



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



June
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Issue 457

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3610+/-

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

Contest Log Checking K6TD

Date: Monday, June 14, 2010

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

Location: Tied House Brewery 954 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

Phone: 650) 965-2739

Directions: <http://www.tiedhouse.com>



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FB's Message

By Jack Brindle, W6FB

As described last month, we have several new initiatives in NCCC this year. These really are extensions of previous efforts, but with more focus and coordination.

Perhaps the most important is a renewed emphasis on contester education. This applies not just to NCCC members, but to others in the contest community as well. As we have seen in NS Sprint, CQP and other efforts, NCCC's reach extends far beyond our members into the general contest community worldwide. Our educational effort will likewise create opportunities for contesters and potential contesters to learn far more about our world of radiosport.

We have already started injecting newcomer information into club meetings. It is a subtle, but important

change that was first seen at the Newark meeting this past month. We will continue with this as we move forward, combining information of interest to those of us who have been around the block a time or two with things that may be new to the less experienced. Each of us has at least a bit of elmering in us, and this is an excellent opportunity to allow the elmer quality to come to the forefront.

The Webinar effort started last year by N6DE is also a very important tool in our quiver. It allows hams to sit in the comfort of their home and actively participate in seminars and presentations, giving them the opportunity to ask experts (or at least someone who has researched the topic) questions about the topic at hand.

Afterwards the Webinar video is posted to the NCCC Website where many have been downloaded and viewed by thousands world-wide. Topics have ranged from contest log software to specific contest operations to mode-specific areas. There are many more topics that can be covered, and many more we need to cover.

One very important consideration in the area of Webinars is they allow us to be as specific about a topic as we like, or as broad. For example we could give a Webinar about contest antennas, or drill down and do an entire Webinar about the virtues of a four-square.

While the former may attract more active participants, experience has shown that the more-specific topics will draw a lot of viewers who download the Webinar as they need the information. In other words both are very important.

Another area we should pursue is helping out area clubs. Local clubs have a need for meeting presentations, and look to us from time to time to provide such. This is a great chance to reach out to them to educate them, and even get them involved in our part of the hobby.

With Field Day coming up very soon, local clubs are looking for leadership in the area of contesting. They need help with how to setup a contest station, albeit a portable one (we seem to have knowledge here, especially with our CQP operations), operations and other aspects. It is important to note that they also have information to feed back to us. For example, the June issue of QST has a very interesting article by WVARA member K6KV describing a triplexer for the tribander used by that club in Field Day. I suspect this is a device many of us could use. Congratulations, Gary!

There are several other areas that may be pursued, but this gives the general idea for the exciting opportunities ahead. We will need help from all members in this effort, and indeed it provides an excellent outlet for our need to help others, making it a win-win for all.

At present we are looking to assemble a committee to coordinate the efforts, research the needs and provide guidance. Some of the committee members will present Webinars or make talks to clubs, always a fun time. But, they also get to recruit others to perform these exhilarating tasks, as well (are they really tasks if they are so much fun?).

Spreading the fun around means we all get to enjoy the effort, right? Please think about how you may be able to help out with these efforts, and if you can

participate in the committee, let me know! Again, it is very exciting helping contesting grow into something even better than what we have now!

VP/CC

By: Chris Tate, N6WM

Greetings Kbers!

It was great to see those who made it to Newark for our monthly NCCC meeting. We had a couple of fantastic presentations both by K6MM about the statistics and point needs to set achievable goals for WPX CW. Then Dean gave us valuable propagation information and charts that will assist us in our endeavors.

If you will be participating in the WPX CW contest (and I know most of you will be) please look at the presentations on the NCCC web site, as this data was both valuable and useful. Now, let's put all that to work and KB in WPX!

And on to June...interesting contest activities

As we make the transition into summer, there are several contests I would like to discuss with you in this issue.

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

The NCCC has not traditionally chased VHF contests, mostly because of geographical limitations of Northern California, but I really think this one, in particular, we should attempt entering as club competition.

There are a couple of things that make this contest intriguing. First, the contest happens in the heart of the summer,

Sporadic E season, providing high probability of 6 meter propagation all over North America, at least intermittently.

When this occurs, the VHF contest takes the form of an HF contest with stations running and search-and-pouncing on the 6-meter band. Both SSB and CW modes are used in the contest. Second, this is a contest that is made very interesting by mobile rovers. Stations will take to the streets and highways of California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington to participate in the VHF rover category. This may be fun and a good proving ground for future CQP rover operations, and having recently tried this myself, it is a lot of fun, and a different spin on contesting.

Most of you have 6 meters standard in your HF rigs and some have rigs with 2 meters, 432, even 1.2 GHz, such as the Kenwood TS-2000, or portable mobile rigs like the Yaesu FT-857d or Icom 706Mk II.

Antennas can be small, portable, yet still very effective. So, let's give this one a shot, and perhaps have some fun, try something new, and learn in the process!

NCCC presence on the air during ARRL Field Day

The contest 'not a contest... sure, ok. What a great opportunity to embrace this year's underlying goals of training our newer NCCC members, and finding new contest enthusiasts to join us!

Field day can be magical. I myself was first wooed into amateur radio and contesting, in particular, during a field-day event. I would venture to guess this

may be the case for a great many of you as well.

If you are a big gun contesting station, try running it on AC, or even generator power, and hold an open house. For instance, K6LRG will be QRV with generator and Wind Power this year in the Echo class.

Publish you operation on the ARRL field-day locator and maybe you will find some operators who will catch the contesting bug, get their ham tickets, and even join your contesting team!

Maybe some of you prefer to go into the field, and set up portable operations, or even set up in public areas to demonstrate the expert operating capabilities of NCCC contesters.

Whatever you choose to do, try and make a goal to bring someone new hams under your wing, and continue the tradition of mentoring that has become the hallmark of our great hobby.

After we complete field day, take some time to let us know, on the NCCC reflector, how it went for you; and if you were successful in starting the mentoring of our next generation of contesters!

So, on we go! It was a very wet and rainy winter, but summer is here! Let's get out there, enjoy the summer, share our contesting passion with the rest of the world, and have some fun!

73 and see ya' next time!

Field Day: When It All Began

Here's F.E. Handy's blurb in June QST 1933:

International Field Day— June 10th—11th

CLUBS, 56-mc. operators, *all* hams with licenses for portable stations, attention!! Starting Saturday at 4 p.m. local time (June 10th) and ending Sunday at 7 p.m. local time (June 11th), all U. S. A. and Canadian station owners are invited to schedule "field activities," excursions with concentrated operation of portable transmitters and receivers. Only portable stations, actually in the field, away from the "home" address are eligible to submit field day scores.

The object will be for each "portable" station to work as many other amateur stations as possible — each to count one point toward a score. *Any or all amateur frequency bands may be used, voice or c.w. telegraph likewise.* The "total" of such points may be multiplied by the number of A.R.R.L. Sections worked. Contact with another portable station at any point except its base, or home address, will "rate" double credit, or two (instead of one) points. Two-way work with a foreign station shall entitle the operator of the "portable" to triple credit, or three (instead of one) points, in addition to which each foreign country (prefix) may be added to the number of Sections to increase the "multiplier." The R.S.G.B., N.V.I.R. and R.B. are sponsors of similar national field days in Europe, and we hope this may assume an international complexion. All amateurs with licensed portable stations are invited to take part . . . each such station will please report its power and frequency band used, and its log of operation and score for the period given, within the week following the Field Day. Also, gang, don't forget to comply with F.R.C. regulations for portable station operation. Notify your Radio Supervisor of the approximate location and time of intended operation of the "portable" by postal or letter, just in advance of the "field" radio work. We shall be interested to know how many clubs plan outings, and also suggestions for a similar activity for 1934 (if you want one) will be welcomed.

Besides offering an opportunity to get out in the open in this fine spring weather, the real object of this contest is to test "portables" wherever they may be available. If successful we want to make it an annual affair.
— F. E. H.

CQ WPX CW 2010

What was it that Burns said about the best laid plans of mice or men? This years CW WPX came and went as the only sunspot disappeared on the other side and the supposed new one turned out to be a non-event.

Remember those years when at 0000Z we West Coasters turned our yagis to NW, switched to 28 MHz, and worked the heck out of Asia until well after dark? Well, not this year.

Remember those years when on Saturday morning you turned the beams to a heading of 30 and worked Europe non-stop on 15 and 20? Well, not this year.

But, hams, being the types of people who simply won't let adversity get in their way, soldiered on. And, judging by the posts on the reflector, NCCC did admirably well.

Here are some photos of a few WPX efforts:



What summer? The scene outside K5RC aka W1CU in WPX.



The scene inside at K5RC aka W1CU.



Our own Ira, K2RD, at the multi W1CU station.



What to do when the A Index is 26 in WPX CW.



K6RIM, with 7800 and new Alpha 9500. Said Al, "conditions sucked."



Alan, K6SRZ, gets ready for the starting pistol shot.



K6LRG station in Livermore



Rob, K6RB aka NW6H, at the controls of his new K3 SO2R setup.



John, K6MM, at K6LRG



Rob, K6RB, wasn't kidding when he said his tower is the tallest tree in the area.



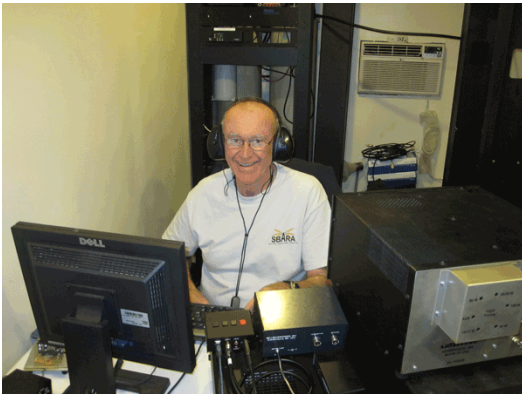
Ian, N6ML, at K6LRG



Eric, N6SPP, at K6LRG



Chris, N6WM, at K6LRG



Al, WT6K, at K6LRG



Tom, ND2T, and Nick, KZ2V, as ND2T at W6YX.

Announcing The West Coast CW Enthusiast's Weekend Fun in the Sun in the High Sierra

The 2010 W6FOC West Coast Dinner has been expanded into an entire weekend and All CW Enthusiasts are Invited!

More info here: <http://k5rc.cc/CW.htm>

Friday, August 13, 2010

- » Check-in to the Peppermill Hotel, Resort, Spa, Casino - \$99 per night special rate
- » No-host casino night in Reno

Saturday, August 14, 2010

- » Morning flying tours of lake Tahoe with "Captain Rick" (N6XI) (advanced reservations required)
- » Brunch at N6XI station in Truckee, CA
- » No-host afternoon sightseeing at Lake Tahoe
- » EVENING BANQUET AT THE PEPPERMILL

Sunday, August 15, 2010

- » Open house at the K5RC/W7RN Super-Station
- » Brunch in historic Virginia City
- » Tour of the Western Historical Radio Museum in Virginia City
- » Ladies outing in Virginia City

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