



MEETING

:

**DATE: Monday, August 13, at
Tibco Software Incorporated
3165 Porter Drive
Palo Alto (650) 846-1000
directions on our website:
<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>**

Ken Keeler, N6RO ... n6ro@arrl.net

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**The NCCC 75 meter
net meets on Thursdays
at 9PM,
3830kHz approximately**

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DUES ARE DUE!

**DON'T DELAY ANOTHER SECOND!
FILL IN THE FORM ON THE LAST
PAGE OF THIS JUG, WRITE YOUR
CHECK, AND MAIL IT ALL TO ED,
W0YK, THEREBY KEEPING YOUR
MEMBERSHIP CURRENT IN THE
BEST CONTEST CLUB EXTANT!**

And...

For a complete contest calendar, log submission details, and due dates for logs, visit:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.htm>

XI-ting Times

“How Good Are You?”

How good is a contester? How good are you? Is Jack better than Jill? Who is the best? How would I know? How would anyone know?! Let's see.

Given any interesting activity that requires skill, strength, endurance or knowledge, someone will find a way to make it competitive: business, sports, politics, games of skill... amateur radio. Once you have a competition, you have winners and losers and you can identify who is the best, right? Well, no. There are two problems – event disparity and measurement of sustained performance. Different runnings of the same event experience different conditions and involve different competitors. The best competitor is the one who wins the most over time. How good is he or she today, this year or relative to others?

In business, there are some clear metrics: revenue, profit, market share, satisfied customers, etc. Which individual earned the largest fortune, the highest position, the most recognition... preferably while maintaining sanity, family and morality? There are many metrics; none is perfect.

In athletics, event disparity is relatively minor - everyone competes on the proverbial level playing field. Tracking sustained performance is harder but we have performance statistics in specific skills, season and lifetime earnings and election to halls of fame. Many metrics; none perfect.

In politics we see who gets elected to how high an office. In many fields there are refereed awards such as Oscars, Emmy's, Nobels, Pulitzers, Turing's, Hoppers, Grammys, Contesters of the Year. None of these are very precise, but they do recognize accomplishment and skill. Again, many metrics; none perfect.

In contesting, success is so distorted by geographic disparity that sustained performance is nearly impossible to measure. What can we do to achieve better measurement? Let's look at two

activities that have a lot in common with radio contesting – bridge and chess.

Competitive bridge eliminates event disparity, mainly the “luck of the deal,” by challenging multiple competitors to attempt to optimize their results while playing the same cards. To measure sustained performance, bridge organizers award “master points” for placing well in tournaments. The larger and stronger the field, the more master points there are available for the winners. Titles reward those who accumulate the most points. This time, good metrics; not perfect.

Chess lends itself well to measurement. To reduce event disparity, tournament organizers can divide the field into classes based on ability. They can use a seeding and elimination algorithm (the “Swiss system”) based on established ability and real-time performance that rapidly orders the field in a tournament where each competitor faces only a few others. To measure sustained performance, the chess folks have one of the best systems of all, the “Elo” rating system. After every official chess game, a scientifically derived algorithm adjusts the ratings of each player. The stronger your opponent, the more rating points you earn by winning or the fewer rating points you surrender by losing. These ratings are absolute, independent of level of activity and indefinitely survivable. They predict extremely well the outcome of a series of games between any pair of competitors. Good metrics; almost perfect.

But radio contesting is neither bridge nor chess. It is very tough to measure! The event disparity caused by geography and entry categories is enormous – there is no way to compare the performance of a little pistol in Detroit to a multi-multi operator in Galapagos. WRTC minimizes event disparity, but only about 100 operators can compete. We need a way to compare results achieved by anyone operating anywhere in any contest so the rest of us can measure our own performance against others. I believe there are ways we could track results to reduce the disparities, to compare the results of entries in a single contest and to accumulate those results to determine relative skill. I maintain that adopting such mechanisms would be good for the sport of radio contesting.

So, I have a simple suggestion that I believe could form the basis of a viable contester ranking system. There has been a lot written and ragchewed about contester ranking in the past. See, for example, the writings of N0AX on the subject. But we, the contesting community, have yet to implement anything. Be that as it may, here is my suggestion: Reduce geographic disparity by normalizing the scores of

comparable entries against relatively local winners. Consider each populous country as one or more locales. Divide large (populous) countries into geographic regions such as the five regions that ARRL uses to report scores. Group small countries with their neighbors. Award 100 points to the winner in each locale. Award points to other active competitors in the proportion of their scores to the local winner's score. Do this separately for low power, high power and (perhaps) QRP entries. Now every single-op has a normalized score between 0 and 100 and you can compare scores, for example, between a SOHPCW in CA with a SOLPSSB in New England, even in a DX contest!

To measure sustained performance, average a contester's scores across the five most recent runnings of the same event. (Maybe at least two or three entries during that time could be required.) Report an operator's current rolling average, highest score ever and highest average since inception. Do this separately for each single op category. One could also figure multi-mode and multi-contest rankings. Yes, there are details asking to be explored. Go explore! Yes, it would take effort to define and administer. Recruit it! Yes, there would still be disparities. Live with them! Let's face it – an operator who could average 90 would be pretty darn good... one of the best. And an operator who averaged 80 would not be as strong. (By the way, in the 2000 ARRL SS CW SOHP I scored 84, well above my average 75 over the past three tests.)

I think it's a good metric; not perfect. But I think it would be better than no metric. Do you? Let me know at n6xi@arrl.net.

73, Rick, N6XI

NOTES from the NCCC Meeting of 21 July 2001

If you didn't make it to Jackson for the joint meeting with the Mother Lode DX and Contest Club, you missed a good one! The weather was superb and our very gracious hosts from MLDXCC, organized by joint member Ken, K6TA, outdid themselves. The barbeque tri-tip and chicken were outstanding, as were the salads and sides provided pot-luck by the members of both clubs. NCCC was well represented and the room was full. We picked up six new NCCC members (introduced elsewhere in this Jug) and three of our own signed up with MLDXCC. The big club effort of the

MLDXCC year is winning our own CQP, a very compatible agenda as we disqualify ourselves from this club competition. They have a strong membership, dedicated to contesting, and are a great source of Sweepstakes and other scores for us. Ken has already reserved the room for July 20, 2002 so mark your calendars for the next running of this very friendly radio gathering.

Our guest speaker for the meeting was accomplished 80m DXer Peter Dalton, W6KW, (formerly W6NLZ). In addition to his impeccable taste in small airplanes (obscure inside joke there) Peter is a former NCCC'er and all 'round good ham. He gave a presentation on his current aluminus maximus, a three element 80m beam. The antenna is at his ranch in Redding and performs very well on exotic as well as ordinary paths. The aluminum boom is 76' long, tapering slightly from 5" in the middle to 4" at the ends. He said it weighs about 400 pounds and lives at 165 feet. He emphasized noise reduction in the beam design, maximizing front/back ratio and accepting reasonable forward gain. He uses a pivoting, swing-out work platform and boom to mast scheme that let him maneuver any element into range for tuning or repair in 11 minutes! To reduce the element length by about 1/3, he used loading coils constructed from quarter inch copper tubing on large, custom forms. We all got to heft a sample element section including one of these babies that Peter brought along as part of his show (see photo below.) Even a non-ham would believe that these are spare parts for a death ray! Although Peter once owned most of KLM, it is clear he is no longer wedded to linear loading!

We reviewed the WRTC 2002 team captain selection process and its results. The final answer was:

USA West

N6MJ Daniel Craig
N6RT Douglas Brandon (NCCC nominee)
N5RZ Ralph Bowen (NCCC nominee)
N2IC Steven London
N5KO Robert (Trey) Garlough. (NCCC nominee)

USA East

NT1N David (Dave) Patton (NCCC nominee)
K1AR John Dorr (NCCC nominee)
W4AN Bill Fisher (NCCC nominee)
KQ2M Robert (Bob) Shohet (NCCC nominee)
K5ZD Randall (Randy) Thompson.

NCCC's nominations included seven of the ten selected team captains, as close to a perfect "score" as

any club achieved. Kudos to Selection Committee K6XX, AD6E, W6OAT and AI6V who assembled our nomination list from membership recommendations and guided it through the BoD for approval. No club was completely satisfied with the outcome of this difficult task. All clubs would have liked to see more of their own members selected. But most people will agree that the competitors listed above are world class operators easily worthy of carrying the US flag into WRTC 2002.

Andy, AE6Y, VP/CC provided an update on upcoming contest plans - see his comments elsewhere in this JUG.

Speaking of which, we still need a new JUGhead to relieve stalwart K6GT who has over five years under his belt and is therefore well qualified to train his successor. This is NOT a difficult job and it is a vital service to the club. There is lots of material available from the officers and members, needing only the loving care of a good editor and producer. In fact, we can divide the job into two pieces... editor and publisher... if we get two volunteers interested in different aspects of the task. Please contact any officer to volunteer or to ask questions that might convince you that this is a contribution you want to make to the greatest contest club in the world. NCCC needs YOU!

73, Rick, N6XI



Pete, W6KW, shares the construction details of one of the six coils used in his 3 element 80 meter "Death Ray" Yagi. (photo by N6TV)

Andy's

Dandies

Well, it was only a few days ago that I had the pleasure of attending our annual summer bash: the joint meeting of the NCCC and the Mother Lode DX and Contest Club. That club must be the most enthusiastic bunch of guys and ladies anywhere in ham radio. I enjoy their company so well that I joined up a few years ago and now donate my CQP score (which NCCC can't use) to them to help them stay as perennial winners of the CQP club competition.

This year's meeting was no different. Over 60 attendees, great pot-luck food, six new members for NCCC, and an entertaining presentation by Pete, W6KW, on just what you need in your backyard: a 3 element 80 meter yagi on a 76 foot boom. Wow! We know it works, because W6RJ used more or less the same antenna for an unprecedented West Coast score in CQWW SSB last fall (see below). How about working 34 zones on 75 meters in one weekend! Pete has also turned in great contest scores with the monster.

Here's a pome about the meeting (this one requires the usual apologies to the gods of rhyme and meter) :

"If It's July, It Must Be Jackson"

That MLDXCC

Sure knows hospitality.

We eat till we're done,

Have contesting fun,

And drool over Pete's yag-ee.

I also must acknowledge the personal hospitality I enjoyed from our prez, Rick and his gracious wife, Ann. We flew to Truckee in Rick's plane Friday afternoon, stayed overnight at his delightful house there, then continued on to Jackson the next morning. It was about an hour and a half of flying (well, Rick did the flying, while I enjoyed the sights) that probably saved 8-9 hours of driving. Thanks also to Bob, N6TV, for the ride back from Jackson to Reid-Hillview.

Upcoming Contest Plans

CQP and SS are slowly creeping up on us. Our CQP chairman, Al, AD6E, is planning our usual mass mailing of letters, rules, and log sheets to about 900 or so previous entrants. Some help will be appreciated, when he puts out the call to the party. He also sent out many letters to locals trying to get them interested in the contest (and the club); we hope this will bear fruit the first weekend of October. N6TV has volunteered to do his usual masterful job of county coordination.

For SS, One of our co-chairmen for the contest, Bob, K6XX, was at the Jackson meeting, and suggested a modest goal: let's try for 16M points! That's certainly achievable, with enough participation. In the next month he and Ken, N6RO, the other SS co-chairman, will be firming up their plans. We'll start taking pledges, and will get a phone tree in operation. With all the enthusiasm we are seeing this year, as well as a solid group of new members expanding the list of NCCC scorers, we can do it! Remember, as the old saying goes, "SS is a numbers game."

As for WPX, now is the time to start serious contest expedition planning for 2002. A couple of things that will help you and the club:

First, Jim, N6IG, has volunteered to head up the effort to fit club members into stations locally and around the country, as available. Carl, AI6V, and Ken, N6RO, had offered to help out in that regard at the last meeting, so among them we are expecting to get everyone who can devote the time matched to a competitive station.

Second, I've been doing some investigation into various overseas contest sites, and am lining some up as we speak. We are going to put up info in a neat way on the Members page of the club web site, so be sure to check in there for the latest information. Please coordinate any expedition plans you may have with me, so I can post them on the site, and stay on top of that effort. This may not happen until late in August, as I am going on vacation from the 8th to the 24th, and may not have a chance to get seriously organized before that.

Scores from 2000 CQWW SSB

I just received my copy of the August CQ Magazine. In it are the results of last year's CQWW SSB. A number of NCCers did terrifically well. Here are a few of them (and I apologize to those I missed, because these are really lengthy results... over 20 pages!)

HC8A (N6KT)	FIRST PLACE WORLD
W6AX (N6IG)	Seventh Place U.S.A./ First Place W6
W6NL	Fifth place U.S.A. 10 meters
K3EST	Third place U.S.A. 15 meters
W6RJ	Second place U.S.A. 80m
WC6H	First place U.S.A. LP
WA6O, K6WG	Second place W6 M/S (at K6ZM)

Way to go Rich! "La Machina" just keeps piling on victories. Here's a pome about him :

"Oh, to be KT"

HC8 was the place to be,

If your call was N6KT.

His nine thousand Qs,

Is almost old news.

And shows us the way to KB!

W1AW/6 and W6ROD

Congratulations for the fine efforts put on by the multi-multi-multi (a potential new contest category) crew at W1AW/6. Spearheaded by N6RO, a score or so of avid club members activated a large number of stations for 12 band-modes in IARU two weekends ago. There are certificates for working them on all 12 band-modes, as well as many lesser combinations. Email Ken if you qualify, as he, W0YK, and yours truly will be printing up the certificates shortly. A number of participants were at the July meeting, including the F.R.O.G. team (you have to ask them...) of N6BT, K6KM and N6TV, who along with K2KW did some serious ARRL-mult handing out at K6KM (I think they were 20 and 10 CW).

Also congratulations for a nice effort from the W6YX guys who put W6ROD on the air. Due to an unfortunate but official ruling, they were only able to use two multis, not three, but nonetheless mounted a fine effort to give participants the strange "R2" multiplier.

See you all in September (unfortunately, not in August, as I'll be in OA land).

73, Andy, AE6Y

Long-time NCCC member seeks help

(This request comes from Jack, W6ISQ. The elements of Jack's artistic style have been preserved... ed)

The JUGED has allowed me a few lines to make a plea for some information that I know all you contest-types have in abundents. Being a late-comer into the use of all that extraterraneous stuff like confusers and screens, ek setera, I am not well conversted in what I should do to up-improve my equipment to be able to contest fast like you fellas.

Gdaught6 sez he will monitor this request, as I hunt and peck out this statement, and cut me off when I have filled out the amount of space he has left in this monthz JUGGE. So, here goes. If I get cut off, I'll continue next month.

I gotta get real and up-improve my station. About a year ago, during the rain of King 6 Exeray Exeray, I made a plea for aid in selecting a suitable up-improved transceiver. I had numerous suggestions from as far away as Ole RC Tom sitting on his silver lode on that

Nevada mountain. All them suggestions boiled down to "I should get me a FT10000MP." So I saved my change in a old coffee can until I thought I finally had enuff to buy it.

So, happily, I went on down to HRO with my coffee can and... I couldn't not believe this... they QRT'd makin' them FT10000MP's! Now they got a 10000MP with a Roman number 5 after it, you know, didididah. That ain't the same thing as a 1000MP. OK, this one has 6 meters in it. But I don't want 6 meters in it! I got enuff problems with all them other meters. But it also has a outside power supply with a short string so's I can't put in on the floor. I am in a complete head-scratchin' dither about what to do now. Should I...(sorry, ISQ just used up all his allotted space. I presume he will continue next month...K6GT, JUGED) [*Editor's note: the last parenthetical alleged editor's note isn't an authentic editor's note. Jack put it there because he couldn't remember what he was going to ask!... ed*]

73, Jack, W6ISQ

How to get to the next

NCCC Meeting

The August meeting is at Tibco Software, 3165 Porter Drive, Palo Alto. The program is "to be announced," but you can count on :

6PM: schmoozing

6:30PM: pizza and drinks

7PM: meeting and program.

Porter drive is easily found.

From 280, go toward Palo Alto on Page Mill Road. Go about a mile, and after crossing Junipero Serra Boulevard/Foothill Expressway. Porter is the next street to the right, and Tibco is on the left, about 1/2 block from Page Mill.

From 101, take Oregon Expressway across El Camino Real, where it becomes Page Mill Road. Go up the hill, and left on Porter Drive, which is about the third light after crossing El Camino.

RSVP to W0YK so we have a headcount (actually, a pizza slicecount.)



Here are six new NCCC members inducted at the joint NCCC/MLDXCC meeting in Jackson on July 21! (photo by K6TA) From the left, K6KYJ, Ron Angle lives in Chico. Formerly N6DOJ, AB6ZX. Licensed 46 years, eight

wire antennas; 75% CW; KI6T, Gary Stilwell lives in Fair Oaks. Formerly W6NJU. Licensed 50 years, 50% CW; W6RKC, Rick Casey lives in Pine Grove. Formerly AB1U. Licensed 40 years, 90% CW; NA6E, Mary Cherry and WT6P, Mark Cherry, live in Sacramento. Mark, licensed 34 years, was formerly WA6HHN, N6TOW. Mary, licensed 3 years, was formerly KF6SZC, WN6HYX. Two Kenwood TS940's. Mark operates 30% CW, 70% RTTY. Mary operates 79% CW, 20% RTTY. W6SR Rick Samoian lives in Placerville. Formerly WB6OKK, W6SR. Licensed 37 years, 80% Phone. All are ARRL members and have contesting experience and awards.

SCORES

2001 IARU

<u>Call</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>NCCC</u>
W1AW/6 (K2KW, K3EST, K6AW, K6BL, N6BT, N6BV, W6EU, K6KM, W6NL, WJ6O, W6OAT, W6RJ, N6RO, N6TV, AI6V, K6XC, K7NV, KI7WX @K6IDX, K6KM, W6NL, W6RJ, N6RO, AI6V)	MMMABHP	9385	254	7,396,480	7,396,480
W6ROD (@ W6YX, with W6LD, ??)	MSABHP				-
K6XX	SOABHP	1200	170	730,000	730,000
K6ZM (K6WG)	SOABHP	760	121	365,420	365,420
AD6E	SOABHP	573	119	242,641	242,641
NF6S	SOABLPCW	447	123	183,885	183,885
K6III	SOABHP	300	156	146,796	146,796
K6CTA	SOABHPCW	369	91	102,375	102,375
W6ISO	SOABHP	330	91	86,632	86,632
KF6RIP	SOABLP	273	84	54,747	54,747
WX6V	SOABHPCW	56	38	6,004	6,004
K6RB	SOABHP	16	11	352	352
W0YK	SOABLP	14	8	128	128
Total				9,315,460	9,315,460

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I'd like to get my JUG at the NCCC website each month, and donate the savings to the general fund!

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Ed Muns, W0YK
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