time either before the contest when planning strategy, or actually during the contest, as to which to do -- run rate or look for multipliers. Perhaps the following will assist you in your own plans.

#### DOMESTIC CONTESTS -

In all but one of the current domestic contests (the North American Sprint is the exception), there is usually sufficient time to either locate all the possible multipliers or have them call you. The section on what we do with our time shows that in Sweepstakes, for example, we spend only about 25-30% of the total time actually making exchanges. This leaves a lot of time for us to locate this "finite number of multipliers." This term really means "finite equalizer," since with a clean sweep, the only factor left in the scoring is QSO's. This being the case, it is probably a better plan to push rate at the beginning, when it is available, and then to look for the multipliers later, like on Sunday, when the going is slower and a search and pounce rate can match or exceed a CQ rate.

The North American Spring, by virtue of its short time (only four hours) and QSY rules, consumes more like 50-60% of our time actually passing exchanges. This condition really puts the pressure on running rate for the duration

of the contest and depending more on luck to find the multipliers.

#### DX CONTESTS -

There essentially is no "finite equalizer" in a DX contest. Consequently, multipliers become a more important factor in the scoring. We must be sensitive to conditions and what is going around us (do not want to miss someone else working a new multiplier a kc away.) Special multiplier "HOT SHEETS" of easy-to-get-but-missed-so-far multipliers placed in front of the operator(s) will help. Search and pounce techniques at lower rate times will lift the rate and fill in the multiplier list.

#### A few things to remember -

Try to maximize the QSO's at all times, either by running rate or by efficient search and pounce. Effective search and pounce requires an up-to-date dupe sheet. When running a fairly high rate, remember that sometimes the stations come in "bunches." Also, JA's are found in "pockets" across the band and the only to find them is to call a CQ while doing search and pounce.

### IT'S SPRINT TIME AGAIN

If it's September, it must be time again for the North American Sprints! The dates are as follows:

CW: 00Z-04Z, September 14 (Saturday, September 13 local time)

SSB: 00Z-04Z, September 21 (Saturday, September 21 local time)

The organizing efforts of W6RGG and WA6VEF for the February 1986 Sprints really paid off, as no fewer than 23 NCCC'ers submitted scores to the NCJ for the CW version, with many other NCCC'ers active on one or both modes.

#### CW

NCCC members' final scores for the CW test were as follows (from the July-August 1986 NCJ):

<u>Call</u>	<u>Q's</u>	<u>M's</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Team</u>
N6RO (WA6VEF op)	287	38	10,906 (#3 overall)	NCCC #1
WA7NIN (W6OAT op)	227	40	9,080 (#9 overall)	NCCC #1
N6BT	249	35	8,715	NCCC #1
W6SZN	235	37	8,695	NCCC #1
N7NG	219	35	7,665	NCCC #1
W6RGG	214	35	7,492	NCCC #1
AJ6V	231	30	6,930	NCCC #1
K6LRN	168	34	5,712	NCCC #2
KA6W	189	30	5,670	NCCC #5
K6ANP	166	34	5,644	NCCC #5
WA6AUE	183	30	5,490	NCCC #2
N6GG	166	31	5,146	NCCC #3
K4TKM/6	147	32	4,704	NCCC #2
N6JV	146	32	4,672	NCCC #3
K6XO	174	25	4,350	NCCC #1
K6ZM	109	28	3,052	NCCC #1
WA0JRB/6	109	24	2,616	NCCC #5
NV6Z	87	27	2,349	NCCC #4
N6EK	81	17	1,377	NCCC #5
K6MBV	76	14	1,064	NCCC #4
W6KZJ	52	20	1,040	NCCC #3
W6CF	43	15	645	NCCC #2
K6CSL	46	14	644	NCCC #2

Several NCCC'ers "reserved" their spot for the September CW Sprint by notifying W6RGG that they would not be on in February. Wayne, N7NG, has already told W6RGG that he won't be on in September. These actions, together with the above results, produce the following teams for September:

<u>NCCC #1</u>	<u>NCCC #2</u>	<u>NCCC #3</u>	<u>NCCC #4</u>
WA6VEF	N6RO	WA0JRB/6	AD6E
N6XI	N6TV	NV6Z	W6XX
W6OAT	K6ANP	N6EK	AA6AD
N6BT	N6OP	W6BSY	AG6D
W6SZN	WA6AUE	K6MBV	N6KT
W6RGG	N6GG	W6KZJ	WC6I
AJ6V	K4TKM/6	W6CF	AK6T
N6RZ	N6JV	K6CSL	K6HIH
K6LRN	K6XO	W6BSY	
KA6W	K6ZM	N6AUV	

The number of NCCC teams is limited only by our total membership. If you plan to be on, let W6RGG know and he'll assign you to a team. If you're already assigned to a team and you won't be on, please contact Bob so he can move everyone up. The importance of doing so cannot be overemphasized. We had in

place last time a mechanism so that, come contest time, each NCCC team would have its full complement of 10 members. All you had to do was let Bob know if you weren't going to be on at least 72 hours before the contest. Yet, look at the published results:

<u>Team</u>	<u>No. on Team Submitting Scores</u>
NCCC #1	9
NCCC #2	5
NCCC #3	3
NCCC #4	2
NCCC #5	4

Come on -- surely we can do better than this!

### SSB

Unfortunately, the NCJ has not yet published the scores from the February SSB Sprint and efforts to get them from K7GM have not been successful. Claimed scores appeared in the February 1986 JUG and, by necessity, these were the basis for the SSB teams listed below:

<u>NCCC #1</u>	<u>NCCC #2</u>	<u>NCCC #3</u>
WA6VEF	K6KLY	K6TMB
W6OAT	KB6JK	K6CSL
N6BT	K6XO	K6LRN
N6JL	W6SZN	
K6ANP	N6AUV	
K6HNZ	W6RGG	
WA6OCV	AJ6V	
K6ZM	WR6R	
KI6CG	NV6Z	
N6KT	WE6G	

Again, if you plan to be on, contact W6RGG and join a team.

See you in the Sprints!

73, Kip, W6SZN

1986 California QSO Party  
Sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club

BEGINS: 1600 UTC September 27, 1986  
ENDS: 2200 UTC September 28, 1986

Single operator entries may operate only 24 hours; off times must be clearly marked in your log and must be at least 15 minutes long. Multi operator entries may operate the full 30 hours. Stations may be worked once on CW and Phone on each band. All contacts must be simplex; no MCW. All CW contacts must be made in the CW sub-band, except for 160 meters. California stations that change counties are considered to be new stations and may be contacted again for point credit.

OBJECT: Stations outside of California work as many California stations in as many California counties as possible; stations in California work anyone.

EXCHANGE: California stations send QSO number and county; stations outside of California send QSO number and state/province/country.

QSO POINTS: Each complete phone contact is worth 2 QSO points. Each complete CW contact is worth 3 QSO points.

MULTIPLIERS: California stations use states and VO/VE1-7 and VY1/VE8 for a possible total of 58. Out-of-state stations use the number of different California counties for a possible total of 58.

TOTAL SCORE: The total score is the number of QSO points multiplied by the total number of multipliers.

FREQUENCIES: 160 Meters through 2 Meters excluding 30 and 12 Meters. CW on 1805 and 50 KHz up from the band edge. Phone on 1815, 3850, 7230, 14250, 21300, and 28500.  
Try CW on the half hour.  
Try 160 meters at 0500Z.  
Try 80 meters at 0700Z.

DEADLINE FOR SCORE SUBMISSION: All logs and summary sheets must be sent to NCCC c/o Gary Caldwell, WA6VEF, 1830 Polk Street, Concord, CA 94521 by November 1, 1986. Please include a business size SASE for results. Entries of more than 200 QSOs must include duplicate sheets.

AWARDS: Certificates to the highest scoring single operator entry in each California county, each state/province, and each country, and each station that scores 100 or more QSOs.

Trophies to the top three out-of-state single ops; the top three California single ops; the top multi-single and multi-multi in California; and the high scoring single-op and multi-op California county DXpeditions.

Special CQP 21st Birthday Award--The top 20 single operators in California, along with the top 20 single operators out of state, will receive a personalized bottle of Northern California Contest Club Private Reserve California wine. Entrants who qualify for the wine, but who are under the legal drinking age in their area of jurisdiction, will receive a personalized 1986 California QSO Party T-Shirt.

Special Trophies--Chairman's Award, sponsored by WA6VEF, to the California single op who makes the most CW QSOs; Secretary's Trophy, sponsored by NV6Z, to the mobile single-op or team with the most total QSOs.

A special thanks to Jim Wade, W6SHS, of Spectronix, Ltd., Castro Valley, CA, for his support of the 1986 CQP.



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FIRST CLASS  
FIRST CLASS  
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