

The CONTEST JUG



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CONTEST CLUB.
44 TOYON TERRACE
DANVILLE CA 94526

MAY 2, 1989

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NCCC REPEATER 147.240 (+600)

UPCOMING EVENTS.

MAY 13-14	NEVADA QSO PARTY
	CQ-M CONTEST
MAY 19	NCCC MEETING
MAY 20-21	ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 27-28	CQ WPX CW

FROM THE EDITOR.

Spring is finally here, or is it? Spring is supposed to be the time of renewal and rebirth. Strange as it may sound, it did not happen that way. Not even close. Quiet the opposite was at hand during our last elections. Believe it or not, we have had elections and we have elected new people. But why should you be concerned? If I say these were the worst attended elections in the history of NCCC I'll be right. There were only 6 members present in addition to one visitor who used to be NCCCer so years back. Now, I want you to sit down and think about it. Why should I continue to write a JUG and try to promote the well-being of NCCC when 93 percent of this club do not even attempt to show up for election night? Well, if you think I am mad you are right and that is why I want to hear from you. But being mad does not solve this problem. What we need is new ideas from new and old talent. I know that there are a lot of talented members out there. But many of you are silent for one reason or another and we never hear from you except on rare occasions. Some of you feel that by paying your dues your obligation to the club is completed.

I have important information for you, silent majority. I want to hear from you. I want to know why you want to belong to NCCC and what we should do with the club in the next 12 months and beyond. Is it going to a death spiral into a black hole of decay and apathy or is it going to be a second spring? I would like to hear from YOU in the immediate future because for the fifth time I am writing a JUG and AGAIN fewer than two names appear on its pages (I'll take that back). What ever you write does not have to be anything long and/or elaborate. As long as my computer (IBM) or I can read it will do just fine. You can even send it via Packet radio if you so desire (KI6EZ@N6VV) or DX network at KN6J node).

Skew Paths.

During this past winter, many DXers noted that signal strengths often peaked at directions other than normal short path or long headings. Experienced contesters know that skew paths frequently provide the best chance to work a rare multiplier.

One of the more common skew paths is around the North Pole. The direct path across the pole is often disturbed by Stratwarm conditions, an aurora, or an active geomagnetic field. During these periods of disturbed conditions European signals tend to be hollow with an echo effect. This is due to a possible multipath distortion when the signal was bent around The North Pole. In these cases one should explore a beam heading 20-30 deg to the side of the direct heading, away from the pole. I found that Europeans tend to peak at about 0 deg and Central UA (UA3-UB and etc) at 340 to 350. Signals tend to be very strong and at times the opening would continue for hours (20 m). These late 20 m openings can get out of hand on Friday and Saturday nights when most EU and UA are on during their early morning hours. These openings require a good size beam and kW, but when conditions are good, a dipole and 100 watts will provide a number of interesting QSO's. For those who are somewhat skeptical about the existence of this path, you are more than welcome to answer 10 lbs of QSL cards. It also helps to speak a European language!

Another interesting path that should be explored from the West Coast is a long, around The North Pole 15 meter path to Central Asia and UA's. My experience with this path is somewhat limited and I would like to find out more about it. This skew path is unusual because it starts after the band has supposedly closed for the night. During 1989 ARRL CW this path opened after JA's went quiet and far in between. This opening lasted for approximately 2 hours and 150 stations were worked during this period. Most of them were UB5 and UA6 with good, solid signals. This path gives the "pipe" theory another boost. Again the heading was off from the "official" heading by 60 deg. to the west, at 330 deg.

The ionosphere is a capricious thing and sometimes surprises even the most experienced DXers and contesters. If you know of a interesting path or an opening we would like to hear from you. An ASCII file on IBM floppy will do. WordStar or MsWord files are ok also.

Edited from DX Magazine by KI6EZ.

Check List.

When was the last time you checked the changeover relay on your good, old, reliable amplifier. Don't let Murphy hit you in the middle of the contest. Most amplifiers use standard electromechanical relays that wear out with time. Vacuum relays are nice but they cost a lot and are hard to come by. Simple cleaning with TV tuner cleaner gives an old relay another chance for life. If you still use VOX on CW or SSB your relay is most likely goner by now. Replace it and get a foot switch. CU in pileups.

KI6EZ Alex.

Northern California Contest Club Treasurer's report

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB

AS OF 4/15/89

	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET BUDGET
MEMBERSHIP DUES	2,250.00		2,250.00
ARRL COMMISSIONS			0.00
SELF FUNDING			
EVENTS	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00
PUBLICATIONS		1,200.00	(1,200.00)
JUG ADVERTISING	700.00		700.00
HOSPITALITY VISALIA		200.00	(200.00)
SPONSORED AWARDS		150.00	(150.00)
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS		800.00	(800.00)
HALL RENTAL		45.00	(45.00)
CONTINGENCY FUND		200.00	(200.00)
CQP	300.00	900.00	(600.00)
SPECIAL MAILING		150.00	(150.00)
MEMBERSHIP DUES 1989		0.00	
TOTALS	5,050.00	5,445.00	(395.00)

OTHER INCOME:

AWARD DONATIONS			62.00
CQP			52.00
REPEATER DONATIONS			159.00
REPEATER FUND BALANCE	886.65		
AS OF APRIL 15,89 CONTRIBUTIONS	159.00		
REPEATER FUND BALANCE	1,045.65		1,045.65

APRIL 15, 1989 WELLS FARGO BANK BALANCE 2,746.90

PREPARED BY STAN KUHL, K6MA

de AD6E An example of a typical Packet Mail!!!!

NCCC meeting to be held at Miguels in Hayward this month on
Friday May 19 at 7:00 PM (0200Z) for dinner...
Meeting starts at 7:45...

Directions:

take 880 to Hayward
exit on Jackson east
Left turn onto Watkins
Left turn onto Willis
Miguels is at end of the street
Addr: 22865 Atherton - (415) 886-7200

73 de Al
KI6EZ de KN6J 7-May 1701Z >

de N6EK Board Minutes of 3 May 1989

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM at the Concord home of AI6V. AI6V, WB6MZQ, KI6EZ, K6MA, AD6E, WZ6Z and N6EK were in attendance.
2. AI6V outlined a scheme for improving the participation in club activities: meeting planning, support for the JUG, contest participation, and informal activities.
3. AI6V reported that he accepted the top club score plaque for 1988 WPX on behalf of NCCC at Dayton last week. It will be displayed at the next meeting.
4. AI6V pointed out that NCCC has a good chance to win WPX again this year. Club members are urged to participate in the CW portion on May 27-28.
5. N6EK suggested that the club revive the tradition at meetings of each person's introducing himself or herself and telling what he or she has been doing and plans to do.
6. The May meeting will be held in Hayward on May 19th. The program will include introductions as per item 5, a report on Dayton by AI6V, WPX CW pep talk by KI6EZ, and for the main event a report by AI6V on the recent P40V operation.
7. AD6E agreed to find a specific location for the May meeting.
8. KI6EZ reported that the JUG deadline for this month is May 7.
9. It was agreed that club meetings would be held on the 3rd Friday of the month as much as possible.
10. There was a discussion as to what the major contesting direction of the club should be. AI6V suggested that it might be time to try to win sweepstakes again. Such an effort could start this year with the real push to be the following year.
11. AI6V suggested that the June meeting be combined with a low key Field Day operation: fun-oriented rather than super competitive. AI6V will try to identify a site and coordinator.
12. It was agreed that we would try to get a program on another recent club contest DXpedition for the July meeting. AI6V will contact the potential speaker.

13. The August meeting will be our traditional successful picnic. One site was identified as most desirable and two back-up sites were identified.
 14. The September meeting will focus on the California QSO Party.
 15. The October meeting will focus on WW and/or SS strategies.
 16. The December meeting will be the Christmas Banquet, hopefully on December 15th.
 17. WZ6Z offered to coordinate monthly publicity for NCCC meetings at Ham Radio Outlet stores and possibly other places.
 18. N6EK agreed to contact the Pleasanton Hotel this month to reserve the Christmas banquet and awards banquet dates.
 19. The next board meeting will approve a budget for July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990 for presentation to the membership at the June meeting.
 20. KI6EZ and WZ6Z agreed to produce a new roster at the end of the summer.
 21. K6MA presented the current financial situation. It was generally agreed that the club is on sound financial footing and that next year's budget should be similar to this year's.
 22. AI6V expressed interest in an informal poker game for club members who were interested.
 23. The next board meeting is scheduled for the QTH of N6EK, 1175 Colusa Avenue, Berkeley at 7:30 PM on June 8th.
- All are welcome. Call N6EK at 415-527-7655 if you need directions.
24. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.
 KI6EZ de KN6J 8-May 0052Z >

Message #600 From: W6GO Subject: Contest News network

From Longpath, the newspaper of the Northern Alabama DX Club:
 This report is brought to you by Don Miller Lite beer. It doesn't fill you up, because it really isn't there!

HOUSTON, TX: NASA announced today that the next shuttle mission carrying amateur radio will be scheduled during the ARRL DX contest. The ARRL has modified the rules to accommodate the shuttle's multiplier status. Over Europe, it will count as 4U1VIC. over Africa, as Transkei, over the Pacific as the Pribiloffs, and over the USA it will count as the District of Columbia.

MARKET REPORT: The flea market closed slightly higher in very active trading. Among the most active issues: 2 Meter Mag mounts up 5/8ths. Rohn towers at 25 unchanged, Kenwood at 940 unchanged, Legal HF bands up 1 to close at 8. WWV flux at 220, up 10, and DXCC Countries up 1 to 321.

KI6EZ de W6OAT 11-May 0550Z >

DX de W6DPD: 14195.0 T33JS CALL CORRECTION (Oh Yeah?) 0548Z..

Message #607 From: K6LRN Subject: NCCCComments

Hi, Bob. I took a peek at the minutes you were sending to Alex. Was there any mention of Armed Forces Day?? We have a 10 Mhz., 7 Mhz., and a 14 or 21 I forget which now for varying periods during the day. AF day is on Saturday, May 20 (local) from 0600-1945 (1300z-0245Z Sun) at Skaggs' Island. One must notify me to get thru gate. Bring your own Rx, key, phones, mills, pens/pencils. They will have coffee.

If we are going to push contests, etc. how about a code or a star next to some people (edt. ?) so the callers will not have to waste their time. A lot of people I've been calling for CQP have been unable or unwilling to take part in the festivities. If Carl wants to stir up some action, he could give a weed-eater or a lawn-mower for a few hours for second place and for a really neat first place, how about a manned weed-eater???? Real incentive. How about taking time at a meeting or at meetings for show and tell, maybe we could bring pictures and diagrams of our stations for suggestions, hints, to improve performance...

How about sending 'Jug' by packet, save a lot of hassle and postage... just run up electricity bill..., 73 Dick KI6EZ de W6OAT 11-May 0552Z >

WZ6Z CONFESSES....THE TRUTH ABOUT DAYTON.

Ham conventions always seem to produce some tall tales. This one's true...and more than a little embarrassing.

It started last year at Dayton, when about 80 contesters from around the world decided that an alternative to the \$20.00 Hamvention banquet was in order. The evening was spent at a wonderful Chinese restaurant. All the major U.S. clubs were represented: Yankee Clipper, PVRC, Frankfurt, Midwest Contesters, SCCC and, of course, NCCC. Also present were several well known DX hams. The food was great, abundant and cheap; the company absolutely terrific. It surely beat a packaged program of general interest stuff, with food that was probably overcooked and cold.

Anyway, I certainly looked forward to doing it again this year, and told several people about it, hoping to generate interest in case there wasn't yet an organized effort. I ran into John, ON4UN, who wanted me to go to the main banquet with him. We were anxious to catch up on things since we last saw each other in Belgium, two years ago. But after my sales pitch on the contest dinner, he was sold, and even asked if another ON friend could come along. I was hanging out with the DX Foundation guys most of the time, and managed to convince them that this dinner was not to be missed. Rusty, W6OAT, Lou, K6TMB, and Bruce, W6OSP all seemed to share my excitement, and we agreed to meet in Stouffers' lobby at 6:30PM. Also joining us were my Arizona friends, Vince, K5VT, Tony, N7BG and Mike, KC7V.

Tony and Mike arrived first, and announced that the dinner had been moved to the Spaghetti Factory, just down the street from the hotel. It was raining, so I offered to drive people over to the restaurant. I took Tony and Mike over in the first shift. Mike ran in to check on table space. He returned to tell me we had reservations for 100 people, and there were still 20 seats left. He promised to save six chairs for the rest of us, and I returned to the hotel to pick up the other guys. When we arrived at the Spaghetti Factory, the place was jammed. But the hostess, hearing that we were with the group of 100 hams, knew just where to seat us. She led us to the back dining room, where, sure enough, there were five long tables full of people with call letter badges. One empty table remained, with about 20 seats. This must be the place.

We didn't see Tony and Mike, but figured they were either out talking to other people in the restaurant, or at the bar (somewhere I've found them more than a few times!). We proceeded to order our food. Soon a young fellow with a camera arrived to photograph our table. How nice, I thought, a record of this momentous occasion. We all smiled, John looked especially proud, and the kid took several shots.

We started our salads, by this time deeply involved in DX and contest discussions. Everyone at the table was interested in what John was up to, particularly on the low bands. His 80 and 160 meter exploits are legendary. In fact, he told us how he got his 80 meter single band DXCC application into ARRL on the first possible day. They accepted all 326 of his cards, not bad for 80 meters!

Lou commented that he didn't recognize anyone else in the room. It was the first I had looked around, even though we had been there about 40 minutes. It did seem kind of strange. The others in the room were...well...different.

Our main courses arrived....and so did some clues to what was going on. A guy at another table stood up and offered a toast. "To all you charter members who could make it to Dayton." Charter members of what? Then he promised, "We can now put a 'C' after our numbers and we all get ten extra points just for coming to Dayton."

Lou was the first to suspect the truth, "Hey, these guys are 10-10'ers!" Oh no, could it be true? John was really alarmed. He was thinking of the pictures that had been taken. His reputation could be on the line here.

More toasts followed, as did the awarding of raffle prizes. It was embarrassing, these people sounded like CB'ers. John pointed out that 10-10 is just one away from 11. Rusty and Lou gave me accusing looks. Boy, did I feel like a jerk.

Lou got up and wandered around the restaurant. He found Mike and Tony at a table in the next room. They were with about 12 other testers, mostly East Coast guys. He told them I had suggested we sit with the 10-10 gang instead of them!

Back in the 10-10 dining room, we now felt very conspicuous. They were still giving away prizes, and we were quietly snickering like a bunch of condescending kids. Then this guy comes over to suggest we pay more attention to our raffle tickets, "Hey, you guys might win something." We looked at one another, trying to figure out how to respond. Obviously, this guy figured we were fellow 10-10'ers. Should we spill the beans? Or play along for the fun of it? One of us finally broke the silence, "Actually, we are here by mistake. We're not members, but they put us in the wrong room."

I decided I'd better face the music with the other guys, so I walked over to the next room, trying to keep a straight face. When I arrived, everyone had a good laugh, offering to exchange their numbers, and asking if I had won anything. How embarrassing!

Anyway, now I've come clean. I just hope I can get someone to have dinner with me next year. I may have to go to the banquet and keep my mouth shut. Or maybe order room service.

But, actually, it's not so bad. I mean, it is kind of nice being able to put that 'C' after my number.

CONGRATULATIONS! you just procured me as your fresh new president. Don't run away now as you should stick around for the beauty of watching me try to say 3 sentences without ever mumbling fivnine. As you know by now Marlise doesn't let me talk much so now I CAN! and here I go --

I am extremenly pleased to be your new President and sincerely hope that my efforts for the year will help make our club more enjoyable for you.

At the Board Meeting it was decided to obtain a place to operate Field Day. W6NV will let us use his centrally located hilltop for the event and a map and coordinator will be anounced in next month's Jug. It has been many years since the last tragic NCCC Field Day and I think that it is time for us to have some fun with this event. Get in touch with me if you would like to coordinate the action.

Their will be a Summer Picnic in August - details to be announced later.

The Board also felt that it would be good for the Club to make a major effort in Sweepstakes this year so please try to obtain the right mental set for Fall.

The Board also agreed to seek a Restraunt in the Hayward area with a nice meeting room to hold meetings on the 3rd Friday, when possible, of each month.

The Club Christmas Party will be hopefully held on Friday, December 15, 1989 at the Pleasanton Hotel.

While in Dayton I had the HONOR to receive, for the NCCC, the World Club Championship Plaque for the 1988 CQ WPX SSB/CW Contests. This year our Club members have amassed a very big score for the phone weekend so if the membership would like to win the competetion again it will be necessary for most of us to get on the air and put in some points for the Club on the cw weekend May 27th and 28th. Hope to hear you in the Test.

Anyone interested in a monthly NCCC Poker Party call.

I have personally enjoyed membership in this organization for 14 years and feel that it's high time for me to re-pay the Club for all it has meant to me. If you feel the same and can help in this effort we can push this organization to NEW HIGHS.

Gud Ruk Contest
Carl AI6V

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