



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



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NCCC Net
Thursday 9 PM
3610+/-

Our Next Meeting

Program To Be Announced – Watch the Website

Date: Monday, 11 June 2007

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

Location: Vic's Restaurant, 1125 San Carlos
Avenue, San Carlos
650-5952606

Directions From 101

From Highway 101, take Holly Street Exit, heading west. Make a left on El Camino Real (just after the railroad tracks), and then a right on San Carlos Avenue

NCCC Officers

President: Bob Tellefsen, N6WG
Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ
Secretary/Treasurer: John Miller, K6MM

Directors

Past President: Dean Straw, N6BV
Director: Jeff Stai, WK6I
Director: Fred Jensen, K6DGW
Director: Jack Brindle, W6FB
Director: Jim Brown, K9YC
Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Webmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK w0yk@msn.com
JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com

Presidential Musings

By: Bob Tellefsen, N6WG

Boy, June already. By the time you read this, WPX CW will be past and Field Day will be staring us in the face.

At the May meeting, I introduced my theme for the 2007-2008 contest year. We will be on a contest cruise on the good ship NCCC Contester. Our home port will be Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose. We start the cruise there and return there at the end. During our contest cruise we will call at a variety of ports around the Greater Bay Area for meetings.

Our primary contest destinations will be WPX CW and SSB, ARRL SS CW and SSB, and our own CQP. We will also visit destinations such as NAQP (Jan and Aug) and NCJ Sprints (Feb and Sept) for team competitions. Members will also participate in other contests along the way, such as DX, 10m and 160m contests during the cruise.

Dean, N6BV, gave a presentation at the May meeting showing why the SS gavel went to PVRC this year. For a club the size of NCCC, having less than half the members participate in our primary competitive contest leaves me wondering. Are we a contest club or a social club?

Our weather has settled down, so I hope everyone is taking advantage of it to work on antenna systems. It is my primary activity at present here at Radio Newark. I'm rebuilding one of my 35 ft masts which had begun to look like a fishing pole with a big one on the line. I hope to stiffen the mast and make it stand straighter and taller. I want to do the best I can in WPX, and as a QRPer, I live and die by my antennas.

Please plan on attending the joint NCCC and MLDXCC meeting in Jackson on July 7. This is a highlight for both clubs, so I would appreciate a good turnout for this meeting. If you only want to attend the meeting and then go back home, perhaps a carpool might be a good idea. If you want to stay over, there are a number of places to stay and things to do. My wife and I will make it an overnigher.

See you in the contest.
73, Bob N6WG

VP/CC Report

By: Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ

Thanks to all who covered for the VP/CC's duties while I was away on the N8S Swains Island expedition. My first order of business on my return was cobbling together a short video presentation to be used over the next few months as I make my way around the radio club meeting circuit.

The N8S video had its premier at the Redwood Empire DX Association's meeting on May 8.

I must have underestimated how many hams want QSLs from KH8 and 5W0. Waiting for me at home was a stack of mail with QSL requests about evenly divided between my operations from American Samoa and Western Samoa. In case some of you haven't heard, the N8S operation set a world record of sorts. Our 117.2 thousand QSOs are the most ever made by an expedition

using generator power and tents for living quarters.

There have been three other Dxpeditions that achieved larger QSO totals, but all of them were (1) headquartered in air-conditioned hotels and (2) used commercial power.

Now on to the business of VP/CC.

First, I want to recognize the achievements of our club members and who received plaques in last Fall's Sweepstakes.

Single op unlimited CW N6RO
Single op low power CW N6NF
Multiop CW K6ANP
Single op unlimited phone W7RN (WX5S op)
Single op high power phone W6NL (W6KT op)
Single op low power phone N6NF
Single op QRP phone N6WG
Multiop phone W6YX

I also want to acknowledge every one of you who participated in SS. We came very close to winning the club competition. Analyzing the results and looking at our club roster, the conclusion is inescapable: a few dozen more logs submitted and we would have won. Only half of our members submitted logs for Sweepstakes. This year, with your help, we can increase the turnout and we can win.

By the time this appears, many of you will have participated in WPX CW. Next up for all of us is the greatest contest-that-isn't-a-contest, ARRL Field Day. This year FD starts at 11 a.m. PDT on Saturday June 23 and runs until 2 p.m. the following Sunday afternoon.

For many of us, this non-contest was our introduction to contesting. Back in 1958 I had my first QSO on phone—on AM phone—using the little Viking Ranger that was the centerpiece of the Marin Amateur Radio Club's FD station in Corte Madera.

Let's hope that FD continues to be an event for recruiting new contesters.

Two of my other radio clubs—the Redwood Empire DX Association and the East Bay Amateur Radio Club—will be operating Field Day from the shores of San Francisco Bay. REDXA has a spot at the Marin Rod and Gun Club at the San Quentin end of the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. EBARC will be operating from Cesar Chavez Park at the Berkeley Marina. Please let me know of other planned operations, and whether guest ops are invited. I'll circulate this information on the reflector.

July has at least three contests that should appeal to the NCCC membership: the RAC Canada Day event, the IARU HF championships, and NAQP RTTY. The RTTY contest seems like a natural for a serious club effort. Who'd like to take the lead on this?

August has three more major contests: the CW and SSB NAQP tests and WAE CW. If you've never tried WAE with its QTC exchange format, please give it a try. It's a wonderful contest for sharpening your CW skills.

Finally, it's not too early to begin thinking of what you want to do for CQP. I'll be returning to Trinity County for the first time since 2004.

PVRC Concedes SS

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

I'm sure all of us were a bit shocked to learn that Jim Nitzberg, WX3B, conceded PVRC's first-place win in the unlimited club competition of 2006 Sweepstakes.

Nitzberg said that a review of PVRC's entries showed that a substantial number of points were made by operators outside the 175-mile radius from the club's center. As Nitzberg described it, it was an

organizational error rather than an intentional abrogation of SS rules.

Last year's SS was a terrific event. The competitive spirit of both NCCC and PVRC gave it an air of excitement that had often been missing before.

Both clubs managed to populate the bands with eager participants, and SS was an example of both healthy competition and good sportsmanship.

The ARRL's rules for its contests limit log entries to members in good standing living and operating within a 175 radius of a club's chosen center.

Clubs often establish "territories" that extend beyond that circle. Members in good standing can participate in other contests involving club competition even if they live beyond 175 miles from the club's center.

So, it requires a lot of diligence to comb through a membership roster and identify those stations that meet the ARRL's stricter requirements.

As PVRC discovered, it is better to do it before rather than after an event. We acknowledge that club's sportsmanship and honesty.

NCCC has a vetting system developed over several years, and one that has been modified as new technologies (e.g. GPS) have emerged. Our roster system takes account of a member's residence and station location, and creates a sub-roster of those who meet the ARRL rules requirements.

We encourage all of our members to participate in SS, and remind everyone to be mindful of their position vis-à-vis club center. Like ISO 9000, each year we take steps to improve on that process.

We hope that PVRC members do not lose heart. S—t happens. Let's all try to make SS 2007 an even better experience for all of us.

Editorial: SS in Perspective

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

As Bob Tellefsen wrote, our last meeting began with an analysis by N6BV of why we lost the unlimited club SS gavel.

In retrospect, with PVRC's concession, we actually won the gavel, again. However, many of the points Dean made are still very valid.

There was a big disparity between points made on 80 and 40 that favored PVRC. On the other hand, NCCC had far more on 20 and 15 meters.

Taken at face value, it would suggest that we did not spend enough time on the lower frequency bands. But, before we jump to any conclusion, we should think the whole scenario through a bit more.

Sweepstakes is a different sort of beast. You get to work a station just once, regardless of band. It takes place in November at a time where over any 24 hour period, there are more hours of darkness than daylight.

The contest starts at 1 PM local in California, and 4 PM local on the east coast. By 5 PM in both locations, it begins getting dark. So, we west coasters start off with a good four hours of light while the east coast gets in just one before things get dusky.

East coasters start QSYing from 20 or 15 within an hour of contest start. We, on the other hand, may have good conditions on 15 and 20 for four or more hours. We get one good shot at 80 meters that first night, and we use it to work the close-in multipliers and points. The east coast stations get to work 80 meters on Saturday night and Sunday night. They certainly have more time on and better conditions on 40 meters on Sunday, too.

These differences may well account for the differences we see in points earned on 80 and 40 when comparing NCCC and YCCC

or PVRC. It will be less dramatic compared with SMC whose time zone is different than east-coast clubs.

Rather than looking at comparative points on various bands, and thinking we may have to spend more time on lower frequency bands, we should look at propagation forecasts and decide how much time to spend where based on those realities.

My experience in SS has been to start as high in frequency as makes sense and work the far-off multiplier and points for the first four or more hours. As the higher frequency bands get lossy and rates fall, I will move to 40 and work some of the mid-range multipliers and points.

The hours from 9 PM to midnight or 1 AM are spent essentially filling in my W6 and W7 sections on 80 meters.

The ham population density is heavier east of the Rockies. For west coasters, that means the preponderance of points will be made on 15, 20 and 40. For east coasters it may mean 20, 40 and 80. That, more than any magic strategy, could easily account for the point disparities.

So, rather than trying to fix something that "ain't broke," let's just do what we have done for the last few years. Get out in numbers, sit in the chair for as long as possible, and work the bands where you have the best combination of loudness and rates.



Alan, K6SRZ and Doug, N6TQS, raising the state flag on Swain's Island during the famous N8S DXpedition.



Our own Tom, K5RC, is inducted into CQ's Contest Hall of Fame, by Bob, K3EST.



Rusty, Tom, and friends operate W7RN and K7RC in 7QP.

