

JUG

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Contest Club
NCCC

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NCCC Net
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NEXT MEETING

Joint Meeting with REDXA

Date: Wednesday, 13 January 2010
Time: 6pm schmooz, 6:30pm dinner, 7pm program
Location: Mr. Magoo's Restaurant, 1375 Petaluma Blvd. N., Petaluma, CA



For more details, go to the Website and click on the meetings tab.

NCCC Officers

President: [Jack Morgan, KF6T](#)

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

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

Directors

Past President: [John Miller, K6MM](#)

Director: [Chris Tate, N6WM](#)

Director: [Garry Shapiro, NI6T](#)

Director: [Kevin Rowett, K6TD](#)

Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Webmaster: John Miller, [John Miller, K6MM](#)
JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com



Inland View

By Jack Morgan, KF6T

Holiday Dinner Party

That was a blast! If you weren't there, you missed a wonderful international gathering of members and guests at Michael's. Great food and great company. We were disappointed to hear that the Main Street Singers would not perform that night – their leader was hospitalized from an accident the day before.

However, two KBers more than made up for the loss. Dave Rietz, K6RC and Ken Keeler, N6RO (fiddle and banjo, respectively) entertained the festive crowd with a collection of Holiday classics and assorted bluegrass/jazz numbers. They really got the place rocking (I noticed that management closed all the doors to our room).

Manualist extraordinaire Bob Wilson, N6TV then wowed the group with his selections of Holiday music made from the air squeezed through his hands. If you haven't seen Bob perform, go to his web site and check out his many videos - (http://rawilson.googlepages.com/Manualis_m.htm).

Bob followed his act with an auction of the many fantastic goodies that were donated. A lot of wild bidding followed and NCCC Treasurer Jack Brindle left that evening with a smile on his face.

Antenna Obsessions

I have always noticed the array of "flagpoles" adjacent to Highway 1 on our way to camping at New Brighton State Park near Aptos. I thought it would be fun to fire them up, not realizing those 165' poles were actually part of KMFO's AM radio array. I thought they were way too beautiful to be radio station antennas. Well, the Locust realized my dream and wrote about his Stew Perry contest experience in a blog found at <http://www.k6vva.com/2009stewperry/>. It makes for great reading.

Sweepstakes Perspective

It was fun participating in this year's Sweepstakes contests. I operated at W6SR and AI6V QTHs and got to experience how really good antennas play in a contest. Many exceeded their personal goals and/or got a chance to operate from some super stations. Some got their first contest experience – not exactly an easy contest to start with. The contest resulted in over a dozen new members being voted into the Club. The many individual and group efforts resulted in a record score for the NCCC. We can speculate about who won the gavel this year but I am content to wait until all the logs are checked at the ARRL and the official results are announced. Whatever the outcome, it was worth the effort!

Have a Happy New Year!

VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

Wow! Another year in the books and I can't really account for all of it, it seems like it went by so very fast. Some of the highlights for me:

- I'm still here and I can still converse in Morse code
- Cycle 24 seems to have started in earnest. As I write this [28 Dec], the SSN is still 17 and SFI is 77. SSN made it to over 40 earlier, and SFI was in the high 80's. I know ... high 80's isn't really "high," but compared to what we've been living with [mid 60's] for most of a year, I'm stoked!
- Our club has grown steadily and our total SS logs submitted rose from 278 in 2008 to 332 this year. It will remain to be seen how this will shake out in the final club score, but rest assured, our comrades in the Colonies will be giving us a real run for the gavel.

RTTY RU will likely be over by the time you read this. My thanks to old buddy Hank, W6SX, for organizing the RTTY practices, Ed, W0YK, for helping out with the coordination, and Chris, N6WM for his motivational floggings.

If you didn't get a chance to read about the Locust's TBDC expedition to the coast and his AM BC antenna trip, don't miss it.

This is a bit short, we're still in Sparks, hopefully heading home Wed, 30 Dec through a break in the weather. I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday, and I'll see you in the new years winter contest season.

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.



Celestine and K6MM

Holiday Party Photos Courtesy of N6TV



W6RGG & KB6IBX



Paula and N3ZZ



K6TA and K6KO



K6TD, K6WG and Vicky



KE6QR and KI6ARW



Pat and K6GT



Ann and G3ZWV



K6RB and Debra



N6DA and Mary



Joan and WT6K



K6VVA and KE6BEQ



N6EE and Betty



The Festivities



The Entertainment: K6RC and N6RO

About RTTY Round Up

By: Rob K6RB

Today's RTTY Round Up contest has its roots in the first RTTY Sweepstakes of 1953.

RTTY contesting got a nudge in 1965 when the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group (BARTG) sponsored a spring RTTY contest.

With the advent of PCs in the late 1970s, enterprising hams began turning out RTTY software and moving away from electromechanical ASR terminals to software generated RTTY using PCs and audio interface boards.

Top Band Contesting

By: Rob K6RB

Top Band contesting really takes off in December with ARRL 160. Then, that same month, we have the Top Band Distance Challenge (TBDC) contest, also known as "Stew Perry" in honor of W1BB, who more or less pioneered the use of 160 after Loran went elsewhere and archaic state-specific power limitation were eliminated.

As anyone who has spent any time on 160 can tell you, this band is absolutely unpredictable. There is little correlation between the factors that influence propagation on 80 through 10, and what

happens on 160. About the best predictability is if there was a decent opening on the 15th of one month, odds are good that there could be a decent opening around the same time a month later. But, don't bet the farm on it.

There is still a lot of differences of opinion about how signals get from A to B on 160. For example, what would ordinarily be a multi-hop path on 40 appears not to be on 160, sometimes. There seems to be less evidence of the kinds of losses one would expect with a multi-hop path. This, in turn, has led some people to hypothesize that the path is a duct-like path where the signal stays between two layers of the ionosphere and then exits a long distance away. It could help explain the "searchlight" situation where someone hears a DX signal quite well and a hundred miles away, there's not a peep. It could also explain why low-height antennas, sometimes, produce better results than a higher one.

As the contest season progresses, we'll have more chances to play with Top Band.

FYI: submitted by K5RC

New Club for Morse Code Enthusiasts

A new club has been formed among Amateur Radio operators who are Morse Code (CW) enthusiasts. It is called The CW Operators Club (CWops). CWops encourages the use of CW in Amateur communications, and it promotes goodwill among Amateurs around the world by planned CW activities.

CWops is international in scope, membership and management. Its focus is the use of CW, whether for contesting, DXing or ragchewing. Moreover, it promotes every form of sending -- if it's CW, CWops supports it!

For further information, go to www.cwops.org. There you will find

everything that you might want to know about CWops, including our bylaws and articles of incorporation, our planned activities, an explanation of how to become a member, and a list of current members.

Jim Talens, N3JT
Secretary, CWops

Some Locust Stew Perry Photos



12 STORE BUYING POWER



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

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-80 at 23rd Ave., ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(619) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Jose, XE2SLB, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com