



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



April
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Issue 383

NCCC Net
Thursday 9PM
3853+/-

Our Next Meeting

NCCC Tales and Wales
Rusty Epps, W6OAT

NCCC Annual Election of Officers and
Board of Directors

Date: Monday, 12 April 2004

Time: 6pm schmooz, 6:30pm dinner, 7:00pm NCCC
meeting & Program

Location: **Chevys Fresh Mex**, 979-A Edgewater
Blvd., Foster City CA 94404 (650) 572-8441

RSVP to [KOBEE](#) by 5pm Friday, 9 April

NCCC Officers

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Tom Taormina K5RC tomk5rc@aol.com

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com

The Annual Awards Dinner

Rob Brownstein, K6RB

The NCCC 2004 Awards Dinner played to an overflow crowd at the Tied House in Mountain View. Again, the bulk of the awards were for achievements in the 2003 CQP and Sweepstakes contests. Making the whole event even sweeter was the nearly certain knowledge that NCCC had indeed regained the coveted SS gavel.

Because of the novel strategy proposed by Rusty, W6OAT, and the general feeling of enthusiasm, many members outdid themselves in SS 2003, and new categories of KB awards had to be created to deal with 4K, 5K, even 6K results.

In addition to the outstanding efforts of veteran club members, the new member recruiting efforts by W6ZZZ, ND2T, N6DE and others bore some amazing fruit.

SMC may try to "bring it on" in SS 2004, but if they do, they will certainly have their work cut out for them. Congratulations, again, NCCC. You all have a right to be proud.



Rusty, W6OAT, receives his own honorary gavel as the inspiration for NCCC's SS 2003 effort.



A bottle of CQP wine for log checker, Kit, W6ISO.



Al, K6RIM, gets his KB-2000 award for his big effort from Corte Madera and the SF section.



A bottle of CQP wine to Bob, N6XX, for his Top 20 score, and new Santa Cruz County record.



George, K6GT, wins a KB-2000 for his effort from Santa Clara.



Gary, NI6T, with his KB-2000 award for Sweepstakes, and for setting new Monterey County record in CQP.



Ken, N6RO, holds his KB-3000 award.



Tom, K5RC, accepts his KB-3000 for his effort from Nevada.



“Mork”, K6UFO, proudly displays the KB-4000 award won by W6YX, the Stanford Contest Station.



Denny, KX7M, holds the KB-5000 award garnered by the Sunol Ridge group.

NCCC Sweepstakes KB Award Scores

Steve, W1SRD

Several members have asked for the complete KB awards list. Each and every score on this list contributed to our win.

My thanks to everyone who participated!

Special thanks to K6ENT for programming and calculating the complex KB math for SS.

Let's do it again!

The Top 20 Points Producing Operators (A, B, U)

- N6BV
- K7NV
- K6XX
- W6EU
- KX7M
- W0YK
- N7MH
- AD6E
- N6DE
- N6XI
- W1SRD
- K6RB
- K6RIM
- N6RO
- WZ6Z
- W6LD
- WC6H
- NU6S
- WX5S
- N6NF

The KB Award List

- Rick Tavan, N6XI, 6615
- Oli Sweningsen, W6NV, 5661
- Stanford Amateur Radio Club, W6YX, 4408
- Brad Rulien, K6IDX, 4408
- Bob Wolbert, K6XX, 4015
- Jim Duffy, W6EU, 3897
- Tom Taormina, K5RC, 3874
- Ken Keeler, N6RO, 3868
- Bill Snider, K6KM, 3200
- Chet Jensen, W6XK, 3037
- Rob Brownstein, K6RB, 2988
- Al Maenchen, AD6E, 2973
- Kurt Andress, K7NV, 2936
- George Daughters, K6GT, 2887
- Dean Straw, N6BV, 2872
- Mike Heideman, N7MH, 2816

John Galli, W6JZH, 2631
Denny Sahovic, KX7M, 2559
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Dean Wood, N6DE, 2359
Walt Wilson, N6XG, 2284
Steve Dyer, W1SRD, 2275
Matt Thomas, WX5S, 2244
Al Burnham, K6RIM, 2236
Howard Brainen, WZ6Z, 2182
Mike Shapiro, WA6O, 2116
Tom Gehman, N6NF, 2111
Tim Coad, NU6S, 2090
Rusty Epps, W6OAT, 2083
Rich Cutler, WC6H, 2068
Jim Venneman, WX6V, 2063
Garry Shapiro, NI6T, 2010
David Aslin, WJ6O, 2006
Ken Anderson, K6TA, 2002
Kent Henneuse, K6ENT, 1992
Eric June, KU6J, 1985
Carl Cook, AI6V, 1906
Josh Fiden, W6XU, 1796
Peter Jennings, AB6WM, 1759
Dave Curtis, N6NZ, 1723
Sue Cook, AI6YL, 1714
Vic Bull, KF6RIP, 1714
Dave Leeson, W6NL, 1707
Jig Desai, AD6TF, 1692
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 James Washer, KG7HH, 17
 Bobby Dunn, N6ZB, 17
 Steve Rentmeesters, N9SR, 11
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 Bob Warmke, W6CYX, 4

K6RIM – King of the Mountain

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

“Summit,” says the road sign. And, it is! Al, K6RIM, lives in a house that sits right on the peak of a mountain. Stand on his driveway and turn in a circle, and everywhere you look, the land slopes down. It’s the kind of site on which you would expect a utility company to put a service tower – and that’s exactly what the water company did. But trees and other landscaping hide the tank and tower surprisingly well. And, Al has tastefully endowed his land with unobtrusive antennas, so despite a very competent contest station, none of the esthetics is lost in the process.



The view to the south from Al’s station location.

“I’ve had lots of offers by ham friends to put up wires and other antennas to give me greater low-band presence,” Al admits, “but I won’t spoil the balance between my contest interest and my home and ground’s appearance,” he says decisively. And, the good news is, the man doesn’t have to. Just check out his score in the recent ARRL DX contest. His station plays.

Now, the previous two station profile articles featured stations designed for SO2R and multi-multi operation. Al’s station has a one-seat cockpit and is designed for SO1R operation. His IC-756 Pro II feeds an Alpha 87A, and he has only two antennas at his disposal. One is a log-periodic array (LPA), with eight elements that covers 7-through-30 MHz. The other is a Hy-Gain Hy-Tower set up for 80 and 160.



Al's LPA covers 7 through 30 MHz.

During contests, Al sits in a comfortable desk chair, wearing a Heil headset, facing a large, very-readable LCD monitor. One of the things you notice right away is the absence of wires. There's no wire seemingly attached to his keyer paddle. There are no wires running between the transceiver, the amp, and the Nye Viking transmatch. Every piece of ham equipment is set into a panel, and all the wiring is hidden behind. Even my mother would approve of this station. It's neat in the most literal sense of the word. (There goes my theory that neatness is inversely proportional to score).



Al at the controls of his "wireless" wireless station.

Al's antennas are not what might be considered "big gun" variety. LPAs are best known for broadband match across a wide swath of bands. Gain and front-to-back, on the other hand, are compromised in the process (there's no free lunch). The Hy-Tower is a 50-plus foot tower/mast combination designed to operate from 80 through 10, but without elevated radials, or a buried maze of radials, it suffers from

relatively high ground losses, especially when set on poor-conducting soil (think mountaintop).



Al works 80 and 160 with the Hy Tower vertical that has been bolstered with heavy strapping to handle the brutal winds.

Then, there's the wind. Ol' Mariah has a habit of blasting mountaintops, and Summit Drive in Corte Madera is no exception. Al has a sensor on the tower with his LPA that feeds a large display in the shack, showing wind direction and speed.



For most of us an accurate wind speed and direction sensor and indicator is a luxury; for Al it's a necessity.

He's been through peak winds of well over 100 mph and storms where sustained winds exceeded 65 mph. "I had a short Rohn tower that was bent over by the wind," he recounts illustratively.

“And the little 1.2 GHz array that is part of W6CYX’s repeater network had part of it blown probably to Eureka in a storm,” he adds, smiling.

So, while Al’s location is a dream in terms of view, elevation, and lack of obstructions, the price he pays is one of antenna robustness. “Quite frankly, not many brands of yagi can survive up here – I know from experience,” he informed me. The LPA is an M² antenna, and it has been damaged in severe storms. He’s had other yagi brands that were literally torn apart by the wind. The inverted-L modification he uses on the Hy-Tower for working 160 has also be damaged by wind and was recently bolstered by even heavier-duty strapping.

Al’s ham history is interesting. He was licensed as a teenager in 1958. His “elmer” was W6NEQ (SK), his postman who lived in the San Mateo. Many weekends, Al would climb on his bicycle and pedal down from Hillsborough to learn at the knee of his master. “He’s the one who first got me interested in DX,” Al explains. “He had a (Viking) Ranger, an (Collins 75)A-4, and a TA-33, and was a consummate CW DXer.” So, even as a youngster, Al joined the NCDXC to cement his commitment to chasing distant amateurs. He was the youngest in the group at that time, and, he adds, “The last time I looked (which was recently), I was still almost the youngest.”

Like John Devoldere, ON4UN, Al sees his challenges going forward are more tied to contesting than DXing. “But, I’m still working up my totals on the WARC bands,” he reveals. Recipient of the NCCC “Rookie of the Year” award in 1998, though, Al has jumped into contesting with both hands and at least one foot.

Practicality and esthetics are the antenna limiting factors at 409 Summit Drive. “And, I’m sure that the IC-7800 (which Al is seriously considering buying) won’t hear any better or make me any louder than the (IC-756) Pro II does now,” he asserts.. Al’s strategy for increasing his score is very straightforward. He works on incrementally improving his contesting skills, and on increasing his time in the chair. “Persistence is everything,” says Al. “You’ve got that right,” says I.

Member News

From KX7M, here’s one of those “so you think you’ve got problems” photos. This is a tower that used to be standing on the Sunol Ridge site.



Look for the gang at T33C around April 4th. It will be K6SRZ and K6TQS from NCCC plus 17 other hams.

This from Andy, AE6Y, after a 48 hour stint at the Aruba station.



The all-NCCC gang at NN6NN for the WPX RTTY 2004.



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