



MEETING

:

**DATE: Monday, October 8, at
HP Mountain View**

**Mayfield Site: San Antonio Road and
Central Expressway (directions inside)
directions inside & on our website:
<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>**

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**The NCCC 75 meter
net meets on Thursdays
at 9PM,
3830kHz approximately**

Contest Calendar

October

California QSO Party	Oct 6 - 7
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Oct 6 - Oct 7
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB	Oct 7
Oceania DX Contest, CW	Oct 13 - Oct 14
North American Sprint, RTTY	Oct 13
Pennsylvania QSO Party	Oct 13 - Oct 14
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW	Oct 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Oct 27 - 28

November

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW - 5	Nov 3
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Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone	Nov 9 – 11
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Nov 10 - Nov 11
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	Nov 10 - Nov 11

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB - 19	Nov 17
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RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	Nov 17 - Nov 18
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Nov 24 - 25

For a comprehensive contest calendar, log submission details, and due dates for logs, visit:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.htm>

XI-ting Times

I don't want to write this column. But I'm the Prez and it's late September and the JUG is due out, so I have to do it. I have got to get my mind off the news, take another hour away from business and family, and write a column for the newsletter. I'm the Prez and that's what I do. That's what we all have to do now that the other Prez, the one in Washington, has things under control, the flags are back to full staff, recovery and reconstruction are under way and we can see a national and indeed global resolve not to allow terrorism to take away our way of life. We must go about our business, keep our commitments to one another, our resolutions to make this world a braver and better one and, yes, even our hobbies. And in NCCC's corner, that means radio contesting.

Radiosport may seem like a trivial pursuit in light of the new political reality but it is far from it. Part of the basis and purpose of amateur radio is promotion of international goodwill, and we need as much of that as we can get. What better demonstrates international cooperation and comradeship than getting out there and connecting with a few thousand strangers? Competing amongst ourselves across county lines (CQP), state/section lines (SS), country and continent lines (CQ WW, ARRL DX) and all together as a single

worldwide cohort (WPX), competing fairly with clear rules and in willing recognition of geographic differences, giving the competition a point as it gives us one: these are the stuff of friendship.

And of course, amateurs are a cadre of trained communicators. Our ranks served tirelessly in New York to provide the kind of backup communication that has always been a vital part of our charter. Even as the bulk of NY public service shifts to VHF and non-amateur channels, we must stay alert to disaster relief communication sharing the HF bands and give them clear channels wherever they need them. I am confident that we will do this.

Let me share with you some words I wrote for my company shortly after the attacks: "We all had a terrible week watching as our sense of security and serenity in the United States was forever shattered. The world will never be the same and the thousands of people lost will never be replaced. But we will rebuild and restore and we will renew our personal, corporate and (multi-) national commitments to peace, prosperity and good will. Many have asked what they can do. Here is a partial list:

- Give blood. Here in Palo Alto, the Stanford Blood Center on Welch Road is making appointments for donations. The Red Cross operates blood banks in all of our US cities. The need for both direct use and replenishment of supplies will continue, [especially in a month or two when the supplies built up in the first few weeks are depleted before the corps of regular donors become eligible to give again.]
- Give charity, both directed for NY/DC relief and to general purpose charities in memory of the victims. Do NOT respond to telephone solicitors of NY/DC relief. There are no legitimate charities doing this kind of solicitation.
- Reach out to others – family, friends, colleagues and strangers. Conversation helps and good deeds work. Children especially need strong adults as comforters and as role models.
- Return to life as we knew it – the goal of the perpetrators of evil and of terrorists worldwide is to destroy our way of life in free, democratic nations. We must not let them succeed.
- Live life better than we knew it – increase your compassion, resolve,

determination and drive.

- Join organizations that help to repair the world. There are hundreds. Pick one whose program resonates with your own values and interests.
- Pray if you can.
- Write if it helps.
- Make ourselves and our company even more successful than before.

“Thank you all for being strong, for being here and for being an active, diverse, caring community. Our company [like NCCC and our hobby] is one of the best examples I know of multi-national, multi-cultural cooperation. Let’s keep our chins up and our standards high.”

May we all have the strength to do all these things, at home, at work, at play and in our communities.

Appeal: We still need a new JUGhead! I live in fear of the day when five-year veteran K6GT will lose patience and stop editing and publishing the JUG. Please, volunteer your time for this vital club function. Call me in confidence to discuss it even if you are only slightly interested, even if you are likely to decline but want to brainstorm strategy for keeping our great newsletter going. I won’t twist your arm but we sure need your help and your ideas. Email me at n6xi@arrl.net or call me at 408-867-5797 (home) or 530-587-3164 (getaway) or 650-846-5214 (office). Thanks.

Correction: I noticed that I committed a “thinko” in my September column, claiming that use of the dual receivers in my 1000MP would let me listen while CQing. Of course, it won’t do that and I knew that, but I said it wrong. It’s only when I add the second, separate radio with a spare antenna that I can listen while sending. You can, too, though... and that was my point.

73, Rick, N6XI

NOTES

from the NCCC

Meeting of 10

September 2001

Venue

The September meeting was at the IHOP restaurant in Martinez, only a mile away from the freeway and in a very convenient private room. We had good service from a fun pair of gals, one a sweet,

young thing and the other a delightfully aggressive Teutonic matron. I think I would have paid the \$10 all-inclusive tariff just for their show, forget about the food. But the food was good, too, and everyone agreed that this new venue is a good prospect for future EB/NB meetings.

Business

We elected two new members and reinstated one: <names and particulars from Ed>

A series of recruiting meetings is planned. The Sierra Chapter will convene at N6XI/6 in Truckee at noon on October 13 for a BBQ after a meeting of the Carson Valley RC from 9-11 in Carson City. Then on October 16, the River City CC meets at W6UT. All members are welcome to these largely social gatherings which will nonetheless be logged as official club meetings for purposes of member election. Your prez is particularly eager to show off his negative horizon to JA to those who make the Truckee Trek. Then on a date to be determined, we hope to pull off a series of brief meetings, all on one day, primarily as recruitment opportunities. Several of us will travel by air to all three locations, conveniently placed at small airports. Others will drive much shorter distances to one or two of the locations near their homes or offices. It might be something like breakfast in Petaluma, lunch in Monterey and dinner in Paso Robles. Details depend on who volunteers to organize local prospects to show up for food, fellowship and membership signup. Watch this space.

Ken N6RO passed out more of the coveted W1AW/6 sheepskins to deserving members who worked the stations on lots of band/modes.

K6XX signed up a SWAT team of big, burly, aggressive storm troopers to persuade recalcitrant members to pledge two large SS scores. Their methods are not particularly pleasant and the minimal required scores will be very large if they have to resort to their uglier techniques. To avoid this onslaught and save them a lot of time to boot (others), send in your score pledge voluntarily to N6RO (email: kenkeeler@jazznut.com). Do it NOW and avoid the consequences!

XX Bob is also fine-tuning the SS Handbook, already a magnificent tome on the Members Only section of the <http://www.nccc.cc>. If you have suggestions on content, especially 21st century operating tactics, please send to Bob at email k6xx@arrl.net.

We still have an opportunity for a faithful member to serve NCCC by becoming the next JUGhead. This is not a big job, but it does require some diligence toward the end of each month. Even two half-

JUGheads would be fine. Please volunteer now to give K6GT some well-deserved relief after five years of outstanding service. Contact Rick by email at: n6xi@arrl.net.

Program

Bob N6TV moderated the program, which focused on CQP. Al, AD6E, holder of CQP records from more counties than most mortals can even spell, showed photos and maps of some of his single-operator, multi-antenna assaults on county lines. Don, W6OA, and Larry, NF6S, showed pix of their expedition to Alpine County. Everyone was suitably impressed and vowed to mount their very own CQP county expedition "Real Soon Now."

Then, supported by Ken N6RO, Bob offered some advice and fielded questions on SO2R. Lack of time mandates that a "real" SO2R presentation be deferred to another meeting, but it was fun to collect ideas on switching, software, filters and decoders. Some of us hope to become newly operational in this mode by SS. Unfortunately for us newbies, the common advice from all who have tried this is "Practice, practice, practice..." and time for practice is running short.

That's about it. It was a good meeting in a good new venue. If you weren't there, well, you should've been!

73, Rick, N6XI

Andy's Dandies

A Pomeless Column

I join in Rick's sentiments concerning the recent events in NYC and Washington. This month, limericks don't seem to be appropriate. Phone Sprint the weekend of the 15th was very appropriately canceled out of respect and a desire not to interfere with emergency nets. I note that the SAC contest did go on as scheduled, and assume that the rest of the contest calendar will be, like airline schedules, gradually returning to normal. Thus ...

CQP Coming Up

By the time you get this CQP will be fast upon us. We had a mailing party at my house a few weeks ago to send out about 500 invites to out-of-staters and 400 to Californians. Each consisted of a letter, rules, log sheet, summary sheet, and HRO ad. Big thanks to HRO for footing the bill for postage, to AD6E for preparing most of the enclosures, and to AD6E, N6TV, W6CT, and N2ALE for doing the mailing. This is the sort of effort that makes CQP work, so we should be very grateful for the help of such volunteers.

This has got to be the most enjoyable contest of the year. Don't forget to get on, even if you only have a limited amount of time. There are pileups on both phone and CW, with everyone wanting to work California. I can guarantee that you will enjoy it immensely. Then send in your log to AD6E, and get a certificate for 100 contacts, or go for a plaque or a wine bottle.

Don't forget SS!

And don't forget Sweepstakes. You'd have to be living in a cave without mail or internet not to know that we are going for an all out win this year. N6RO and K6XX are our contest coordinators and are doing a great job getting out the word. As we always say, SS is a numbers game.

The members section of the web site has a list of SS pledges that already number in the millions of points (the exact total is not to be printed, but you can see it on the web). If you need the ID or password, drop me or another officer an email.

Send an email to N6RO to make your pledge. Don't forget that every score counts and helps in this contest. Even if family or work commitments tie you up for part of the weekend, get on and do what you can. Go high power if at all possible, as you'll do better and have more fun at the same time.

And Then There is WPX

As for WPX, now is the time to start serious contest expedition planning for 2002. Start thinking about dxpedition sites. I have some in mind that I am working on and will be coordinating the effort. It will swing into high gear after SS, but now is not too early to be planning some brief vacation time at the end of March (Phone) and end of May (CW).

If you have limited time, then the Phone contest will produce more bang for the buck. Activity, and thus scores, are higher than in the CW event.

One nice thing about WPX is the availability of wallpaper from CQ Magazine, even for relatively modest operations from home stations on the Left Coast. I just received in the mail a nice certificate for the 2000 CW contest for 3d place CW in W6. This was a fairly substantial effort (for me) from my home station, but I also have a certificate from a few years ago for what was literally a seven-hour effort in the CW contest. That year I had extensive work commitments, so could only get on briefly. I decided to go 20m low power single band (a slightly masochistic choice, to be sure), and ended up being the high W6 scorer in that rather restricted category. So pick your modes and categories, and have lots of fun.

There is an interesting class called tribander-single element (i.e., no more than a tribander on 10-20

and dipoles or verticals on 40 and 80). This can be a category that a station can enter with a tribander, even if your normal antenna is a 40 meter beam. In the Phone contest, just stay off 40 and 80. In times of good conditions as we have had recently, 20 is open until midnight anyway, while 40 and 80 don't produce many points for average stations. It's possible to collect certificates in this class with a modest station.

As you can see, WPX offers lots of interesting possibilities, so please keep it in mind for next year.

Scores from 2001 ARRL DX CW

Even though we didn't specialize in the ARRL DX contests this year, many NCCCr's did terrifically well. See August QST for more details. Here are a few of them (and I apologize to those I missed, because these are really lengthy results).

HC8N (N5KO, N5KA, W6RGG, K7PN)	First Place DX Multi-Single
ZF2NT	Second Place DX Single-Op
P49V (AI6V)	Third Place DX Single-Op
VP5U (AJ6V)	Fifth Place DX Single-Op
K6XX	409k QRP

Scores from 2001 ARRL DX CW (cont'd)

K6III	198k QRP
W6AX (N6IG, et al)	5.2M Multi-Two
W6YX (W6LD, N7MH)	2.1M Multi-Single
K6ZM (K6WG, KD6RMN)	1.9M Multi-Single
N6RO (WA6O, N6BV, K3EST, W1SRD, WC6H, W6UT, N6ZS, N6DW)	6.1M Multi-Multi

See you all at the October meeting!

73, Andy, AE6Y

Advance Notice!

Holiday Meeting/Banquet Save the Date!

The 2001 NCCC Holiday Party will be Monday night, Dec. 10 at Chef Wang's in Mountain View, the same site as our very successful 2000 party. The food was wonderful last year and it's a bargain at \$25 per person, all included. We won't be collecting reservations for a while yet, but do mark your calendars for this highlight of the NCCC social year.

Rick, N6XI

Directions to the October meeting

From San Antonio: Just north of the overpass over Central Expressway, turn on Nita Avenue. Turn right on Mayfield, then take the first right and park near the lobby of Building 36. Sign in, tell the guard you are with the Northern California Contest Club, and he/she will direct you to the San Antonio Room, across from the cafeteria.

From Central Expressway: turn on Mayfield Avenue, just across Central from the San Antonio Caltrain Station. Take the first left into the parking lot in front of the Building 36 lobby, and do the thing with the guard.

New 2001 NCCC Sweepstakes Handbook Available

The new sixth edition of the SS Handbook is now available on the members-only section of our website. Newly updated with the latest in SS tactics and intelligence, the Handbook has something to offer every operator. New sections include SO2R equipment and score improvement through error reduction. Best of all, the price is still the same--FREE to all members (and unavailable to non-members).

Get yours today! Did you forget your password? Contact Secretary/Treasurer Ed, W0YK, at

w0yk@msn.net

to get it sent to you.

73, Bob, K6XX, SSHB Editor-in-chief

SS UPDATE

Before the Sept 11 tragedy, our Sweepstakes 2001 score pledges totaled just over 10 Million points, about 55% of what we expect will be needed to win the large club competition. There have been very few additions since that date. As we resume normal activities (for NCCC members that's contesting), more of our membership needs to step forth and commit to operating the November SS. Although we expect several more sizeable scores from our usual active testers, more than half of the club members have not yet pledged a score estimate. The nearly 100 members who DID NOT PARTICIPATE AT ALL in last year's SS, appear to be repeating their lack of

interest in the club's "main event" of the year. I invite all club members to review the third section (the 100 mentioned above) of our score pledge list on the members' page of the club web site. If you are in this third section, send me a score pledge, or tell me and NCCC why you cannot get on for SS. If you have already pledged, and see someone on this list you might encourage to get on, call them and help our SS committee with the telephone phase of our campaign, which will have started before you read this.

Use the CQP next weekend for station improvements and operating practice. Share lessons learned in CQP, at the Oct 8 meeting. That's when we will have our usual pre-SS panel discussion that can help big and little guns alike increase their Sweepstakes scores. N6BV will present propagation and band-plan information. We'll discuss my 3-phase focus plan for SS operation, operating techniques, begging for Sunday QSOs, removing barriers to participating in SS, SO2R, and anything else related to Sweepstakes that you'd like to discuss. This meeting is our last one before the CW weekend of Nov 3-4. Bring a friend!

73, Ken, N6RO

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