



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



August
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Issue 387

NCCC Net
Thursday 9PM
3853+/-

Next NCCC Meeting

Guests are always welcome at the NCCC! Please join us.

CQP
Al Maenchen, AD6E

Date: Monday, 9 August 2004

Time: 6:00pm schmooze, 6:30pm dinner, 7:00pm program

Location: Holder's Country Inn, 998 S. De Anza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129

Directions:

This is just south of the intersection of Highways 280 and 85 in Cupertino. It's a family style restaurant: wholesome, friendly, and basic. There is a large back room for us, capacity 80 people. Holder's Country Inn doesn't serve alcohol, but the "warm beer crowd" is already planning to meet after the meeting at the Britannia Arms just a few blocks further south on De Anza Blvd.

Britannia Arms
1087 S. De Anza
San Jose, CA 95129

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Two Tango

Tom Berson, ND2T, NCCC Pres.

Today Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France for an unprecedented sixth successive time. Do you think he was focused on this goal? You bet he was focused.

His mom is quoted as saying, "Lance set a goal, and his goal was to win this Tour. Definitely, this is what he wanted." That's focus. His detractors (every champion has detractors – championship is not for the thin-skinned) complain that Armstrong is not an all-around champion because he races only in select events to hone his form for the Tour de France. That's focus in action.

This year NCCC will again win the Sweepstakes Gavel. That's our Number One External Goal. To win the Gavel will take focus. What does focus mean in radiosport?

Focus in anything means a concentration of attention, a narrowing. This is the same skill we use to pick a single call out of a pileup. There are a lot of calls in there; all we need is one. So, we choose one signal, commit to it, and allow all the others to simply be noise for the moment. We can come back to them later. Our marvelous neurology locks on the signal we have chosen and allows us to copy it through all the now-irrelevant other signals. That's focus in action.

What about narrowing of attention on a larger scale? We have selected Sweepstakes as our focus contest. To focus on

Sweepstakes means to lock in on it, to give it our full attention, and to allow other similar demands on our attention to simply be noise for the moment.

Does this mean that other contests are simply noise? No. But, because we are focused on Sweepstakes, we take a page from Lance Armstrong's playbook and look at other contests and opportunities through a filter of "How can I use this to help me do better in Sweepstakes?"

For example, we are now in the middle of NAQP season. So we ask the focus question: How can I use NAQP help me do better in Sweepstakes? My personal answer here is simple: the geographies of NAQP and SS are similar. NAQP is a great way to see how well my antennas are covering the SS geography, what changes are necessary to improve that coverage, and to test whether those changes make the difference I intend. So NAQP turns out to be an important contest series for me in light of my SS focus. You may have a different answer to the focus question. But it is important that you ask it. That's focus in action.

So now please ask yourself the focus question for upcoming contests or opportunities:

- How can I use NAQP to help me do better in Sweepstakes?
- How can I use the Thursday night practices to help me do better in Sweepstakes?
- How can I use the Sprints to help me do better in Sweepstakes?
- How can I use CQP to help me do better in Sweepstakes?
- How can I use NCCC MVP to help me do better in Sweepstakes?

- How can I react to the BPL trials to help me do better in Sweepstakes?
- And so on.

Several months ago the NCCC BoD asked, "How can we use our monthly meetings to help the club do better in Sweepstakes." There will be Sweepstakes-themed NCCC meetings in September and October. KB.

VP/CC Report

Dean Wood, N6DE

North American QSO Party (NAQP)

You won't want to miss these:

NAQP CW: August 7, 11am-11pm PDT
NCCC team manager: Fred K6DGW – k6dgw@arrl.net

NAQP SSB: August 21, 11am-11pm PDT
NCCC team manager: Dan K6IF – djl@andlev.com

Rules:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

We already had a successful NCCC effort in NAQP RTTY in July with 3 NCCC teams fielded. Thanks to Doug N6TQS for organizing the RTTY teams.

Last August we had 6 teams active for NAQP CW and 4 for NAQP SSB. In both contests, NCCC#1 finished in third place with just 4 participants! Let's see if NCCC#1 can win an August NAQP this time while we also try to field even more NCCC teams than last year!

NAQP is a great station check in preparation for our drive to win Sweepstakes this year. Now is the time to build, install, repair, and test your antennas, towers, rotators, feedline, and station! Don't wait until late October! NAQP is also great contest operating practice for all of us, and doesn't require the

entire weekend (just 10 hours on Saturday for single-ops; 12 hours for M/2 stations).

Please contact K6DGW and K6IF to let them know if they can add you to a team. You don't have to participate full time or need to be a big gunner to join an NCCC team. Teams are open for everyone and intended for all NCCC members to join, regardless of score.

NCCC NAQP Newcomer Award

To encourage more NCCC members to participate in this summer's NAQP contests, I announce the following award:

NCCC NAQP Newcomer Award

A newcomer is defined *per operating mode* as one who has either never submitted a log in NAQP, or has not submitted an NAQP log in the last 2 years. For example, if you submitted a log in the January 2004 NAQP CW contest, but have never participated in the SSB or RTTY versions, then you qualify as a newcomer to NAQP SSB and RTTY. The NCCC NAQP Newcomer Award is given to the NCCC member who submits a log in the most summer 2004 NAQPs as an eligible newcomer (maximum of 3), either as a S/O or a part of a M/2. If 2 or more people are tied, then the highest number of hours participated wins (max of 36 if you join a M/2 and stay there for all 3 contests). If there is still a tie, the highest sum of claimed scores wins. Note the emphasis on participation, and not score, until the final tie breaker.

The winner receives a one year subscription (or a year extension) to the National Contest Journal. Every newcomer will be recognized on the NCCC reflector and in the JUG newsletter. Be sure to let me know that you are a newcomer to a specific mode of NAQP so that I can recognize you and add you to the competition!

Good luck and KB!

Recognition

This month I'll recognize outstanding NCCC scores in the official results from the ARRL RTTY Roundup and January VHF contests. However, before I do, I wish to point out that Steve K6UM won the S/O LP Pacific Division plaque in Sweepstakes SSB 2003. It's familiar territory for Steve, as he won this title previously. We wish Steve luck on his move to Oregon, and hope he will join our NAQP and Sprint teams in the future. Whenever you feel I have missed a great achievement, please e-mail me and I'll mention it in next month's column.

ARRL RTTY Roundup

The following stations placed in the Top 10 overall in their category:

DX S/O LP – P4/K6UFO (#2). Mark put up this great DX LP score from P40L/P40Y.

W/VE S/O HP – W0YK (#8), Pacific Division S/O HP plaque winner. Ed's achievement is phenomenal considering this was his first RTTY contest and his first contest using Writelog! He set up his station for RTTY for the first time just one week before the contest. Great job, Ed.

W/VE M/S HP – W6YX (#3) (K6ENT, W6RQ, W6LD, W6CT, N6DE), Pacific Division M/S HP winner; W7RN (#5) (ND2T, K0BEE, W1SRD). It was an adventurous January journey for Steve, Doris, and Tom to travel from the Bay Area to W7RN, along with a few visits from Murphy, but they ended up with a solid Top 10 total. Thanks to K5RC for hosting this successful effort.

W/VE M/S LP – W6OAT(+ packet) (#3), Pacific Division M/S LP winner. No explanation needed here. It's Rusty.

Honorable mention – WX5S (@N6RO), WK6I, and K6XX all had over 1,000 QSOs. The N6RC M/S (W6ZZZ, N6RCE, N6RC) and N6OJ made over 900 QSOs.

ARRL January VHF

Multioperator class – W6TE (#9 multi-op overall in contest) (+K6MI, K6VLF, W6ALE), Multi-op winner of ARRL “West Coast Region.”

73,

Dean, N6DE

Joint Meeting In Jackson Rob Brownstein, K6RB

As always, the Jackson meeting of MLDXCC and NCCC was one of the fun events of the year. It sure is nice to put faces to names and calls.



Lining up for the delicious smorgasbord at the Jackson meeting.



Gary, KI6T, holding court.



Tom, ND2T, thanking MLDXCC for their hospitality and conducting new business.



George, K6GT, talks about the towers which will remain at the former Danville QTH of K6ZM. The new owner is interested in ham radio.

This year's program featured our own Alan, K6SRZ, giving a presentation on the DXpedition to Banaba, T33C. It was excellent.



Alan, K6SRZ, held our rapt attention throughout his presentation about the Banaba DXpedition, T33C.

Unlike most DXpedition programs, Alan focused as much or more on the location, the people, the culture, the language, and the history of Banaba.

In addition to the electronic slide presentation, he showed a video that truly captured the joyousness of the people amidst the desolation of an island laid waste by 20th century exploitation and greed. Over ninety percent of what was once agricultural land had been denuded by strip mining from mid-century until 1979. Today's inhabitants live principally off of the trust set up for them, as compensation, which amounts to about \$40 per person per month. Most of the island dwellings are without electricity or plumbing.

I hope that Alan will repeat the presentation at a Bay Area meeting so those who could not make it to Jackson will see what an excellent job he did.

The NCCers present at the meeting approved the application for membership of Vic Rosenthal, K2VCO, of Fresno. Nominated by K6RB, N6XI, and W6RGG, Vic is an avid CW operator who is looking forward to participating in CQP and SS this year as a KBer. Welcome, Vic.

Quiet Mountain **Rob Brownstein, K6RB**

“Monte Sereno” – what a great name for a town. There it sits at the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, on the side facing the Santa Clara Valley. But during many ham radio contests, the air waves are anything but quiet because in 1985 Andy Faber moved to Ridgecrest.

I drove up to meet Andy; Kevin, N6RCE; and Kit, W6ISO, as we three arranged to carpool to the Jackson meeting together. I already had my camera and note pad, so I decided to do a profile on station AE6Y.

Radio station AE6Y is a neat looking station inside a tastefully decorated house. The left-hand station is an IC-756 Pro II and Ten-Tec Titan; the right-hand station is a 756-Pro and a workhorse Henry 2K-D desktop amp.



Radio station, AE6Y, sports a Pro II, a Pro, a Ten-Tec Titan and Henry 2K-D.

The left-hand station can be manually switched among the three Force 12 antennas (a 3 el 10 and 3 el 15; an 80 m rotary; and a 3 el 20 and 2 el 40m); the right-hand is fixed to the two-element SteppIR, which in turn is fixed to the tower.



A single tower at AE6Y supports the three, Force 12 antennas, and a fixed-position, 2 element SteppIR.

A large, easy-to-read, LCD monitor sits to the left of the two rigs, and the keyboard, paddles, and most-used controls are readily accessible. You won't find TR Log, or WriteLog, or CT on Andy's shack computer. He uses his own CQP Win software for contesting, and as those who've used the freeware program will attest, it is a very user-friendly, competent program.

Andy's radio view from North West to East is largely unimpeded and benefits from the down-sloping terrain. Consequently, he gives as good as he gets in domestic contests and DX contests. But the Santa Cruz Mountains are an obstacle to his West and South West. He still works his share of Pacific and VK/ZL stations, but admits he hears less well than the mountain-top boys or those of us on the ocean side of the mountains.

Some of us dream of having a station optimized to our surroundings. And, some of us dream of having an exotic QTH with a big-gun station that can compete in CQWW and ARRL DX. Andy is living both dreams. In addition to his Monte Sereno home and station, he partnered with John, W6LD, and bought Carl's (AI6V) Aruba house and station.

Andy knew what he was looking for because he has operated from Bruce's station (ZF2NT) on Little Cayman; from J's (VY1JA) neck of the woods up in White Horse; and from Canada's right coast.

On Aruba, the locals are P43s, the visitors are P40s, and the visiting/locals can take the exam for a P49. Of course, Andy looked into taking the exam, took it, passed it, and is now awaiting his ticket. That little saga is a story of its own which bears telling in a future JUG. Stay tuned.

Member News

An NCCer in YV-Land

Our own Jig, AD6TF, operated 4M5X from Caracas in this year's IARU contest. He's becoming a regular in YV, having been there five years in a row. But he swears he doesn't have a "special someone" waiting there for him.

Rookie of the Year Award



Tom, ND2T, presents Josh, W6XU with this year's "Rookie of the Year" award at the June 14 meeting in Corde Madera.

Maxwell's Call Lives On

W6CF, the call of Jim Maxwell, ARRL Pacific Division Director and NCCC member, will be used by an amateur radio club station, part of a historical preservation project of the California Historical Radio Society (CHRS).

CHRS is restoring AM radio station KRE with a studio in Berkeley. It will also be a vintage radio museum.

Jim and wife, Trudy, spearheaded an effort to preserve the early documents associated with the ARRL, and Jim had amassed a huge collection of radio-related books, magazines, and photographs. These will all be part of the vintage radio museum's library.

NCCC Early Adopters Buy IC-7800s

Al, K6RIM, and Len, K6ANP are both early adopters of Icom's top-of-the-line IC-7800. If you have about \$10K burning a hole in your pocket, and want first-hand skinny on this "start your engines" rig, send 'em an email. Bragging rights are part of the allure.

K6XX Hits Switching Pinnacle

Bob, K6XX, has done it. Every antenna in his rapidly growing antenna farm can be switched among every radio "with no fear of accidentally connecting two radios together" says he. And, in true XX fashion, Bob did it by klooing myriad pieces together. No pricey "six packs" or store-bought solutions at his shack, thank you. So, if you hear "clicks" emanating from K6XX, it may be switching transients you're hearing – not key clicks. Kudos, Bob, you the man.

Who Says Owning A Vineyard Is Easy?

We all know Ed, W0YK, is never one to complain. The only clue that he is working real hard is his absence from ham radio sport – like IARU. He still manages to do his Web master thing incredibly well despite "only having time to work the vineyard, eat two meals, shower and sleep." Remember that the next time his absence is conspicuous. You're sitting there, sipping from your NCCC water bottle, running Qs and mults while Ed is out there, getting sweaty and dirty, to make sure Dionysus gets his nectar of the gods. Ed, we appreciate you – pass the goblet, please.

-- CL --

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