



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



October
2004
Issue 389

NCCC Net
Thursday 9PM
3853+/-

Next NCCC Meeting

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

ARRL Sweepstakes
Dean, N6DE; Rusty, W6OAT

The second pre-Sweepstakes strategy session.

Please RSVP in advance to [K6UFO](mailto:k6ufo), pizza/soft drinks - \$7

Date: Monday, 18 October, 2004

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

Location: TIBCO, Building 2

3301 Hillview Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94304

Directions: From 101 Take the Oregon Expressway exit south (actually, southwest), for a couple miles, crossing El Camino where it becomes Page Mill Road. Continue up the hill to Foothill Expressway which is about the 4th stop light. Turn left on Foothill and then left again on Hillview Avenue, the first exit. TIBCO is on the right about a half-block from Foothill.

From 280 Take the Page Mill Road exit north (actually northeast), for a couple miles, turning right on Foothill Expressway. Turn left on Hillview Avenue at the first exit and TIBCO is on the right about a half-block from Foothill. The guard or receptionist should direct you to the meeting room. If all else fails, call Rick, N6XI, at 408 896 0476.

NCCC Officers

President: Tom Berson, ND2T berson@anagram.com

VP/CC: Dean Wood, N6DE n6de@inreach.com

Sec/Treas: Mark Aaker, K6UFO k6ufo@arrl.net

Directors

Steve Dyer, W1SRD sdyer@interlogue.com

Rusty Epps, W6OAT w6oat@compuserve.com

Matt Thomas, WX5S mmthoma@attglobal.net

Tom Taormina K5RC tomk5rc@aol.com

Webmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK w0yk@arrl.net

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com

Two Tango

Tom Berson, ND2T, NCCC Pres.

QRX

VP/CC Report

Dean Wood, N6DE

California QSO Party

I hope all of you plan to operate in the **California QSO Party, 16Z October 2 to 22Z October 3**. CQP is always great fun from California. Thanks to the hard work by our CQP team, there should be a high level of activity from outside of California as well as inside the state. There are at least three clubs planning heavily to win the outside-CA club plaque this year, which will add up to a lot of QSOs for us. You definitely won't want to miss CQP this year.

CQP is the perfect contest to test your station in preparation for Sweepstakes. Test that new antenna, radio, or amplifier. Practice running stations. Brush up on CW if you need it. Get more experience with your new contest software logger. Check out packet on w1srd.net. The end result of CQP is that you should have lots of fun, QSOs, and by doing so, will have made sure that you and your station are ready to go for Sweepstakes.

Read the CQP rules and much more information at:

<http://www.cqp.org>

Let's make this another record breaking year for CQP!

Sweepstakes Presentations, Part Two

We had another great NCCC meeting in September, this time in Vallejo. Thanks go to Rusty W6OAT for telling us about this meeting location, and to Rick N6XI for the projector and screen.

Rusty and I gave the Sweepstakes presentation, the second in a series of three SS presentations by different speakers this year. We talked about the exciting NCCC Sweepstakes plan and goals for this year, and gave a lot of details on how to set up packet using the Internet and various contest loggers. Both of those presentations will be posted on the NCCC members web site soon: <http://www.nccc.cc/members/>

Please let Rusty and I know what your plan is for Sweepstakes this year by e-mailing us at w6oat@sbcglobal.net and n6de@arrl.net. You'll be seeing lots more Sweepstakes information and discussion after CQP.

Do you need help with something before Sweepstakes? Need help installing an antenna, configuring packet, setting up voice keying, using a new contest logger, or want to borrow a radio or amplifier that is collecting dust in a club member's closet? Please send a note to me or to the NCCC reflector. We are here to help! Also, if you're interested in volunteering to become a helpful

information consulting resource for other NCCC members preparing for Sweepstakes, let me know. Your participation will be much appreciated!

NCJ Sprints

Thanks to Bob W6RGG for organizing the NCCC teams for the CW Sprint. We activated two NCCC teams, and early returns show that NCCC #1 placed third overall in a large field of competitive teams across the U.S. Bob N6TV appears to have secured a spot in the overall Top 10; an amazing feat from northern CA in the very competitive CW Sprint. Outstanding score, Bob!

We also put on two teams for the SSB Sprint, which is more than any other club could manage. Gary VA7RR has the #1 overall claimed score so far, with a tremendous score! NCCC #1 has a great opportunity to win this one. We should have the results by next month's JUG.

Don't forget about the RTTY Sprint on October 9. We'll also be organizing NCCC teams for that one. Watch the reflector for more information on that one soon.

Thursday Night Practice Contests and NCCC Net

The CW Sprint completed phase 1 of the NS practices. Look for more information soon about the results of the ladder competition. As the fall contest season approaches, we'll focus several of our practices for upcoming contests such as CQP, RTTY Sprint, and Sweepstakes. We encourage you to also

check into our NCCC nets every Thursday night. Please watch the NCCC reflector for a schedule of practices for the next few months.

Thursdays:

Practice Contest – 8:30pm-9pm PDT
NCCC Net on 3853 kHz – 9pm PDT

Fridays, whenever there is a major NCCC focus contest that weekend:
Practice Contest – 7:00pm-7:30 PDT
Informal Net on 3853 kHz – 7:30pm PDT

The NCCC Newbie What is the NCCC Territory?

Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ

Ever wonder exactly what comprises the NCCC territory?

NCCC Territory Definition

NCCC territory is defined in the bylaws as:

- “Northern California from the Oregon border to the Tehachapis, and any other area within a 175-mile radius of the Club’s center”
- and the NCCC web page defines the club’s center as “38.00611 N, 121.62500 W” which is a lump of unnamed mud/marsh just south of Bethel Island in the delta.

Now the definition of “to the Tehachapis” is rather vague.

Tom ND2T sums it up as:

- “Since this is a discretionary border, my preferred interpretation is that “north of the Tehachapi’s” is a state of mind. If a station in the zone of uncertainty (i.e., somewhere

down there) believes it is north and wants to be an NCCC member then it is north for my purposes.”

ARRL Club Competition 175 Mile Rule

ARRL (and only ARRL) has an additional requirement for scores to count for a club competition

- “All stations and all operators must reside within the club territory, which is either defined by a 175-mile (282-kilometer) circle from a designated area or one ARRL section.”

Seven ARRL-sponsored contests include an ARRL affiliated club competition:

- (January) RTTY Roundup
- January VHF Sweepstakes
- (February and March) International DX Contest
- September VHF QSO Party
- November Sweepstakes (CW and Phone)
- (December) 160-Meter Contest
- (December) 10-Meter Contest

So if you are an NCCC member but live more than 175 miles from the club center at 38.00611 N, 121.62500 W you can submit your score for these contests but you cannot claim your score for the NCCC club competition.

To calculate your distance to the club center you can use web pages like www.indo.com/distance/ or jan.ucc.nau.edu/~cvm/latlongdist.html.

The complete ARRL club competition rules are at www.arrl.org/contests/cc.html.



Here's the center of NCCC's territory (courtesy of N6TV)



Here's the 175 mile ARRL qualifying radius (courtesy of W6ZZZ)

Member News

ZF2NT (N6NT) – The Dream Survives

With Hurricane Ivan bearing down on the Caymans, things looked bleak for Bruce's dream house and station on Little Cayman. The storm hit Grand Cayman squarely then veered west. The tiny island of Little Cayman, just a few miles long and wide, was lashed by hurricane winds and storm surge. But Bruce, who had originally planned to build his house on a slab, had changed his mind and built it above ground. There's no question Bruce has some clean up to do, but the house he built with his own sweat and blood still stands.

Antenna Party at N6IJ

Watch out! The multifaceted N6IJ station at the former Ford Ord now sports a PRO-67B tribander. It will get its first serious workout during CQP at the able hands of Garry, NI6T. He broke the Monterey County record, last year, and is trying to break it, again, this year. With uncooperative sunspots to deal with, it won't be easy, but with a decent yagi, he just may have an ace up his sleeve.

K6RB joins the ranks of FOC

Rob, K6RB, was invited to join the list of First Class CW Operators Club (FOC). Founded in the UK in the early 1950s, FOC encourages CW activity and skillful operation. Its membership is limited to 500 active participants, worldwide, and qualifying for membership is considered very challenging. Currently, NCCC members in FOC include W6ISQ, W6RGG, K5RC, N6NT, N6XI, K2VCO and K6RB. K6VVA is in the midst of his membership qualification period.



"What, no private reserve?" says Ed, W0YK.



"It's over here," says Garry, NI6T.

(photos courtesy of *Il Paparazzi*, Rick, K6VVA)

CQPWIN Version 10\

Andy, AE6Y, says version 10 of his FB contest program is ready and posted on the CQP Website. The latest version features full rig control plus voice sending of callsigns and exchanges. Soon to be available is SO2R with automatic filter selection and auto antenna selection. Andy hopes to have it ready for SS.

K6III back from QSY to Asia

Jerry, K6III, just returned from a 2-week tourist trip to HL and JT. He operated HL2/W5IQS quite a bit but never heard even one USA station on HF. During four days in JT he didn't see any JT hams or get on the air, there. But he did see one beat up tribander on an old apartment building. He suspects it was dead, though.

12 Store Buying Power!



HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



IC-706MKIIG All Mode Transceiver

- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM*
- HF/6M @ 100W, 2M @ 50W, 70CM @ 20W
- 107 alphanumeric memories
- CTCSS encode/decode w/ tone scan
- AM, FM, WFM, SSB, CW, RTTY w/DSP
- And much more!



IC-746PRO All Mode Transceiver

- 160-2M* @ 100W
- 32 bit IF-DSP + 24 bit AD/DA converter
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Improved 3rd order intercept point
- CW memory keyer
- And much more!



IC-756PROII All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M* @ 100W
- 32 bit IF DSP + 24 bit AD/DA converter
- Enhanced 5" color TFT with spectrum scope
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Enhanced Rx performance
- And much more!



IC-7800 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 200W
- Four 32 bit IF-DSPs + 24bit AD/DA converters
- Two completely identical, independent receivers
- +40dBm 3rd order intercept point
- And much more!

*Except 60M band. © 2004 Icom America Inc. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc. All specifications subject to change without notice or obligation.



ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

2416 W. Victory Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Rick, N6DQ, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NCCC
1560 Klamath Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Check us at:
<http://www.cqp.org>
<http://www.nccc.cc>

Repeaters:
W6RGG/R 147.24+
and 444.2 (PL107.2)

FIRST CLASS