

# The CONTEST JUG

Newsletter of the  
**Northern California Contest Club**  
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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

(Contest dates are UTC. See QST, CQ or 73 for details, or try SH/CONTEST on DX packet.)

June 09 - 10	Worldwide South America CW Contest
June 15	NCCC Club meeting at the Wagon Wheel, Mountain View *
June 16-17	All Asian DX Contest, phone
June 23 - 24	ARRL Field Day
June 25	Deadline for July <i>Jug</i> material
July 01	Canada Day Contest
July 04	Fourth of July party at the Colvins, Richmond, 2 - 5 p.m.*
July 07 - 08	Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, phone
July 14 - 15	IARU HF World Championship
July 20 - 21	1990 World Radiosport Team Championship*
July 20 - 21	SEANET Contest, CW
July 21 - 22	Colombian Independence Contest, only phone or only CW

July 28 - 29 Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, CW

\* See news items for details

## Confessions of a Casual Contester

by NCCC President Jack Troster, W6ISQ

Let me tell you, it was a great experience to stand up before our world-class membership at the last meeting! I had that old feeling, "What is this old Casual Contester doing here among the Big Boys?" Out there were some of the greatest contesters in the world. Just in that small audience alone were a potential 25 million plus points in most contests. I could add up the points by millions at a time, going down one side of the table and back up the other. And there at the end of the table was world champ N6KT sitting next to Carl Cook, who was wearing his world champion Icom Victory jacket. Wow! It was an impressive experience for me, indeed, and quite an initiation to the front table.

THINK CQ WW!

## Last meeting

Last meeting the non-attendees missed a great stimulating lecture by Professor Bob Fabry, N6EK, covering the use of computers in contest logging. The interesting thing about the talk was the way the audience cooperated with the speaker to expand the scope of the presentation. It seemed as though for every question there was someone present who had had first-hand experience with the problem. A great participation evening led by Bob. I believe many

non-users were led to an understanding of how the system works, and it won't be long before they too will be computerized

Bob mentioned that if he suspects he made a mistake in the call or report as he typed it in the computer, he writes a quick note to himself on a yellow pad to correct the mistake later. I do believe a lot of us would need at least one line on the yellow pad for each QSO on the computer. The greatest selling feature of Bob's description, however, is that at the end of the contest you need only press the proper button and the summary sheet, complete with score, prints out — or something like that. Whatever, it seems better than the usual hours of checking and counting that most of us put in! Thanks for the info, Bob. Good show! (See two-page summary of Bob's talk elsewhere in the *Jug*. — Ed.)

THINK CQWW. WIN CQWW.  
THINK CQWW.

#### Board of Directors and CQ WW

A word about our BOD meeting, complete with advisors and well wishers. It was really quite interesting, and the input from all attendees was great. AD6E reviews the meeting elsewhere. But I want to emphasize the thoughts on CQWW. We debated between SS and CQWW as the main contest for the year and finally decided that CQWW should be the big event for club participation and competition with other clubs.

If there is any violent objection from the membership, bring it up at the next meeting. SS is a great contest, and we are sure there will be wide club participation in that event this year. But SS is USA/VE and a bit close to CQWW time-wise. So let's give a good shot at the international event before 10 and 15 go away. SS will have its turn again in a year or so. Is that OK with you?

CQP in October will be our "in club" fun bash to demonstrate once again what a fine contest we have going out here. Also as a warm-up for CQWW. Presume you read the nice comments in NCJ. A lot more on this in a couple months. But select your county now.

For now, please THINK CQWW. What are you going to do individually to contribute to the club competition? Naturally, all members should expect that all other members will participate by doing something — almost anything — to help win. Otherwise, why join NCCC? Don't let your buddies down.

Remember the words of that experienced and time-weary philosopher Old Lou, K6TMB, who has seen and heard everything twice. He said something like, "Think not how many new countries 10 meters will provide you in the CQWW. Think, rather, how many points you will contribute to NCCC in the CQWW." This may not be an exact quote, but it's close enough for government work.

THINK CQWW. WIN CQWW .  
THINK CQWW!

#### Improve now

If NCCC is going to WIN the CQWW, everyone had better begin to think about what they are going to do to contribute. You have four months to work over the antennas, or add just the right filter to the RX, or get some new keyer, or a new eversharp pencil, or make N6EK happy and add a computer logging system. Do something to what you have, even if it is no more than to upgrade your fierce attitude to go a full 48 hours alone.

Go on for some of the contests this summer to test and try out what you now have or what you changed. There are some great contests, as you know, and we might as well make the NCCC presence known. Plus add to your 5M score.

Back to "improving" the equipment. I believe there are a lot of members out there who would also welcome ideas that might improve their contest capability. Note, for example, that at the meeting N6RO declared his intention henceforth to use computer logging.

We have in our midst some of the premier world-class testers who know equipment and how to string it together for the most effective use, whatever it is. Location is all important, but unless equipment is at functioning peak, it will produce inferior results.

When I got this NCCC job I thought perhaps I could use this eternity-sorry — this year — to upgrade my station to be a more effective contest center with some ideas from the pros in the club. I do not think I am up to computer logging yet, but I should make some changes that would produce more points. New op?.

I would like to suggest that there are a lot of other fellows out there who, like me, would like to reconfigure their stations and/or antennas before CQWW. How can we all cooperate to generate some good ideas on what equipment a good contest station should use? I mean, type, make, hook-up, etc., etc. I'm thinking modular: 1) start with beginner exciter-size equipment and maybe a keyer, 2) add a final to the exciter, plus ancillary equipment to make an excellent casual contester set-up, and 3) what else to add to bring the station to "professional" quality? Probably the equipment should be the main focus of improvement. Antennas are often too limited by house location constraints.

It is fun to think about this. We all do. Perhaps we should have an equipment advisory group at some meeting to spell out the advantages and disadvantages of some of the available gear. Also, I would like to see a questionnaire in the JUG to get input from a lot of folks. What d'you think? Meanwhile, please ponder the above paragraphs and consider speaking out when the opportunity comes. I'll try to make that moment come soon.

— 73 de W6ISQ

WIN CQWW!

P.S. All through the meeting, I kept hearing a low, humming, sub-audible chant — like the jungle drums I remember from the South Pacific islands. Nobody's lips or bodies were moving, but the "feeling" was there. Yes, the "presence" kept on no matter what was being said — it was there. An unearthly vibration from the chant that seemed to say, "See Kew World-Wide, See Kew World-Wide, Win CQWW, and on and on. Yes, perhaps those were the old native drums back to life.

I hope you all will come to the next meeting and see if you don't also hear those jungle drums' rumbling presence. See Kew World Wide, Win. See Kew World Wide.

Fire walking will be available in the parking lot after the meeting.

WIN CQ WW!

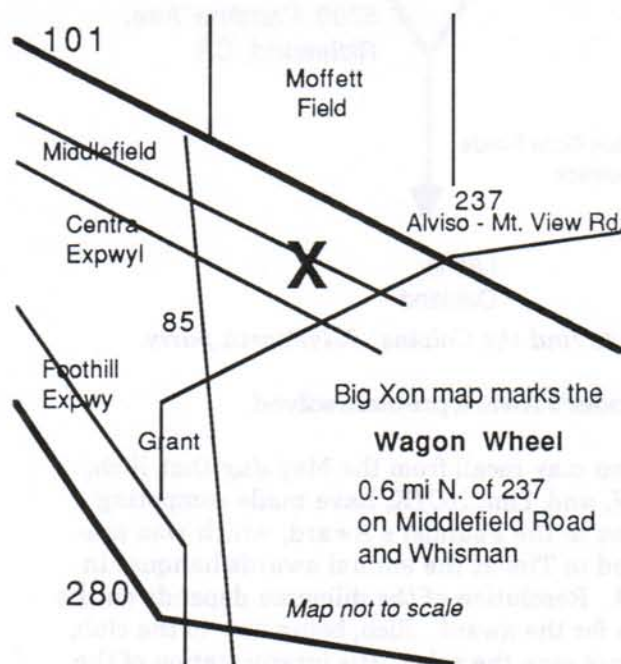
### June NCCC meeting scheduled

Our next meeting will take place on Friday, June 15 at the Wagon Wheel restaurant, 282 East Middlefield Road, Mountain View, phone (415) 967-1244.

Rusty, W6OAT, found this one for us. Nice upstairs room holding about 50, they say. Across the hall is a private bar and more tables. Looks fine.

Rusty ate lunch there, and my wife and I had supper. The supper menu seems in the range of \$8 - 10 for the entrée. I had chicken teriyaki (which also happens to be the name of the oldest living kamikaze pilot). Pretty tasty. Marguerite had crab salad. Also good. Take a chance. Please come out and enjoy the rally. Thanks for the intro, Rusty.

— Jack, W6ISQ



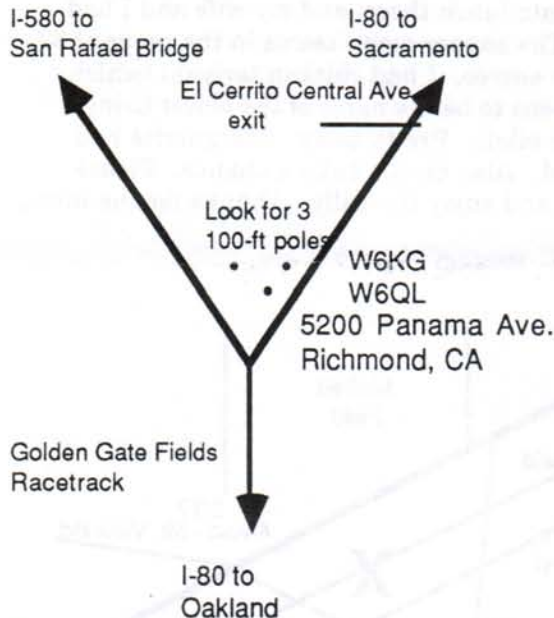
How to get to the June 15 NCCC meeting.

## Colvins put out welcome mat for annual Fourth of July party

Lloyd and Iris Colvin, W6KG and W6QL, have issued their annual gracious invitation to their Fourth of July party. The theme is French Polynesian. All members of NCCC and NCDXC, their spouses and significant others are welcome. Highlights include:

- Drinks
- Food
- Music
- Fun
- Prizes
- Flowers
- Notorious stairway to Heaven and Hell
- World's largest collection of QSL cards

The address is 5200 Panama Avenue, Richmond, CA — phone (415) 525-0756.



*How to find the Colvins' JulyFourth party.*

## Founder's Award problem solved

You may recall from the May *Jug* that Rich, KI3V, and Tim, NC7K, have made competing claims to the Founder's Award, which was presented to Tim at the annual awards banquet in April. Resolution of the dilemma depends on the rules for the award. Rich, being new to the club, had not seen the rules. His interpretation of the awards criteria led him to believe that he, rather than Tim, was entitled to the Founder's Award.

Phil, K6ZM, researched the rules and confirmed that operation in both modes is required.

Tim qualified under that rule, whereas Rich's higher score was achieved in SSB mode only. Based on that research, the club board of directors has now settled the matter, deciding that awarding the trophy to Tim, NC7K, was proper. Sorry to disappoint you, Rich.

Both of these top-performing contesters will have another chance to compete against each other and the whole club membership for the Founder's Award in this year's CQ WW. Best of luck to both.

For further comments, see next item.

— Pat, AK6T

## More on Founder's Award dispute

(Just before the May BOD meeting, Bob, N6TV, sent the following packet message to both Tim, NC7K, and Rich, KI3V. It sheds further light on the thorny question of who qualifies for the Founder's Award. — Ed.)

Tim/Rich:

We are going to discuss the CQ WW Founder's award at the BOD meeting Tuesday night. To resolve this, I called the founder himself, N6TJ, who started the award many years ago. Jim says the award was intended for the operator who contributes the most points to towards the club score.

He also said the award was intended for those entering in the single-op category, so those using spotting nets (e.g., packet) would be ineligible.

Did either of you submit one or more logs under the "single-op" assisted category? In any case, we will publish clear rules for this award before the next contest. The only real way to settle this, in my view, is to let you guys go for it in the 1990 CQ WW.

We're really trying to get the momentum rolling for this one; I am encouraged by the competitive spirit alive in both of you. 73, Bob.

— Bob, N6TV

## Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting

The NCCC Board of Directors met on May 15, 1990, at W6ISQ's QTH. In attendance were W6ISQ, N6TV, AD6E, N6KT, K6ZM, KI6EZ, N6EK, W6RGG, W6OAT, and WB6MZQ. W6ISQ called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Establishment of a budget was the first item of business. N6EK made suggestions based on last year's budget to start the process. Each line item was discussed. The final result was:

ITEM	BUDGET
Dues	\$2,250.00
Jug and roster ads	( 500.00)
Jug and roster publishing	(1,000.00)
CQP	(1,100.00)
Membership awards	(600.00)
Visalia hospitality	(200.00)
Self-funding events	0
Sponsored awards	(150.00)
Contingency fund	(500.00)
TOTAL	( 500.00)

There was much discussion as to how to deal with this projected deficit. There was little sentiment for raising dues, or for reducing support for CQP, awards, or other good things. (Does all this sound familiar?) The strain of trying to get a balanced budget was so great that two anonymous members cracked and offered \$100 each to the club IF and ONLY IF the membership at large also donates a total of at least \$400 extra to the club in their next dues. N6TV offered a motion to accept these kind offers. N6KT seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. N6TV then offered a motion to accept the budget as specified above, and to publish it in the next JUG. KI6EZ seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

W6OAT announced that K6PU is initiating another of his famous bus trips to Visalia next year. The bus will pick up travelers from Santa Rosa to San Jose on Friday afternoon. Price of the bus trip includes a room to stay in once you get there. K6PU may be contacted directly or on packet DXPSN.

W6ISQ initiated a discussion of how to get more articles for the JUG. K6ZM volunteered to make a list of other contest/DX clubs and to contact them about getting on their mailing lists. In return, we would put them on the JUG mailing list.

N6TV offered a motion to make winning CQ WW the top priority for this year. KI6EZ seconded. The discussion emphasized that this still allows WPX or CQP high priority, only that CQ WW will be the top priority for the club. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

N6TV brought up the issue of KI3V's letter to the BOD about the Founders Award. The letter had been read at the April club meeting. There was general agreement that the rules for this award are out of date and not crystal clear with regard to def-

initions. KI3V may have had a higher score than NC7K, but he has only entered one mode of the contest, whereas the rules imply that both modes should be entered. In addition, KI3V (and perhaps NC7K) was packet assisted, which could be seen as a violation of the single-op rule. The rules should be rewritten in the near future to clarify and re-focus the award. KI6EZ offered a motion to publish award rules in the JUG prior to the applicable contest. N6KT seconded. It was noted that WZ6Z had volunteered to do this at the April general meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. N6KT moved to allow NC7K to keep the award as it was presented. AD6E seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed with four in favor and one against.

N6TV noted that this year's Pacific Division convention will be held the weekend before CQP. Given this fortunate timing, Bob has been in contact with the convention organizers about having a contest forum. N6TV offered a motion to officially support this forum. KI6EZ seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. N6TV will begin the hunt for a speaker.

W6OAT presented a history and status of the Goodwill Games to be held this summer in Seattle. These games will open with a short (10 hour) contest involving some of the best testers in the world. Since the competition will be on a Friday, which is normally an NCCC meeting, Rusty suggested we move our meeting date to allow members to participate. After the competition, these renowned testers will be spending about a week playing tourist while the rest of the athletic competition is completed in Seattle. Rusty and others are trying to organize a weekend bash for these visitors here in the Bay Area. Rusty suggested that the NCCC sponsor a Friday night (July 27) bash where we would invite all hams in the area. N6KT moved to shift the July general meeting to July 27. KI6EZ seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. N6KT moved that the NCCC sponsor this Friday evening party (as a self-funding event) that would be the July club meeting. N6TV seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. Exactly what kind of party, where, and who will organize it remains to be worked out.

N6TV noted that this is the 20th year of the NCCC. WA6VEF has suggested some kind of special event. This issue will be taken up at the next BOD meeting.

N6EK suggested that the Christmas and award banquets be set up early, since reservations are

very tough to get. The DX Club already has Dec. 20 reserved. The 10 meter contest is Dec. 8, which leaves Dec. 15 as the best date. Several members have made it known that Saturday is preferable to Friday because of long commutes. AD6E volunteered to hunt for a site for both events.

The Pleasanton Hotel is the first choice due to its central location and excellent fare.

Location of the June meeting will be somewhere in the west or South Bay area. (See separate item — Ed.) W6ISQ and W6OAT will collaborate and get a reservation. N6TV is still trying to put together a presentation on how to do a DXpedition. N6TV moved to adjourn. KI6EZ seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m..

— Al, AD6E

### Minutes of the May meeting

The May NCCC general meeting was held May 18, 1990, at Miguel's restaurant in Hayward, with 18 members in attendance.

A short business meeting was opened by W6ISQ at 7:40. There was no treasurer's report. However, it was noted that N6EK had published a fine financial status in the JUG.

The VPCC report by N6TV highlighted:

- Push hard for CW WPX next weekend (May 26 and 27). NCCC has an excellent chance to win the club competition.

- All club members are urged to participate in Field Day with other clubs and groups in their local area. This is an excellent opportunity for getting others interested in contesting.

AD6E reported that only two members had signed up for operating NPG during Armed Forces Day. One was KI6EZ and the other was AD6E, who probably couldn't make it (and didn't).

W6RGG reported that the ambulance problem on the repeater has been fixed. It turns out there were two different ambulances causing the QRM. It is hoped that both have been returned to their proper spectral allocations. Should anyone hear any QRM on the repeater, please contact W6RGG.

K6ZM presented a few "leftover" awards:

- W6ISQ received the "big gun award."
- KS6H received the "little gun award."
- KS6H & N6ZB took the high scoring multi-multi CQP award.

- Several others received CQP certificates.

Arriving dinner forced an adjournment at 7:55.

N6EK chaired an excellent discussion of the K1EA software. Several hints and kinks were pre-

sented. (See Bob's two-page summary, "Remarks on the K1EA Contest Software, Release 5, Bob Fabry, N6EK, at the back of this newsletter — Ed.)

— Al, AD6E

### DUES ARE DUE July 1

- Full members — \$20.00
- Associate members — \$10.00
- Student members — \$10.00

This year, we have a good reason to start this process a little early. Given the projected budget deficit for this coming year (see the BOD minutes), we have been offered an extra \$200.00 by a couple of anonymous members. The catch — there's always a catch — is that they will chicken out and give nothing unless the rest of you kick in a little extra yourselves. So here's how its going to work:

Please fill out the form below and indicate how much you are donating to the club above and beyond the normal dues. (If you don't want to deface your *Jug*, make a photocopy of the form or write it out on a sheet of paper.) If the total donation exceeds \$400.00, then the two gentlemen are bound by drunken oath to make their \$100.00 gifts.

However, there is a 90 day time limit (they weren't that drunk!) So please get your dues and donations in to me early.

The other info here will be used for updating the next roster.

Call \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for "Make Rusty and Alex Pay" fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Regular dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Al Maenchen, AD6E  
3330 Farthing Way  
San Jose, CA 95132

43315 16th St. W., Apt. 12  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
H (805) 940-3912

### How to order NCCC QSLs

April's *Jug* gave full details from Al, AD6E, of arrangements he can make to help you get club QSLs at a reasonable price.

### NCCC meeting dates

NCCC meetings normally are held on the third Friday of each month, with attitude adjustment at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The meeting place is going to be moved around the East Bay and the Peninsula, so be sure to check the meeting notice elsewhere in the *Jug* for details

### Deadlines for the *Jug*

Please get material for the *Jug* into the hands of the Editor, AK6T, by the 25th of the month. Our editorial team is aiming to put the newsletter into the mail before the end of each month. We sometimes miss by a couple of days — this issue, for instance — but it's a worthy goal.

— AK6T

### How to get news to the *Jug*

We're always delighted to get news items for the *Jug* in any shape or form. Most convenient is copy sent via modem at 1200 baud over the landline. Also good is stuff sent over the DX Packet Spotting Network on 145.770 MHz, except that the longer messages tend to get garbled. Either way is a heck of a lot better for me than having to keyboard everything. I use a Mac with Microsoft Word.

— Pat, AK6T

### NCCC badges for sale

NCCC badges are available at a cost of \$7.50, including sales tax. Order them from Bob, N6EK, enclosing your check.

### Roster updates

Last month's issue gave a new address for Bob Dorsey, K4UVT/6, reflecting his move to SoCal. The address within his apartment complex has changed again:

D.R. Dorsey, Jr.

### WPX CW scores reported

Some club members have reported their CQ WPX CW scores from the weekend of May 26 - 27:

• K3EST, Bob, and N6IG, Jim., operating as WZ6Z, M-S — 1870 Qs x 620 mults @ 2.5 pts/Q = 2.9 megs. Noncomputerized. "We had hoped to use the K1EA software, but we were lucky to get pencils to work for this effort, let alone computer logging! We sure are envious of computerized stations, though."

• N6TIB, Bill, operating as WU7Q, S-O, single band 40m — 438 Qs x 223 mults = 251,990

• AK6T, Pat, intended to fit a few hours of operating into a busy weekend, hoping to contribute a couple of hundred Qs towards the club score. He made about 40 Qs shortly after the contest began. Then, PG&E power went out until 11:00 p.m. The best laid plans . . . etc.

• N6TV, Bob, S-O unassisted, using K1EA program:

BAND	Qs	Q PTS	PTS/Q	PFXs
160	0	0	0.0	0
80	29	166	5.7	0
40	355	1662	4.7	95
20	417	771	1.8	250
15	185	449	2.4	83
10	18	48	2.7	9
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1004	3096	3.1	437
TOTAL = 1 352 952				

• KI3V, Rich, S-O unassisted, using K1EA program:

BAND	Qs	Q PTS	PTS/Q	PFXs
160	0	0	0.0	0
80	26	124	4.8	5
40	276	1154	4.2	93
20	496	756	1.5	266
15	142	251	1.8	87
10	34	71	2.1	21
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	974	2356	2.4	472
TOTAL = 1 112 032				

### Early 1990 WPX CW Claimed Scores

Call	Qs	PTS	PFxs	Score	Class	Hrs
WZ6Z (N6IG, K3EST)	1870	4675	620	2898500	M-S	48
N6TV		3096	437	1352952	S-O (A/B)	30
KI3V/7	1004 974	2356	472	1112032	S-O (A/B)	30
NC7K	416	893	283	252719	S-O 100w	18
WU7Q (N6TIB)	438		223	251990	S-O 40m	
K6ZM	223		188	66740	S-O 20m	15

CW Total: 5,934,933  
SSB Total: 15,510,390

NCCC Grand Total to Date: 21,445,323

### 1990 WPX CW Report -- I guess I jinxed it

"Conditions set for a FB CW WPX Contest." — N6TV, May 1990 NCCC Jug

Boy, I'll never do that again. Conditions were MISERABLE! Around 2100Z Saturday afternoon, all the bands went dead. What the heck is going on?! Check antennas, check coax, check rig, check WWV -- NO WWV! Hmmm. Call WWV on the TELEPHONE:

"Solar activity for the past 24 hours follows: solar flux 180, A index 26, Boulder K index at 2100 UT on 26 May was 5, repeat 5, solar activity was high, the geomagnetic field was unsettled to active. A major flare occurred at 2058\UT on 26 May. Forecast for the next 24 hours follows: solar activity will be high, the geomagnetic field will be active to storm levels."

Need I say more? Nevertheless, a number of dyed-in-the-wool (died-in-the-wool?) contesters with iron butts stuck it out to make a very fine showings. Guess I should call them "dried-in-the-wool" contesters.

My heartfelt thanks to all participating NCCCers, including the following stations heard on the bands by yours truly: N6ZB, K6ZM, W6ISQ, N6RA, KI6EZ (at KA6W), KI3V/7, NC7K, VE7NTT (aka. WA6VEF), WZ6Z, WU7Q, N6TIB, K6LRN, N6EK, N6TU, KI6YB. Who'd I miss? Early WPX scores received via packet appear elsewhere in this issue.

Please don't forget to send a copy of your summary sheet to me, N6TV, via packet mail or snail mail. This information will be used to prepare the NCCC club entry. The log deadline is July 10th.

— Bob, N6TV

### CQ World-Wide — 1990 is our year

The Board of Directors has voted unanimously to support a major effort in the 1990 CQ World-Wide DX contest, the last full weekend of October and November. Our goal is simple: win the club competition. This requires lots of planning and organizing. It also requires lots of DXpeditions.

All NCCC members are encouraged to attend the June 15th NCCC meeting, where we'll hear firsthand from DXpedition veterans W6SZN and WR6R on what it takes to go on your own contest DXpedition. The checklist they promise is worth the trip alone, not to mention the FB slide show of past NCCC DXpeditions, with step-by-step instructions. Don't miss it!

— Bob, N6TV

### Rare WPX prefix, friend or foe?

Common knowledge says that a rare prefix will help your score in the WPX contest. No doubt this is true if you're outside the U.S., but what if you're inside? Consider the following preliminary results from the 1990 WPX CW:

N6TV —

BAND	Qs	Q PTS	PTS/Q	PFxs
160	0	0	0	0
80	29	166	5.7	0
40	355	1662	4.7	95
20	417	771	1.8	250
15	185	449	2.4	83
10	18	48	2.7	9
TOTALS	1004	3096	3.1	437

= 1,352,952

— KI3V/7

BAND	Qs	Q PTS	PTS/Q	PFxs
160	0	0	0	0
80	26	124	4.8	5
40	276	1154	4.2	93
20	496	756	1.5	266
15	142	251	1.8	87
10	34	71	2.1	21
TOTALS	974	2356	2.4	472

= 1,112,032

Compare the average points per QSO. It looks like KI3V was called by many more 0-point Ws than N6TV. Rich would have needed another 220



QSOs, or 102 more prefixes, just to even the score. Maybe a rare prefix hurts more than it helps? Maybe this WPX was a special situation: conditions were so poor, Ws had nothing better to do but run around calling new prefixes instead of working DX. What do you think?

— Bob, N6TV

### **NCCC to host Contest Forum at Pacific Division Convention**

The Pacifcon organizers have listened. This year, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention will be October 12 - 14th, one weekend AFTER the California QSO Party. This allows the NCCC to participate in full.

The NCCC has volunteered to host a 50-minute Contest Forum. I'm seeking volunteers to help us put together an exciting presentation on our favorite aspect of Amateur Radio, hopefully something that will bring new contesters into the fold. Please give me your ideas.

— Bob, N6TV

### **Member Briefs (aka. Dried-in-the-Wool Part II)**

- Don Artru, NB6L, has new steerable 4-square array on 80 meters. This is the COMMTECH system. It has about 3 db of gain. Don's worked 30 countries in 2 months, mostly on 75 Phone. His QTH is 10 acres of farmland, in the delta, about 2 miles from N6RO.

- New member Dick Dievendorff — G0MFO and GB0WPX — is sporting a new 2 element. quad, replacing his old antenna, which was destroyed in a windstorm by a falling tree. QSL via RSGB, G3SZA, or Dick's home address (see April *Jug*).

- NCCC founder Jim Neiger, N6TJ, is looking at trying ZD8Z for CQ WW Phone, plus a major effort on CW, perhaps at D44BC. QSL ZD8Z via W6CF.

— Bob, N6TV

### **Goodwill Games Radio Competition 2100Z July 20 to 0700Z July 21st**

Be a part of history as radio competition finally gets the recognition it deserves as an amateur SPORT. Note that this 10-hour contest starts FRIDAY afternoon at 2:00 p.m. local, so please plan your 1/2 day vacations now!

The following weekend, July 27 - 29th, is your opportunity to meet some of the finest contesters in

the world in person as Northern California plays host to the visiting competitors. Mark your calendars now, then check out the July *Jug* for the details.

— Bob, N6TV

### **NCCC Reunion on the Air**

Gary Caldwell, WA6VEF/VE7NTT, is proposing a 2 hour contest to be held on a Friday or Saturday evening in September or October of 1990, from 0200-0400Z, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the NCCC! It sounds like a great idea to me. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the *JUG*.

— Bob, N6TV

### **N6EK comments on K1EA contest software**

Bob Fabry's notes accompanying his expert talk on the pros and cons of the famous K1EA Contest Logging/Duping Program are reproduced on the two following pages

### **Gary, Niki, Louese and WZ6Z team lauded in VE ham press**

The May issue of the Canadian Amateur Radio Magazine congratulates Niki Bloom, VE7NKI, for her part in helping the WZ6Z team score 18.7 megs in the 1989 CW WW WPX SSB Contest. WZ6Z set a new USA multi-multi record while attaining an enviable fourth place in the world.

Listing WZ6Z, N6IG, K3EST, K6TMB, N6RO, WA6VEF and VE7NKI as the winning operators, J.F. Hopwood, VE7RD, writes that Gary, WA6VEF, is an accomplished contester from the SF Bay Area who just moved to Port Coquitlam, BC. The article goes on:

"Niki hails from California and has lived in the Vancouver area for a number of years. Hamming is in her family. Niki takes after her mother Louese KA6ING, who is another avid contester, although she admits that her father KD6XY would rather work DX. The CQ WW WPX was Niki's first contest and Mom and Dad were very proud of her. Niki went on to place 3rd overall in the December 1989 Telephone Pioneer QSO Party and 2nd in Canada, operating VE7NKI. There's no doubt we'll be hearing more from this VE7 XYL in the big contests to come!"

— Pat, AK6T, with tnx to Louese, KA6ING

## Remarks on the K1EA Contest Software, Release 5 Bob Fabry, N6EK

### Overview for New Users

This program is very solid: well designed, bug-free, good user interface, few quirks. (I have not actually used the packet spotting features or the radio control features, however.)

The only reason not to use it would be that you cannot type at all. Even minimal hunt-and-peck typing ability will get you by.

You must have an IBM-compatible computer that does not interfere with your radio reception.

For CW contests, you will certainly want the computer to send your CW as well as log your QSO's.

The program is not a money-making venture. You may obtain a copy from a friend or send off for a fresh copy for \$25. (See the attached announcement of Release 6.)

### General Hints

Keep your keyer in parallel with the computer for sending code. Every once and a while you will botch a call or something while you are running stations and you will not have time to fix it in the computer without confusing the people who are trying to work you.

Keep a paper and pencil nearby so you don't have to stop running stations to fix some minor error in the log. Just note the QSO number and the correction. Many corrections can be made after the contest, although you will probably want to correct any callsign errors before you switch to hunt and pounce.

Make a label strip for your function keys and a separate list of other special keys that you expect to use during the contest.

Practice entering QSO's and editing information before the contest starts.

If you encounter an error in your countries list, use a fake portable designation temporarily to keep things straight. Fix it after the contest. For example, if the computer doesn't know that HT2A is Nicaragua, enter the call as YN/HT2A or HT2A/YN.

For some US and Canadian calls the program cannot deduce the zone from the call. It will guess. Be prepared to make corrections based on what you receive. The newest version of the program is claimed to always get the correct zone whenever it is possible to deduce the zone from the call; the older versions usually got it correct, but occasionally blew it.

### WPX Hints

To my surprise, WPX requires a countries list even though the countries are not multipliers; it is used to determine the continent for figuring the points for each QSO.

The Check-Country button serves as Check-Prefix.

## **ARRL Hints**

Lots of JA stations send different power levels on different bands. The program assumes the power level is always the same. Be prepared to override the assumption.

## **General Experience**

It is very frustrating that the program does not cover all of the standard contests. The contest specifications should be read from a file just the way the countries list is done. This would allow users to add new contests themselves. (As a practical matter, K8CC has a look-alike program which covers many of the smaller contests. You can get a copy by sending a blank formatted disk to K6ZM.)

It is pretty clear that the program was written to handle CQWW and then modified to add the other contests. For example, in WPX, there is an unused zone summary, but no mention of points. With different QSO's worth 0, 2, 3, 4 and 6 points, a program designed from the start for WPX would probably have paid more attention to points.

Hunt-and-pounce mode needs a button that says "send my call if I haven't worked this guy." Currently, one must press one button to ask if you have worked the guy, read the result, and press another button to send your call. Someone else frequently beats me to the punch.

The software has an amusing "East Coast" bias in that it covers Worked-All-Europe but not All-Asia. One can also infer that the big-gun East Coasters are mostly brute-force CQ-ers who don't need to hunt-and-pounce very much. (I am envious!)

## **The Next Release.**

Release 6 was being sold at Dayton, but by the time I got there, they had run out. Has anyone in the club received one yet?

It is sometimes true with software versions that the next version is not an improvement for all users. It will be interesting to see how Release 6 will be received. For example, if your computer does not have an Intel Above Board or equivalent expanded memory, you will find that the program has grown and you can now have a maximum of only 4500 QSO's instead of 5000.

I understood at Dayton that the new version supports multi-multi operation but I don't find that listed in the announcement, so I am a little confused. I was told that each computer notifies each of the other computers each time a QSO is made. This way, the any position can always know what multipliers and what calls each of the other positions as worked. This approach sounds like it would provide redundancy if one of the systems were to crash, a worthy prospect.

I gather that this version does not have the on-line "uniques" and "uniques plus one" checking that had been discussed earlier; at least there was no mention of this at Dayton or in the announcement.

The new version supports the ARRL DX contest from the DX end, a welcome addition.

The new version supports the DVK voice keyer!!

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