



Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club



May  
2006  
Issue 408

NCCC Net  
Thursday 8 PM  
3830+/-

## Our Next Meeting

NCCC Annual Plan, by N6BV

K7C DXpedition, by AD6E, K6SRZ & NI6T

**Date:** Monday, 8 May 2006

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

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

Dinner: Chevys famous fajitas are served fresh off the grill, sizzling hot with roasted veggies. Fajita steak or chicken served with sour cream, fresh pico de gallo salsa, and warm, soft flour tortillas. \$20 via RSVP with PayPal preferred, otherwise cash or check at the door. Please RSVP to [W0YK](mailto:w0yk) by Sunday, 7 May.

---

### NCCC Officers

President: Dean Straw, N6BV

Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Carney, K6EU

### Directors

Past President: Mike Heideman, N7MH

Director: Jeff Stai, WK6I

Director: Ed Schuller, K6CTA

Director: Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ

Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

**Webmaster:** Ed Muns, W0YK [w0yk@msn.com](mailto:w0yk@msn.com)

**JUG Editor:** Rob Brownstein, [k6rb@baymoon.com](mailto:k6rb@baymoon.com)

## Musings from the President

By Dean Straw, N6BV

You've probably watched how a duck moves rhythmically across a pond. His head gently bobs up and down as he glides gracefully across the water, a delicate ripple trailing behind him. Such a peaceful picture, isn't it?

Now, consider the scene below the waterline. That bird is paddling like crazy to make any headway at all against the wind. Serene?

That image reminds me of NCCC -- It all seems pretty serene right now, on the surface anyway. After all, we're in a "resting" mode right now. We've gone through the insanely busy craziness of the fall contest season. We've just elected a new slate of officers and directors to carry on the proud traditions at NCCC. I thank you for your faith in selecting me to be your president for 2006.

We should be proud of our accomplishments as a club last year. We sponsored the 40th running of the California QSO Party, the biggest and most successful state QSO party of them all, by far.

And we can hold our collective heads up high from the results of the main contest we chose to dominate as a club -- the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

We soundly thrashed some strong, determined and talented contest clubs in the 2005 SS. In fact, we've now won the Unlimited Club competition for three consecutive years: 2003, 2004 and 2005, thanks to strong leadership and the all-out dedication of the members of this club. That precious 2005 SS gavel should soon be making

its way to Northern California again from Newington.

We also made some very respectable scores in smaller contests, when enthusiastic individuals rose up to organize teams that flew under the NCCC banner.

Yet recent history tells us that we must not become complacent and rest on our contesting laurels. We got fat and happy in the early years of the new millennium, and then SMC took us to the cleaners in the SS. And despite our best efforts (admittedly in a declining portion of Solar Cycle 23), SMC still holds the SS record for total club points. PVRC is now gunning for the SS gavel, and rumor has it that an even larger club is sniffing around for another contest to conquer.

So your newly elected officers and the members of the Board of Directors are busy behind the scenes. Those little NCCC feet are busy paddling away like crazy below the surface!

A number of things are in process right now. I have asked VP/CC Fred Jensen, K6DGW, to work with the CQP committee, chaired by Kevin Rowett, N6RCE, to take a look at CQP to see if it can be improved. Several commenters have stated "don't fix it if it ain't broke" and I heartily agree. But I'm also a big believer in incremental improvements, because there are very few perfect things in this world. If we can somehow make CQP better -- even more fun, for more people -- without causing any problems then we ought to give it a shot.

I am proposing to the club that we concentrate our energy on three contests. CQP, of course. After all, we sponsor and run CQP. Next, I propose we set out to win both the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the CQP WPX Contest.

Why SS and WPX? Mainly because we can **win** those contests! And we have won those two contests before, and there's nothing more fun than winning. Now, I love the CQWW and the ARRL International DX contests. But until the northeastern part of the USA falls off the edge of the world, or unless Europe moves over a continent or two so that it's closer to California, we're simply not going to win the CQWW or the ARRL DX. Generating a credible number four or

five in the club category is an honorable pursuit, but I submit that it's nowhere nearly as much fun as winning the whole banana!

Now, winning just to win, again and again, can become old and cold. I'll admit that. This club lost the excitement after winning SS for so long in the early 2000s. But winning because we're better trained -- as a **team** -- is where I believe we can keep our adrenaline flowing as a club.

Let me tell you a little story. Out at a multi-multi phone contest last year at N6RO's place, I invited a newbie contest operator to listen in on the parallel headphones while I ran a pileup of JAs on 15 meters. After he had been intently listening for about a half hour there was a brief lull in the action. I pressed F1 to call CQ automatically while I asked him what he thought about what he had just heard. His comment: "Boy, you have good ears." My reply: "Those 'good ears' come from many, many years of listening to Japanese accents in pileups. When I first started out I couldn't make heads or tails out of what they were saying." I also added, "When you've got some real experience under your belt, you'll do as well as I can." And I believe that.

I am proposing that we put more effort as a club in training our members on how to operate, on how to have more FUN operating. At the May meeting we'll be discussing these topics and more. More details to come, as that serene duck paddles his way around the contest pond.

---

## VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

Well ... a phone call from W0YK, followed by a phone call from N6BV, and then an election that evening that I could not attend, and I find myself the NCCC VP/CC for the 2006-2007 contest year. I do want to thank everyone for your confidence in my abilities in this job.

After some thoughts about it, I am really looking forward to the year. Relative to the heavy-hitters in NCCC, I am a total newbie, so there will be a lot of learning involved. Up to 1997, an occasional Field Day was pretty much my contesting activity.

By 1997, I had risen sufficiently high in my employment that I could tell my boss to find

some other weekend for me to be out on the test ranges or in G or JA lands, and I had a blast in CQP that year.

For a few years after, my CQP goal was to out-score Jettie Hill, W6RFF, a good friend and the ARRL SV SM. As I was retiring. Jim WX6V, coaxed me into joining NCCC, and what a cool surprise that has been! I ended up as a crew member for the N6A Alpine County expedition, an event I look forward to for the entire year.

Since I've met only a few NCCC members, here's who you have elected. Born in 1940 in Ventura, I grew up (so to speak, my wife has some alternative theories) in So. Central Los Angeles. Thanks to Art, W6RMK, I became KN6DGW at 13 near the end of 1953 and dropped the "N" the following summer and then joined the Extra ranks in the summer of 1956. A small scheduling mistake on my part led a 2<sup>nd</sup> Telegraph on that same FCC visit which nailed me a relief operator job at a coastal marine station during my HS senior year, again thanks to my Elmer, Art. Off to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in '57, I worked relief shifts at KSBY, the local (and only) TV station, and graduated in Math in 1962.

At graduation, I suddenly discovered there was a draft and I had never gotten around to obtaining a student deferment. So, rather than carry an Infantry rifle, I enlisted in the Air Force, and became a remarkably unprepared 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt (kind of like VP/CC?).

A year in Alaska at the arctic circle as the Communications Officer (KL7ETK) was fun and educational, followed by something over 3 1/2 years in the two Vietnams, Laos, and a little in Thailand (HS1FJ) commanding an airborne combat communications team.

Home at the end of '67, I married Andrea and we spent 2 1/2 years in Houston (WA5SNP) assigned to NASA working on trajectory planning and guidance analysis for Apollo. My office in Bldg 30 was one floor above the office then occupied by Tom, K5RC, which we only recently realized.

That was followed by 2 1/2 years at McClellan AFB in Sacramento working on an airborne radar system, where, in early 72, I failed my annual jump physical, and elected a discharge in lieu of another combat tour. I knew by then I'd have made a terrible field grade officer anyway. Various civilian engineering jobs followed in communications and control systems, and, with too many kids and not enough money, I picked

up a Master's degree from Sac State on the GI Bill (500 tax-free bucks a month!). I retired after 13 years with SAIC in November of 2000.

We have four kids, all but one with families of their own. No one in my family has ever had the slightest interest in Amateur Radio, meaning of course I have never had to share my rig. After the kids left, we found we actually had money left over at the end of the month, so we adopted an Equal Hobby Allowance policy between us. Her hobbies are knitting, needlepoint, and gardening. I don't count the gardening because I get to live in a botanical garden as a result of it, but it turns out that needlepoint is about as expensive as ham radio – hard to believe, but very good for my radio budget.

I left most of my hearing in SE Asia, so I gravitate toward CW. SSB in QRM, QRN, and with foreign accents is pretty much a non-starter for me, and Rich, NU6T, often operates my station in phone contests. Gentle prodding from WK6I (and a chance to HMO in SS CW from his station) got me interested in RTTY and I'm improving slowly. My station is modest at best: FT-847 for UHF/VHF and RTTY, TS-850, SB220, vanilla 3-el triband at about 70', and a wire or two for 160-40. I have more HT's than I can keep charged if that's worth an award somewhere. I built a K2/100, and then a KX-1, and the QRP bug got a small foothold although I'm nowhere near as dedicated as K6III, N6WG, and others.

I guess you're stuck with me, and I am learning. I had no idea how much my ham radio coefficient of fun would go up when I succumbed to Jim's prodding and joined NCCC. It looks like the fun has only begun for me now.

#### **Major May Contests:**

**7QP (6 May 1300Z - 7 May 0700Z):** This is the first running of the 7<sup>th</sup> Area QSO Party which is being coordinated by our own Tom, K5RC. Our ARRL 175-mile circle extends well into Nevada, and we have a number of 7-land members as well, so that weekend would be a great one to get on and help kick-start our 7<sup>th</sup> area buddies' new contest. Several NCCC'ers from CA are signed up for mobile rovers and county expeditions. As I write this in mid April, Rich NU6T and I are working on an expedition to Eureka and/or Elko counties, neither of which currently have been spoken for. Lots to work out, but we'll see. All the poop is at <[www.7qp.org](http://www.7qp.org)>.

**CQ WPX CW (28 May 0000Z -29 May 2400Z):** What's to say about the contest with nearly a countable infinity of multipliers? There's no such thing as a "clean sweep" in WPX! This is a contest in which NCCC holds the Club World Record and can win again, despite our location on the left-coast (in WPX, a WD5 is a mult just as an 8Q7 is, and some of our guys operate off-shore for huge scores that they donate to an NCCC Club effort as well). Best of all, it doesn't involve a lot of planning and logistics as our stunning and stellar SS HMO strategy does. Just get on the air, work as many as you can, rack up as many mults as you can, and submit your score with "NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB" in the Cabrillo log.

**NS Ladder (Every Thu, 1930-2000 PDT):** Our NS Ladder is underway, thanks to N6ZF0 and many others. I've had a standing Thu evening obligation, but I think I've worked it out and will be a competitor (OK ... participant. Competitor will come with practice). Info and scores history at <[www.nccsprint.com](http://www.nccsprint.com)>. Somewhere in all the mentoring I've been requesting and getting, I find that I'm the NCS for the After-NS NCCC net on 3830, which should be interesting since I haven't been NCS of any net for many years - brace yourselves!

#### **Not-So-Major May Contests:**

We also have Northeast QP and the Indiana QP on that same weekend. NEQP is another regional QP (ME, VT, NH, CT, MA, and RI) and activity is quite high. I've had a lot of fun the last two or three years in NEQP and have two certificates for "2nd in CA," which, of course, may mean that "1<sup>st</sup> in CA" was also "Next to Last in CA". If Rich and I work out our NV expedition, I'll miss NEQP. If that falls through, I'll probably timeshare between 7QP and NEQP since ideal 7QP times and bands will not conflict badly with NEQP. NEQP: < [www.neqp.org](http://www.neqp.org) > INQP: < [www.hdxcc.org/inqp/](http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/) >.

Another new regional contest, Mid-Atlantic QP < [www.qsl.net/maqso](http://www.qsl.net/maqso) > is scheduled for 13-14 May. I'm hoping that what may be a trend toward regional contests over or in addition to State contests works out, and I'm really rooting for 7QP. The state contests are often fun, but when poorly represented in-state, they get old very fast. And, that would be an advance hint to everyone to be on the air for 2006 CQP.

#### **Kudos and Congratulations:**

Everyone has probably seen it by now, but on the outside chance you haven't, our guys AD6E, NI6T, and K6SRZ have a nice picture on page 49 of the May QST at K7C. The story accompanying the picture, authored by KK6EK, paints a somewhat harrowing picture of the expedition. When I heard "Kure," I knew it was somewhere along the little known parts of the Hawaiian Island chain. For some reasons, visions of Maui just popped into my head, but I guess it wasn't quite Maui.

ARRL 2005 CW/PHONE SS results are posted to [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) and NCCC'ers are prominently arrayed. The SSB Unlimited comments do a very nice job of summarizing Rusty's HMO concept (which most every serious club has broken the code to by now I'm sure), and points out the big benefit to everyone to have "new blood" on the air on Sunday. It also points out that NCCC will be getting the gavel again for our 2005 showing. Congratulations to all the great scores, and kudos to all who did so much to get another win for NCCC.

---

## **NCCC Officers Through The Years**

By: Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ

A slate of new officers were elected at the April meeting (see page one). Here is an incomplete list of past officers going back to the founding of NCCC...

### **April 2005 - March 2006**

President: Mike Heideman, N7MH  
Vice President/CC: Kurt Andress, K7NV  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Muns, W0YK

Directors: Tom Berson, ND2T  
Jeff Stai, WK6I  
Matt Thomas, WX5S  
Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ  
Director Emeritus: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, K6RB  
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK  
Awards Chair: Bob Frosthalm, KO6LU  
CQP Chair: Kevin Rowett, N6RCE

-----  

### **April 2004 - March 2005**

President: Tom Berson, ND2T  
Vice President/CC: Dean Wood, N6DE  
Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Aaker, K6UFO

Directors: Steve Dyer, W1SRD  
Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Matt Thomas, WX5S  
Tom Taormina, K5RC

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, K6RB  
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK  
Awards Chair: Kent Henneuse, K6ENT  
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----  
**April 2003 - March 2004**

President: Steve Dyer, W1SRD  
Vice President/CC: Al Maenchen, AD6E  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jig Desai, AD6TF

Directors: Dave Curtis, N6NZ  
Bill Haddon, N6ZFO  
Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ  
Tom Taormina, K5RC

ARRL CAC member: Jim Pratt, N6IG  
JUG Editor: Diana Henneuse then Rob Brownstein, K6RB  
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK  
Awards Chair: Kent Henneuse, K6ENT  
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----  
**April 2002 - March 2003**

President: Dave Curtis, N6NZ  
Vice President/CC: Bill Haddon, N6ZFO  
Secretary/Treasurer: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

Directors: Rick Tavan, N6XI  
John Fore, W6LD  
Mike Shapiro, WA6O  
Ken Anderson, K6TA

ARRL CAC member: Jim Pratt, N6IG  
JUG Editor: Mary Cherry, NA6E then Diana Henneuse  
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK  
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----  
**April 2001 - March 2002**

President: Rick Tavan, N6XI  
Vice President/CC: Andy Faber, AE6Y  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Muns, W0YK

Directors: Bob Wolbert, K6XX  
Ken Keeler, N6RO  
Dean Wood, N6DE  
Kurt Andress, K7NV then Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV

ARRL CAC member Jim Pratt, N6IG  
JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT then Mary Cherry, NA6E  
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK

CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----  
**April 2000 - March 2001**

President: Bob Wolbert, K6XX  
Vice President/CC: Ken Keeler, N6RO  
Secretary/Treasurer: Kit Kohlmoos, W6ISO

Directors: Ed Schuller, K6CTA  
Andy Faber, AE6Y  
Rick Tavan, N6XI  
Kurt Andress, K7NV

ARRL CAC member: Jim Pratt, N6IG  
JUG Editor: George Daughters  
WEBmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK  
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----  
**April 1999 - March 2000**

President: Ed Schuller, K6CTA  
Vice President/CC: Bob Wolbert, K6XX  
Secretary/Treasurer: Tony Becker, AE0M

Directors: Steve Merchant, K6AW  
Al Maenchen, AD6E  
Ed Muns, W0YK  
Tom Taormina, K5RC

ARRL CAC member: Bob Wilson, N6TV  
JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT  
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----  
**April 1998 - March 1999**

President: Steve Merchant, K6AW  
Vice President/CC: J.T. Utley, K7CO  
Secretary/Treasurer: Al Maenchen, AD6E

Directors: Andy Faber, AE6Y  
Ken Silverman, K2KW  
Al Crespo, NH7A  
Bob Wolbert, K6XX

ARRL CAC member: Bob Wilson, N6TV  
JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT  
CQP Chair: Al Maenchen, AD6E

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

**January 1975 - December 1975**

President: WB6CEP  
Vice President/CC: WA6DIL  
Secretary/Treasurer: W6KHO

Director: WB6AIN  
Director: WB6DSV  
Director: W6RGG

Editor, The Contest JUG: Bob Hill W1ARR/6 teamed with W6NLQ

**January 1974 - December 1974**

President: W6RGG  
Vice President/CC: WB6AIN  
Secretary/Treasurer: WB6DSV then WA6NLQ

Director: K6DC  
Director: W6PAA

Editor, The Contest JUG: Bob Vallio, W6RGG; then Don McClellan, K6EBB; then Bob Hill W1ARR/6 teamed with W6NLQ

**January 1973 - December 1973**

President: Rusty Epps, W6OAT  
Vice President/CC: W. L. Snider, W6HQJN  
Secretary/Treasurer: WA6QGW

Director: Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
Director: Alan Higbie, WA6PMK  
Director: Ken Keeler, W6PAA

Editor, The Contest JUG: Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
Clerk-typist, The Contest JUG: Don McClellan, K6EBB

-----  
January 1972 - December 1972

President: Ken Keeler, WA6DKF  
Vice President/CC: Robert Artigo, W6GFS  
Secretary/Treasurer: W. L. Snider, W6HQJN

Director: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF  
Director: Don McClellan, K6EBB  
Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Editor, The Contest JUG: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF; then Bob Vallio, W6RGG in Sept

**January 1971 - December 1972**

President: Don McClellan, K6EBB  
Vice President/CC: Ken Keeler, WA6DKF  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Director: Rusty Epps, K4BVD/6  
Director: Jim Neiger, W6BHY  
Director: Dave Baker, W6WX

Editor, The Contest JUG: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF  
ARRL DX Advisory Committee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

**August 1970 - December 1970**

President: Jim Neiger, W6BHY  
Vice President/CC: Don McClellan, K6EBB  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Director: Ken Anderson, K6CQF  
Director: Dave Baker, W6WX

Editor, The Contest JUG: Jim Maxwell, W6CUF  
Reproduction, The Contest JUG: Rick Hilding, K6VVA

---

**2005 NCCC Awards**

The annual March NCCC Awards dinner was well attended, as always. The Awards Dinner presentation is on the NCCC Web site. Here are some key awards:

- Maxwell Sweepstakes Award: Marc, W6ZZZ**
- Big Gun Award: Dean, N6BV**
- Jughead Awards: Marc, W6ZZZ; Kurt, K7NV**
- 400K Club Awards: N6BV, N7MH, K7NV, WC6H and W0YK**
- KB4000 Awards: W6YX, K5RC**
- KB3000 Awards: N6RO, N6BV, N7MH**
- Rookie of the Year: John, K6MM**
- Most Improved Contester: Ken, NO6X**
- Contester of the Year: N6BV**

# 2005 NCCC AWARDS DINNER

Photos courtesy Bob, N6TV



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-756PROIII All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W
- 32 bit IF-DSP
- Adjustable SSB TX bandwidth
- Digital voice recorder
- RX: 30 kHz to 60 MHz
- Quiet, triple-conversion receiver
- Low IMD roofing filter
- 8 Channel RTTY TX memory
- 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. © 2005 Icom America Inc. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc. All specifications subject to change without notice or obligation.



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

**ANAHEIM, CA**  
(Near Disneyland)  
933 N. Euclid St., 92801  
(714) 533-7373  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
[anaheim@hamradio.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sandiego@hamradio.com)

**SUNNYVALE, CA**  
510 Lawrence Exp. #102  
94085  
(408) 736-9496  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Rick, N6DQ, Co-Mgr.  
Howard, W6HOC, Co-Mgr  
So. from Hwy. 101  
[sunnyvale@hamradio.com](mailto:sunnyvale@hamradio.com)