



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



October
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Issue 425

NCCC Net
Thursday 9 PM
3610+/-

Our Next Meeting

CQP Review, K6TD SS Prep, N6BV et al

Date: Monday, 15 October 2007

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

Location: Tech Shop, 120 Independence Drive,
Menlo Park

Pizza and soft drinks

RSVP: Friday, Oct 12, to K6MM,
webaron@gmail.com

Directions:

Go to www.nccc.cc, and select "meetings."

NCCC Officers

President: Bob Tellefsen, N6WG, n6wg@comcast.net
Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Alan Eshleman,
K6SRZ, doctore@well.com
Secretary/Treasurer: John Miller, K6MM,
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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

Our October meeting will be on the 15th; the third Monday. This is to give our CQP expeditioners a chance to get home, put their gear away, and rest before the meeting. November will be back to the second Monday as usual.

SPRINT SSB

As usual I worked up my little wimpy score and turned it in. It's a classic example of the little scores that we lots of to win contests. Hope everyone got their scores in.

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

I hope you all do well in the CQP, and that we hand out a large number of QSOs to the deserving. It would be great if we have our largest turnout in a long time. We'll have to wait and see how the logs shake out.

SWEEPSTAKES

What do we have to do to win SS? We all know about the HMO stations that turn in the big scores. But add them all up, and they don't come near the totals we need to win. A winning NCCC score comes from the total of all the logs we turn in, big and small alike.

What can an individual NCCC member do to help us win?

1. Come to the October meeting. SS will be the main topic.
2. Commit yourself to as many seat hours as you can. Those are the only ones that produce QSOs.

3. Plan your contest. Study the NCCC SS Handbook, available on our web site.
4. Be sure all your equipment and antennas are working well.
5. Be on the air, working stations at whatever rate you can manage.
6. When the contest is over, TURN IN YOUR LOG. We can't win without it.

THERE ARE NO INSIGNIFICANT SCORES IN SS!

With your help, NCCC will once again prove itself the premier contest club in the nation.

That's all for now, gang. See you in the contest.

73, Bob N6WG

VP/CC Report

By: Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ

Here's a partial list of contests in October. There are many others. The WA7BNM Web page <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> has a complete list.

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 2
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 5
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 6
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 6 to 0800Z, Oct 7
California QSO Party	
1600Z, Oct 6 to 2159Z, Oct 7	
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 12
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 13 to 0800Z, Oct 14
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 13 to 0500Z, Oct 14 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 14
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 14
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 21 to 0100Z, Oct 22
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 27 to 2400Z, Oct 28

By the time you get this issue of The Jug, your CQP plans should be in the final stages. I'll be heading out for Weaverville (Trinity County) on October 3. My step-mother-in-law has a few acres about a half mile past the Trinity County Airport. That's where I'll pitch my tent and use my new WB6ZQZ tennis ball launcher (<http://www.antennalaunchers.com/wb6zqz.html>) to get my 40/80 meter dipoles up between some big pines.

Many years ago I moonlighted in the emergency room of Trinity General Hospital in Weaverville. I was a penniless third-year medical resident at Highland Hospital at the time. It was during an elective month in my medical training and I was able to convince the "powers that be" that I was doing a special rotation in general medicine. My fellow residents covered for me.

Weaverville was the last place I made a house call! If a code blue was called, the local pharmacist came running from his drug store and a fireman came running from the fire house to assist. Once, while attempting to resuscitate a hospitalized patient, I looked up from pumping on his chest to see his local doctor looking into the room. "This is your patient," I said, "would you like to run the code?"

"Nah," he said, "I'll leave that high tech stuff to you."

But I digress...

Our first priority as a club is the 2007 ARRL Sweepstakes. You can follow the preparations on our reflector and on the Members' Only pages on our Web site. There you will find a table that shows HMO plans, including listings of stations available and of operators needing a station. We continue with efforts to recruit new members (Dean Straw, N6BV, has done yeoman duty speaking to local radio clubs about the fun of contesting and how to do it from the typical small city lot). We've also contacted several existing members who

haven't participated in Sweepstakes and convinced some of them to put in some time this year.

I am particularly pleased to see that the showdown between Cal and USC in Berkeley—for which I have tickets and which may decide college football's number one--will take place on the weekend *between* the CW and Phone events. Otherwise I might have been severely conflicted.

It's these conflicts in life that keep many of us from doing as many contests as we'd like. I've gotten feedback from some members asking why more is not done to organize full-out club efforts for a variety of different contests. The short answer, of course, is that our conflicts and responsibilities prevent us from doing this for every contest. This is why we have to rely on volunteers to coordinate some of the minor contests. It's also why each year the club takes a vote on which contests to focus our efforts. We'll need to discuss this further at some future meeting.

Keep those cards and letters coming. Let me know your SS plans and we'll try to keep the tables current.

Alan, K6SRZ

The Big Erection

By K5RC

W5FU (NA5R) and I are planning one last big contest station to be ready for the next solar maximum. Phase 1, for 2007, includes adding towers #7 and #8 to the existing K5RC station. One is a full size vertical for top band and the other is a rotating tower with stacked 6 over 6 on 20 and 2 over 2 on 40. We will also add at least two wire yagis for 80. Our web site will be updated every few weeks as we make progress. Please check back as the great erection of 2007 progresses - <http://consultpr.com:80/2007.htm>.



The Take-off Toward Europe



The Take-off Toward Japan



The Take-off Toward VKZL (Photos from atop 80' Tower #2)



The Take-off Toward East Coast USA (Tower Photos by KL2A)



160 Vertical up to 75' (8-12-07)



K7NV and W2GD install the top two antennas



The NCCC Loading Crew in Los Gatos

(L to R) WX5S, W6OAT, KA6W, K5RC, K2RD, K6TD, W5FU, K9YC, W6ZZZ, K6EU



The NCCC Loading Crew in Danville

(L to R) W6NV, N6RO, KX7M, K5RC, W5FU



160 Meter Vertical Completed Total height = 115' with stinger

Telegraphy and Sailing

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

I know. Your first question is “what does telegraphy have to do with sailing?” I’m glad you asked. The first long-haul type of sea travel used the wind as the motive energy. The first long-haul form of radio communication used telegraphy. But the comparisons don’t stop there.

Right up until the end of the 19th century, intercontinental shipping was all done using wind-powered vessels. For the first few decades of amateur radio, practically all intercontinental communications used telegraphy.

By the early 20th century, virtually all intercontinental shipping was by steam-powered vessels. Sometime near the end of the 20th century, commercial shipping ended its use of radio telegraphy. And, early in the 21st century, the FCC no longer tested amateur radio license aspirants for telegraphy skills.

Powerboats and telephony reduced the skills mariners and radio operators had to have in order to do their respective things. Practically speaking, fossil-fuel powered ships depended far less upon the cooperation of Mother Nature, and radio telephony depended less upon the skills of the

operators on both ends of the communications path.

Today, though, there are probably more sailboats than ever before. People no longer sail to carry cargo from place to place. They sail because it is esthetically pleasing and requires skill. Rather than becoming a lost art in the face of powered ships, sailing has become even more popular as a way to relax and work with, rather than against, nature. And, it is the most energy efficient form of travel over water.

It's still too early to say unequivocally, and no doubt a lot of amateur radio telegraphers have moved on to the big station in the sky, but radio telegraphy will not become a lost art either. Like sailing, it too is esthetically pleasing and requires skill. And, it remains the most energy efficient form of amateur radio communication.

So, I expect that just like sailing, despite the practicality of radio telephone and digital modes there will always be hams that communicate with telegraphy – not because they have to, but because they love to.

Operate Sprint Style

By: Scot R. Morrison, KA3DRR/6

Sprint pushed my operating skills to the maximum and I was left mumbling in the operating chair, “Wow, wow.”

For this rookie, Sprint is a full-throttle, on afterburners contest that challenged listening and copying skills, moving between keys on the keyboard, search and pounce (SP) technique, and calling CQ. The intensity of Sprint, on the other hand, bent time.

My operating goals were 1). Complete at least 100 QSOs; 2). Operate the entire 4-hours and, 3). Maintain an hourly average of 25 QSOs. The condo contest

station consists of one Yaesu FT-100, a center fed inverted-L doublet at 30-foot fed with 450-ohm balanced line, and an MFJ-949E Versa tuner. It is basic low-power, low-profile contesting within a code, covenant, and restricted (CC&R) community.

I checked propagation a few hours prior to the start and zero sunspots signaled the bottom of the cycle. Sunspots or not, I was determined to operate but, which band to start? Would it be 20-meters and long haul multipliers? Alternatively, 40-meters and work short-skip before the band goes long.

The NCCC rapid response email team delivered rock solid suggestions. Twenty-meters got the call. Signals during pre-contest warm-up suggested decent conditions despite the propagation numbers. I imagined a thunderous cheer rose up from the seats, as Stadium Earth would rock to the music of Morse code.

I jumped into the pre-contest warm-up session on 20-meters and scored a low-power, low-profile 559 in Tennessee. Cool, 40-watts into an inverted-L is better than 40-watts into a random wire. Now, I'm into the last minute before the official gun and time to find a CQ frequency. As suggested in N6TR's Sprint Survival page, I spun the dial above 14.050, and waited for the last second before Morse code rocked stadium Earth.

Indeed, Morse code ignited 20-meters from a dull roar to full-blown thunder and lightning. I was reminded of an old Thin Lizzy tune while remaining focused on the plan. That is, call CQ then SP using VFO A = VFO B, and

cycle between the two techniques. The first QSO and multiplier went into the log 19-minutes into the Sprint. The –Q and multiplier was Tennessee! I was stoked.

I experienced a range of Morse code from warp speed to impulse power on all bands. The warp speed pushed my copy and listening skills especially ‘H’ and ‘S’ and for some reason the number eight. My comfort zone settled at 25 words per minute (WPM) sending with some experimentation at the upper reach of 27 WPM. I discovered that focusing on the keyboard helped. The technique that worked best for this rookie was listen and type without looking at the monitor.

The 40-meter hulk band produced the bulk of my –Qs totaling nineteen beginning at 0206Z. I worked W6YI as my first California multiplier and other notables included New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Mistakes followed and better preparation will solve that in the future. For example, I did not group function keys accordingly, and repeat information such as name, QTH, and number were haphazard. It slowed response time. Forty meters faded at 0314Z and time for the 80-meter red zone.

The red-zone belonged to California for the remainder of the Sprint. The last 45-minutes jelled between calling CQ and SP using VFO A = VFO B. I felt confident at 25 WPM and the flow on my keyboard between function keys improved from hour one. The last station worked was Ken, N6RO. It was a right-on finish.

I achieved 43% of my stated goal of 100 –Qs and worked 19 multipliers through

the evening. Four hours in the operating chair seemed like a matter of minutes. The NCCC rapid response email team provided additional encouragement as well. An old Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force said once, “Always aim higher.”

NCCC Approved Budget	FY 2007-2008
Income	
Dues	\$ 3,668
Member Donations	700
JUG Ads (December 2007)	300
Total Income	4,668
Expense	
JUG (Roster, CQP Report)	(1,000)
CQP (Awards, Shirts, etc.)	(750)
Awards Expense	(1,700)
Misc (K6ZM QSL, Other)	(100)
Visalia Hospitality	(100)
Website	(100)
Marketing	(400)
Guest Speakers	(200)
Training	(400)
NS Ladder	(100)
Self-Funded (Badges, Dinners)	
Total Expense	\$ (4,850)
Net	\$ (182)

NCCC Dues Drive 2007-2008
Cumulative \$ as of 9/18/07



