

JUG

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Northern California
Contest Club



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NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3610+/-

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

The Flex 5000 Software Defined Radio by Stu Phillips, K6TU

Date: Monday, 8 February 2010

Time: 6pm schmooz, 6:30pm dinner, 7pm program

Location: Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 (408) 243-0434



NCCC Officers

President: [Jack Morgan, KF6T](#)

Vice-President and Contest Chairman: [Fred Jensen, K6DGW](#)

Secretary/Treasurer: [Jack Brindle, W6FB](#)

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JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com



Inland View

By Jack Morgan, KF6T

Awards

It is amazing how many awards the NCCC presents each year. We have the annual awards meeting coming up in March. The Club will hand out over 200 plaques and certificates to the members before the evening is over. And that does not include the CQP awards with another 35 plaques and numerous certificates. Oh and don't forget the CQP wine! Twenty personalized bottles go to the top competitors in the state and another 20 to those outside California. These awards are great incentives to get out and compete during the year.

Officer/Board Elections

We will hold NCCC Officer elections in April for President, VP/ Contest Chairman

and Secretary/Treasurer. We will also elect three directors to the NCCC Board. Here is your chance to get involved with the running of this great club. We are also looking for volunteers for the many positions shown in the "Officer" section of our web site (NCCC.cc). If you are interested, let an Officer or Board member know in a call or email. Check out all the members that have participated over the years by scrolling down the Officer page – we have a very involved membership.

SS Results

I'm sure you have heard that the PVRC won the SS gavel for 2009 – congrats to them! It was a good competition and it brought new records to the NCCC. We set an all time Club point record of 22.7 million (2.3 more than last year) as well as a new individual station record. Multi-station K6IDX was piloted by Risto, W6RK and Dean, N6DE and accumulated over 859 thousand points using a clever resource sharing scheme.

We also inducted a lot of new members as a result of the SS effort and many got their first taste of this complex contest. A few more sunspots and a few more logs will bring the gavel back next year!

VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

First off, I want to thank Jim, K9YC, for flogging the NAQP SSB for me. All sorts of "busy-ness" seems to have descended on us over the last several weeks, and there was just no way I could do it. Thanks Jim!

We have NA Sprint CW coming up the first Saturday in Feb and Bob, W6RGG, will be hustling all of you on this one.

Other events in Feb:

NA Spring 13 Feb

ARRL DX CW 19-21 Feb

CQ 160 26-28 Feb

NAQP RTTY 27 Feb [I could really use a flogger, we might be gone]

SSN: The SSN has been up as high as the mid 60's for a couple of weeks as I write this [23 Jan], and it's 30 right now. The good news is that all the groups are Cycle 24 spots. SFI was as high as 95 for awhile. Ten meters should be showing some life if this keeps up.

NS: I think I'm going to be able to finally partake of the NCCC-sponsored Thursday Night Madness, Andrea and I have made some adjustments to our schedules and Thursday night is going to be more or less free and I'm looking forward to it. I can sure use some Sprint practice.

LEVELING THE FIELD: There's been some discussion recently about more level playing fields in contests; possibly stimulated by the recent Locust QSO Party #53.

Rick's rules for LQP, although a bit complex, were designed to do just that, and it's not a new topic by any means. The CQ zones we know and love today began in 1934 at what was then R/9 Magazine as a way of leveling the field world wide. They offered the Worked All Zones award, dividing the planet into 40 zones, and WAZ actually predated DXCC by about a year or so.

Unlike the ITU zones [some of which are all water], they attempted to draw the zones to compensate for the uneven density of "countries" in the world. Live in Liechtenstein and you can literally walk to other countries.

Possibly the most "unlevel contest" of all time was the old OK RTTY. It was a EWE [Everyone Works Everyone] contest, however to score it, you multiplied your QSO score by the multipliers, and then multiplied that by the number of OK's you worked, virtually guaranteeing a score of zero for me.

They've fixed that now and I can actually submit a log for a non-zero score – a much more level field. Rick's elimination of

multipliers is probably another move for leveling the playing field, however, I love the NAQP ... my score goes up exponentially as I work more stations on new bands. OK – so does everyone else’s ... I guess I’m into cheap thrills.

I suspect the not quite 1dB power penalty I have in LQP because the apex of my 40m antenna is at 70 ft isn't really enough to equalize me with someone whose antenna is at 40 ft. But there are so many variables in wireless communications, I believe myself that conjuring up a “level contesting field” is about as likely as finding an honest politician.

I will never win any of the Big Ones – I'll never even come close to making the top 10 or 20 – or 100. But, as long as the rules don't change from year to year, the most level field for me is to compete against my past scores, especially if I compute them on a points-per-hour-in-the-chair basis. And then of course there's the fun.

DE: I find I am very close to Triple Play WAS, I need only DE on phone. But then, close doesn't count in Triple Play, only in horseshoes and nuclear war.

Dues

Have you paid your dues for the year? It's still just \$24 (cheap), with students just \$12 (even cheaper) and family members \$12 (what a deal).

Contact [Jack Brindle, W6FB](#)

We can get your dues via PayPal or snail mail or via cash at the next meeting.

Mentoring

We all love contesting or we wouldn't be members of NCCC. And, contest participation certainly seems to be on an upswing with the exception of just a few. But, as the ham population continues to

gray, there's going to be a time when not only contesting, but ham radio itself, may be waning. We don't have to sit by and just accept that, though. If each one of us in NCCC took the time to mentor just one operator per year, we could add hundreds of new contesters to the roles.

In that spirit, Tom, K5RC, and Ken, N6RO, have both done more than their share of mentoring. And, it's great to see the enthusiasm it generates and the committed contesters it helps to create.

In the recent NAQP SSB, Tom once again opened his station to a pair of newbies – K7STU and NI6NIC. Tom, like others, is of the school that says “get ‘em into contesting on any mode and your chances are good that they'll aspire to other modes, too.” NCCC is mode agnostic. We field a bunch of ops in CW, SSB and RTTY contests. Let's keep it up.



K7STU (left) and NI6NIC at K5RU during NAQP phone



N6NIC cranking out the points and enjoying every minute of it.

EDITORIAL

Weekday Activity

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

For those of us who have been in this hobby for a long time (52 years for me), we may sometimes feel complacent that our spectrum is ours in perpetuity. So what if the CW and phone sub-bands are often unused on weekdays? Heck, on most weekends there's a contest somewhere that gets some people on the air.

But, the fact is that a lot of HF operators tend to be contest-oriented, DX-oriented, or both. The former are on the air on selected weekends. The latter often check the spotting nets and don't bother to turn on their rigs unless there's a juicy new entity.

We know that on Thursdays at 0230Z, there's going to be a burst of CW activity for 30 minutes, in North America. Thank you, NCCC Sprint. And, a new CW club, CWops, www.cwops.org, has stolen a page from NCCC Sprint and is doing one-hour "events" on the second Wednesday of each month with the hours scheduled at 1100Z, 1900Z and 0300Z. The idea is to generate regional activity in Asia, EU and NA. Some participants have tried all three hours.

We can all find excuses for not getting on the air. "There're no sunspots." "The bands are dead." But, keep in mind that if a licensing authority is considering reallocating spectrum, they're going to be monitoring, for a while, to see if the current allocations are being used. And, most licensing authorities work Monday through Friday. They're not around to monitor the bands during weekend contests.

If the only reason for getting on the air during weekdays was to protect our spectrum, that would be sufficient reason. But, you know what, it's fun working bands when they're not wall-to-wall with signals. It's fun throwing your line over the side to see who might bite.

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