



NCCC Net  
Thursday 9PM  
3830+/-

### Reminder – June Meeting

June 9, Monday – Ira Stoler K2RD, will share his wisdom of how to reduce interstation interference in a multi-transmitter environment.

6 pm – Schmooze; 6:30 pm – Dinner; 7 pm – Meeting

Christy Street Deli  
42808 Christy Street  
Fremont, CA 94538  
(510) 657-9447

Please see <http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html> for directions to this new meeting location. Menu will consist of Lasagna (meat or vegetarian), salad, garlic bread and soda for \$8.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: July 19, August 11, September 8

### NCCC Officers

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### Commentary from President: By Steve Dyer, W1SRD

At last month's meeting, the Club voted to make Sweep Stakes a club contest. No surprise there, BUT this time it comes with a caveat. We really mean it! After getting our clocks cleaned the past several years, we are really mad and aren't going to take it anymore!

Okay, so now that we've gotten ourselves all worked up, what to do?

The easiest and most important contribution every member can make to SS and the Club is to focus on membership. We need numbers to win SS.

Let's think about the ways to get those numbers. The easiest way is to get an existing member on the air. Rusty and his team will be focusing on just that, so be there for the Club when the phone rings.

The next best way is to get a past member to re-enlist. We will publish a list of lost members soon. Don't hesitate to call an old friend you see on the list.

The hardest way, but most rewarding, is to recruit a new member. Marcus, W6ZZZ has done an excellent job of culling the contest results for new candidates, but we need to take action on his hard work. I am looking for a

### In this Issue:

Commentary from President – page 1

Contest Rumblings from VP/CC – page 2

An NC6CC Revival – page 3

WPX SSB in Aruba P40Y – page 5

Contest Calendar – page 13

volunteer to take on the role of Recruitment Chair. Any interested parties, please drop me a line. Arm twisting to follow.

A reminder for June: **Field Day is June 28-29**. Be sure to attend a local Event, and look for the fire of a budding contesteer in someone's eye.

73,  
Steve  
W1SRD

## **Contest Rumblings from the VP/CC**

**By Al Maenchen, AD6E**

WPX CW is just a few days old now, and the club has put in another winning effort. Thanks to Andy, AE6Y for doing the major promotion within NCCC to get the activity way up and get some serious multi-op and contest expeditions going in the right direction. Our combined SSB plus CW club claimed score is 185 meg! I've tried to find previous club scores on the web, but I've been frustrated. Thus, I don't know just how good this total is. I'm sure I'll find out as soon as this JUG hits the street.

I personally helped the WPX CW effort from the W6NV super station between Union City and Pleasanton on the Sunol ridge. I've been privileged to operate from this site for many years during Field Day with the W6YL group. Several years ago, Oliver built a ham shack on the ridge top, installed a 70ft crank up tower, and trenched AC power up to the shack. The tower now sports a 3 element 40 meter yagi and two F12 C31XR tribanders in a stack. For WPX, he installed a second tower with a 20 meter yagi and a 15 meter stack of two 4

element yagis. A third tower is under construction, and will soon support a rotatable 80 dipole. The team consisted of W6NV, K6SRZ, N6KJ, KX7M, and myself operating in the Multi-2 class. This worked out great for us since each of our team had other commitments that weekend and could operate only part time. Congratulations to KX7M who survived graduation ceremonies at San Jose State on Saturday.

I jokingly told N6XI a couple weeks ago that HC8N would have some serious M/2 competition within the club. Well, the competition was there in the form of NG6O, KX7M and WX5S, but looking at the scores it really is difficult to even come close to that wonderful equatorial propagation. Congratulations to Trey and friends for an outstanding effort.

Looking ahead, it's time to get serious about Field Day again. Yes... Field Day is just a couple of weeks away. The club is not doing anything special for Field Day as a club competition per se. Instead, this is the time to go out with your local club and have some fun. Do some Elmering. Find and recruit hams that seem to be having a good time with Field Day and let them know that this sort of fun can be had more than just once a year. Get them to join NCCC!

### ***Madame BEE's Tease***

***There once was a venue called Field Day  
Where hams get their start so they say  
Let's recruit some new members  
to help win in November  
And ensure N-Triple-C gets their way!***

## **An NC6CC Revival** **By Bill Haddon, N6ZFO**



This amazing call languished in the unassigned call database until April of 2003 when it was discovered there by the writer after the flurry of interest created by Doris Wong's striking new club call, AG1RL.

### **The Glorious Past Life of NC6CC**

Gary Caldwell, VA7RR (WA6VEF), one of the NCCC founding members, recalls that NC6CC was first used as a special call sign for the 1976 Pacific Division Convention, possibly held in Sunnyvale.

Gary notes, "A station was set up at the convention and operated by a bunch of the Club members, then on Sunday evening after the convention, N6IG and I moved the call over to N6RO's old QTH in San Jose (some of you NCCC OTs may remember it was called the 'Hotel DeMille'), where we continued using it until about midnight (with much bigger antennas!)"

Somewhere in the mysterious chambers of Gary's QTH are the old NC6CC logs, and a few precious copies of the original NC6CC QSL card. You may see a picture of this relic below if it arrives in time (that's the QSL that's a relic, not you, Gary).

### **A Temporary Resurfacing of NC6CC** **-- Use in an Actual Radio Contest**

During the tenure of John T Utley, K7CO, Vp/Cc in 1998/9, NC6CC re-appeared, cleverly, with JT as Trustee of the Clear-Com Amateur Radio Club. John used the call in the 1998 CQP from SLO, probably from N6BT, amassing a score of 208,162 pints (whoops, no that's points). When the Clear Com ARC abandoned NC6CC in favor the more elegant, I guess, KE6A on December 31, 1998, the call began its two-year hibernation in the NCCC database of unassigned calls, becoming available for reassignment as a vanity call on Jan. 1, 2000.

### **NC6CC's New Life in the Christmas Tree Hill Amateur Radio Association.**

Expecting a great flurry of interest, I announced on the NCCC-bod-plus reflector that NC6CC appeared to be available. A deafening silence followed, prompting a hasty forming of the Christmas-Tree Hill Amateur Radio Association by N6ZFO. The application for a club license, quickly fired off to ARRL on Thursday, April 3, produced the new club call, KG6QCW from FCC on the following Monday April 7, an incredible 4-day turn-around. So far, so good.

Now there were two choices for switching KG6QCW to NC6CC: US Mail and FCC's ULS on-line vanity application. A full description is way beyond the scope of this article, but suffice to say that Doris' advice to stick with the US Mail was a good one, and the result was the award of NC6CC in plenty of time for WPX-CW.

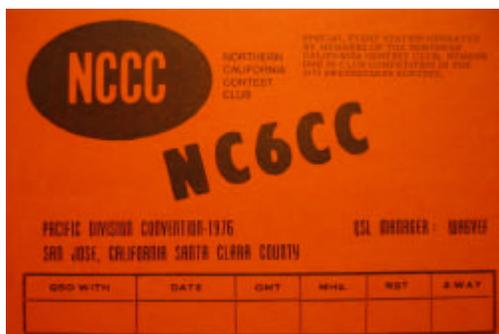
Those of you with vanity call interest will want to consult the web site: [www.vanityhq.com](http://www.vanityhq.com), particularly the section on “land mines.” For the real scoop, however, check with Ed, new owner of the pallendromic pair of call signs, W0YK - KY0W, or myself.

### NC6CC in 2003 WPX-CW

NC6CC arrived in plenty of time for a test drive in the WPX CW contest on this Memorial Day weekend. My first chance to use NC6CC was an almost unqualified success, with only one W9 refusing to work me. Several KB's were offered by various random stations, presumably former NCCC members. By the end of the contest, the call recognition problem was pretty much alleviated, although it will be a while before others instantly recognize NC6CC. NC6CC appears to have been the only NC6 prefix active in WPX. The call has a good CW rhythm, and of course a possibly interesting phonetic.

### Why NC6CC, Anyway?

Probably there are different answers. My own perspective was a simple one: in the 2001 ARRL Phone SS, the first N6ZFO QSO was with W9SMC. Now there's an intimidating call sign. My immediate thought was wouldn't it be nice to counter with NC6CC. We can



now do that. Potentially the call is a good publicity medium for NCCC, on the air, in QSL cards, and during

contests. It will be interesting to see what the future holds. Call-borrowing is always on the table as an option.

### New Assistant JUG Editor and Multi-Multi Addition



On May 21, the JUG staff grew by one member. It is with pleasure that we announce Kathleen Henneuse to our staff. Weighing in at 8lbs, 14oz, and 20” long, she is currently educating us on her needs, and we are working on teaching her about proper editing style (and a bit of CW hi hi).

The JUG would also like to acknowledge the new addition to the NM6E Multi-Multi team that occurred on March 27<sup>th</sup>. I think she might have a call sign soon. She joined the team at 8lbs, 4oz and 20½” long. Her preferred mode is CW so that she can sleep while others are operating.



## **WPX SSB in Aruba P40Y**

### **By Andrew L. Faber, AE6Y**

This is a travelogue and contest report on my March 2003 trip to Aruba to operate the WPX SSB contest from the QTH newly purchased by W6LD and myself from AI6V.

**Friday, March 21, 2003.** I arrived at 9 p.m on the AA flight from Miami, after an uneventful trip (with the pleasure of a complimentary upgrade to business class on the SFO/Miami flight). My wife, Sandy, and 27-year-old daughter, Holly, picked me up and fed me leftovers for dinner. They had been enjoying themselves for the past few days, exploring the island, eating out, and getting acquainted with the island and the house. To my great relief, they seemed thoroughly enchanted with both.

**Saturday, March 22, 2003.** Holly slept late, so we got a late start to tour the northern side of the island. Drove by Jackie's house (P43P) to show them his antenna farm, on the windy northern side, but with a straight shot over the water to US and EU. We drove to Natural Bridge, where we went down to the beach and walked along the cliffs above the beach (where the bridge is actually undercut into the cliff, unlike in Santa Cruz where the cliffs have worn away, leaving the bridges out in the water. We then drove down to Baby beach, where we set up two plastic beach chairs we had brought from home and Holly and I went swimming in the shallow water. After a refreshing swim, it was time to race home to shower and change our clothes for dinner with Jackie Oduber and his wife Marilyn, and Emily Thiel (P43E) at Le Dome, one of the best restaurants on the island, just north

of Oranjestad. We dined "outside", on their enclosed patio under a roof (actually more like a gallery than a patio), and had very good food and conversation. Jackie, Marilyn and Emily are all native Arubans, so there was much that we learned from them.

**Monday, March 24, 2003.** Sandy and I had breakfast at the French café just north of Oranjestad. Excellent bagel and lox as a second choice after the waitress said that the "chocolate rolls" weren't available because they hadn't arrived yet by ship from Holland.

This was mostly a house wares and tool buying day. We started at Aruba Fasteners (just east of the airport), which Jean-Pierre, P43A, had recommended as a specialist in stainless steel hardware. I was looking for replacement 10-24 bolts for the 15m antenna feed point. Jean-Pierre had reported that the hairpin on the 15-meter 4 element monobander had come loose. Tom Schiller, N6BT, of Force 12 had very kindly overnighted to me in California three new hairpins for the three monobanders, on the assumption that the others might be similarly afflicted. They only had a similar metric size, which I bought as a backup, along with a few useful tools. We then went to several other house ware stores for house supplies. Ended up at a general hardware store called Codemsa (turn inland at the airport right and go about a mile), which actually did have the stainless hardware I needed. Later, looking at the antenna with binoculars, I realized that I couldn't replace the feed screws without removing the driven element, which I don't intend to do. Hopefully, the threads on the existing screws will be

OK to accept the new hairpin. Sandy got paint chips at each store.

We also checked out the big supermarkets on the northern edge of Oranjestad. Kong Hing seems to be the biggest, with an excellent assortment of goods. There's a new Ling and Sons supermarket nearby that features lots of ready-to-eat foods.

Chris had contacted a gate maker, who came by to show us examples of his work and take measurements for a front gate and a gate for the newly-constructed garage. Though he spoke only Spanish, we managed to get along with sign language and my rudimentary Spanish.

Lunch at La Granja, a good chicken place on the main road just south of the house. Dinner at Marina Pirata, where the owner, Ricky Donker, was very apologetic for having turned us away the previous evening, and provided a free round of drinks. The table was on the exact corner of the deck, where a stumble getting up could have dunked one of us in the water.

**Tuesday, March 25, 2003.** Took Sandy to the airport, leaving the house at 8 a.m. for her 9:57 a.m. American Airlines flight to Miami. When I came back out of the terminal, my car was within about 30 seconds of being towed away, having been taken for an illegally "parked" car. Fortunately, the guy yielded to my entreaties and released the car, so I could go back on my way. Having never gone running on Aruba, on the way back, I decided to run along the water, starting at the Marina Pirata and running south on paved roads. This was a good choice, apart from a few barking dogs

(thankfully fenced in), and there was a natural route that took 26 minutes.

This was a day for radio shack upgrades. First was to put in the Astron 12 amp switching supply, hooked up to the RigRunner power distribution box on the shelf right behind it. I put it to the left of the compute, after removing the CW Sending Machine (which was sending raspy code anyway). Hooked up the StackMatch to the power supply, and removed the old wall wart from the SixPak to hook it up to the RigRunner also. Finally, put in the Logic CMOS4 keyer, which fits perfectly on the shelf under the right side of the monitor. The Bencher paddle replaces the old Vibroplex paddle. The StackMatch switchbox fits fine just above the old "Normal-C31" manual switch against the left table leg. The switchbox itself can be put under the SixPak, but I found it easier to use at the left edge of the table.

Finished interfacing my Dell laptop with the radio, and tested it out with high power from the amp. The basic interface is simple: Using the LPT box, I have the PTT line going to the Heil mic adaptor footswitch input (the shack footswitch could also go there, but is currently connected to the PTT input on the radio back panel). CW keying line to the key jack on the front panel (using an adaptor from stereo 1/4 inch plug to RCA female inputs). DVP line goes into the phone patch RCA jack on the radio back panel. This is run through a Radio Shack ground loop isolation transformer. When this line ran past the amp, it induced considerable hum, which was reduced depending upon the orientation of the isolation transformer (which suggests that a transformer should be built into a

shielded box). Routing the line around the right side of the radio with the isolator facing right-left cured the hum.

Dinner at Don Carlos Italian Restaurant in Oranjestad. OK.

**Wednesday, March 26, 2003.** Got up at 7 a.m. to wait for the boom truck that Jean-Pierre had arranged. He was supposed to come at 8 a.m., and Chris showed up shortly thereafter to help out. When he still hadn't come by 9, I reached him on the cell phone, and he explained the truck was broken. We made a date for Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Made a hundred or so SSB contacts on 15, 10 still being virtually dead. Had along chat with Alex, D44TT, who will be on as D4B in the contest. He says CN2R will be on as well, so there will be lots of serious SOAB entrants. He has a mountaintop site on Cape Verde with high winds, but is talking about further antenna improvements.

I wanted to visit Arikok National Park, on the southeast side of the island. It contains a lot of wild, desert country, accessible with dirt roads. To get there, just turn right at Santa Cruz and follow signs. I drove a little way up the dirt road at the end of that entrance, and then started hiking at the second parking area. The trails are extremely well maintained, including stones along the sides, and in places steps of rock and concrete, and they are well marked with signposts. I went to Miralarma (a view point), to Masiduri (an old house, beautifully restored), and most of the way to Cerro Jamonata (highest point on the island, at 188 meters). The countryside was beautiful desert terrain. One and three quarter hours hiking in the midday heat,

though with a pleasant breeze, was adequate. A trail map would be helpful in planning future hikes.

I had made a dinner date with Martin Rosenthal, VE3MR, P49MR. He and his wife Truus, P49TR, have a beautiful house right on the water near the lighthouse at the northern tip of the island with their own beach, and the three of us passed a very convivial evening. We had drinks at the house, then drove a little ways south to the Amazonas restaurant at the high-rise hotel area. This is a spin-off from the nearby Texas de Brasil, both Brazilian churroscaia restaurants where the waiters ply you with various kinds of meat that they slice off spits at your table. They both have a long history in ham radio, including meeting initially on 20 meters.

**Thursday, March 27, 2003.** Kind of a slow day. Checked the radio a number of times and conditions seemed pretty bad generally, though when I got on at 11 p.m. or so, 20 was wide open to the US and European Russia and the noise level was down to S3 to S4 (it had been closer to S7 earlier). Mark, KI7WX, at HC8N, said that 10 was good for them and 15 may be a 48-hour band. Their conditions sound much better than here, but maybe things are improving.

The boom truck arrived around 4:30 in the afternoon. There were two guys, who worked for De Cuba electrical contractor. The older one drove the truck through the gate and parked it perpendicular to the house, a spot from which the younger guy and I in the bucket were raised up to replace the 15 meter hairpin, which had broken off at the mountings. Fortunately, the stainless

steel screws holding the feed point to the driven element were in good shape, albeit dirty. I cleaned them with a wire brush we bought on Monday, and decided to leave the original nut in place (each screw holds both the feed line pigtails and a broken off end of the hairpin). I could have loosened the nut and removed the broken end of the hairpin, but was afraid to touch the nut. Instead, I just mounted the new hairpin with another nut squeezing it between the two nuts. I coated the whole place with Noalox (the stuff that goes on Noah's bagels?) given to me by Jackie. I wrapped tape around the middle of the hairpin then fastened it to the boom with tie-wraps and electrical tape.

A quick trip to the shack showed that the antenna seemed to load up just fine all across the band (as, in truth, it also did with the broken hairpin). I then rotated the antenna 180 degrees to see if the 10m hairpin was OK. Although it looked solid, actually one of the ends had broken, and a mild tug pulled the other one off also – so the process was repeated with the new 10 meter hairpin. I had brought a 20 meter hairpin also, but decided not to move the truck to check that antenna. The whole process took about an hour. I gave the two guys 25 florins as a tip, and presumably will have to pay the hourly rate of 65 florins (about \$40) for the truck later.

A little after 7 p.m., I drove over to see Jean-Pierre and Chris. We chatted until 10:30 or so, and went over finances with Chris.

**Friday, March 28, 2003.** Went running at the beach again, then drove to the French Café for breakfast and to do some supermarket shopping. As I was

set to get out of the car at the café, I suddenly noticed I had forgotten to bring my wallet. I thought of just bagging the whole thing, but I did want to visit the better supermarkets in that area, and since traffic is much lighter early in the morning, I drove back home to retrieve the errant purse. There is a very nice supermarket just south of the café, in a hokey-looking mall. It's probably distinguished most by an enormous frozen foods section. There is certainly no shortage of food on Aruba. In the afternoon, 10 meters was nicely open to EU (alas, not for the next two days when I really could have used such an opening). Did a final plant watering, and even hosed the dust off the outside of the house.

I re-recorded several of the voice messages for use in the contest because I found that guys were having a bit of confusion with the call as "Papa Forty Yankee." The new ones add "Papa Four Zero Yankee", which seemed to work a little better. Interestingly, at the post-contest dinner, Jackie said that Carl always used P40V on phone instead of P49V because it was less misunderstood. Jackie said P41P was OK, although it has an extra syllable as compared to P40P, while he never uses P43P in a contest due to the confusion it engenders.

**The WPX SSB Contest, March 29-30, 2003.** I was always planning to go in the big dog category of single operator, all band, high power. There tends to be some jockeying for position among the Aruba contest contingent regarding categories before each contest starts. I called Jackie before the contest to touch base, and he said that John Crovelli, W2GD, wasn't coming down to do a

multi with him as they had planned, so Jackie was going to go head to head with me in the same category as P41P. John, KK9A, was planning to go low power as P40A.

Near the start of the contest (8 p.m. local time), there was still the depressingly high S6-7 noise level on 15, and 10 seemed to be barely there. So I decide to start on 20. John later said that he had spent an hour or so on 15 and had a rate over 200. I stay on the same frequency, 14284 kHz, with minor adjustments to avoid the heavy QRM for six hours (0205 local, 1057 x 400, 1.255M pts). I run into a whole bunch of EU Russians that are hard to understand due to polar flutter, and decide to switch to 40. 189 contacts later, 36 mults, move to 80 briefly. Because the antenna isn't resonant on the phone band, I'm using the radio barefoot. Everyone I call hears me, but CQs aren't answered. After 17 contacts, I decide to go back to 20 around EU sunrise to look for EUs. A large part of the strategy this weekend is going to be to try to find EUs, because that's where most of the available multipliers are. I'll have to find as many as possible on 20 and 40, since I can't rely on the high bands as I did last year. 20 is open to EU, and I stay on it until heading for bed at 0505 local time (1355 x 492, 2.256M).

There were problems with the amp at night. Twice on 20 it hard faulted (i.e., it turned itself off). The code shown on the blinking LEDs when turned back on was explained in the book as being a soft fault 13 (i.e., the amp should just put itself in standby mode) for excessive drive. It's hard to see how there could have been excessive drive, though, as I wasn't running more than 1200-1300

watts out. The book cautions to keep not only the RF power control low, but also the drive control. There were also a few soft faults, which aren't a problem. I had the main bedroom wall mirror set up on its side on the little card table to the left of the operating table, because I put the laptop right in front of the amp, so I can only watch the displays if I lower the screen or glance into the mirror. Last contact at 0904Z (0504 local) was UV8M on 20 meters.

The new StackMatch was very helpful on 20. It's set up so Antenna 3 is actually the SixPak, with the monobanders for 40-10 and dipoles for 80 and 160, while Antenna 2 is the C31XR tribander. I pointed the C31 at about 40 degrees for EU, and the monobander at about 330 degrees for the US. Switching between them was very helpful, particularly in digging out Europeans. At other times during the contest, when EU was closed, I would point the C31 at 350 or so for the East Coast and the monobanders at 310 for the West Coast. Sometimes the noise level would also be different on the two.

On 40, I camped out on 7059 as a transmitting frequency, using the Split function on the radio to listen on 7200 and later on 7198. Transmitting on the sub radio allows all the receiver controls to be used for the main receiver for the listening frequency. I couldn't listen effectively on both frequencies, because there was too much noise. To listen on the transmit frequency, one just has to cancel Split and hit the A<>B button to put the transmitting frequency on the main radio. It was difficult to work EUs due to weak signals and high noise. I resolve to go to 40 Saturday night much

earlier in the evening to pick up East Coasters and also possibly better EU.

I decide to take 4 ½ hours of off time of the 12 required, so I go right to bed and sleep for about four hours. After a quick breakfast and a cuppa joe, the first contact is at 1336Z (0936 local). I start on 21293, though 15 isn't very open to EU. After two contacts the amp again hard faults, and I'm afraid it may be a long day – though actually it would then run for many hours without problems. At about 1530Z (1130 local) I go to 10 for the first time and get a gratifying “fresh meat” pileup going.

Unfortunately, it's exclusively W/VE, so the multipliers come slowly. For example, with 131 Qs in the first 33 minutes there are only 10 new mults. After an hour and 224 contacts I have only 20 new mults. Even though 10 is still playing well, I feel the need to chase Europeans, so QSY to 15 at 1819Z. I only stay on 15 for about 15 minutes. I work P41P and am about 70 QSOs ahead of Jackie. Depressingly, tuning on the second receiver I came across P40A, who is about 200 QSOs ahead of me, and this on low power! A brief biology break at 1629 local with 834 10 meter contacts in the log. I'm now at 2536 by 641 for 5.2M points. John came by and bemoaned the lack of EUs, so I'm hoping to stay ahead of him on EU mults and also on low-band double point contacts. Presumably as a low power entrant with only a dipole on 40 he will avoid that band and concentrate on high band rate.

After my brief break, I hang out on 14128 to work Europeans below the American phone band. I noticed Jackie doing the same thing, and it is encouraging to have that strategy

validated by a local. This is a very productive hour and 50 minutes, during which I add 140 prefixes or so. There's just no way to get the bulk of EU multipliers except by running them, for many are low power stations that don't call CQ themselves. Though conditions are still good, I take an hour break for dinner due to brain fade. In retrospect, a better strategy probably would be never to abandon a European run when conditions are marginal. It's 2241Z (1841 local), and I am at 2820 by 763 for 6.8M points.

True to my resolution, I go to 40 at about 2200 local time to try to get an earlier start on that band than last night. It's now 2336 local after a fairly productive time on 40, and I have bounced back to 20. It was very difficult to work EU on my own frequency or 7035. Going split by listening on 7243 or so worked fine, and there were more US stations available at that hour, but the EUs would come up on the split frequency (illegally) and yell at me to listen on my transmit frequency, so every so often I would do so. I did get a number of new mults that way, but the signals were weak, the noise was high, there was CW in the pass band, and just when I thought it couldn't get worse, someone started intentional jamming with solid tones and CW signals. I worked a few JAs on 20 and K6III said there were a lot of them calling me, but I could only work a few of the stronger ones due to the S4 noise level. Back to 40 again for some more of the same. The amp faulted with 24:03 hours of elapsed time on the clock, so I took it as a sign from above that it was time to call it quits for the night at 0536Z (0136 local). I'm at 3488 by 849 for 9.9M points.

I still have 6 ½ hours of mandatory off time, so I decide to take 5 ½ hours now and save one hour of off time for the afternoon to allow me to stay on at the end of the contest. Not sure if that is the best strategy, as it forces a start at 1100Z, or 0700 local, which is generally too early to get anything going from there. I think there might be some interesting propagation at that time, however, so I decide to try it in the hope of finding some mults.

I'm on 20 now with about an S5 noise level, but I do work a few new VK prefixes and one JA. At contact 3510, I pass a milestone of 10 million points. I debate with myself after a slow first hour whether a better plan would have been to stay up an extra hour on 20 last night. But I do get about 12 new mults by searching and pouncing in the slow times, so it's overall not clear that it was a mistake.

After about an hour, it's to 15, where the first contact is with an S9 Italian, so things may be better here. I'm learning that a second radio just set up for listening to band conditions would be very helpful. When running seriously, great vigilance and a constant presence is required to preserve the run frequency, making it difficult to scope out other bands without a second radio.

I'm now working lots of EUs on 15, with only about an S2 noise level with the C31 pointed northeast (though an S6 noise with the monobander pointed northwest -- I notice as the contest goes on that sometimes the relative noise levels are reversed). I pass 11 million points at 1321Z (0921 local, 3703 by 897). At about 1430Z, the amp has a hard fault 16, which the book says is due

to excessive instantaneous plate current, usually indicating an HV fault or tube arc. This doesn't sound good.

At about 1400 local on Sunday afternoon, at one point in the great Aruba shootout, I was looking for a frequency on 10, when I came across John and Jackie close to each other. In rough numbers, Jackie was giving out contact number 4150, and John 4350, while I was at 4250. Talk about close! When I called my first CQ, a guy started laughing on the frequency, and said, "Say, how many of you guys are there on Aruba today, anyway?" I reach my last year's claimed score of 13.4M at 4340 by 949 at 1844Z (1444 local). At about 2000Z I turn the C31 south. The noise level shoots up to S7 or so, but I do get a few new South American multipliers. I then go to 15 and run into John, who is still about 100 ahead, but has 10 fewer mults. I'm working some EU on 15, but decide to take my last hour off at about 1700 local, with 33:56 hours elapsed contest time. The idea is to come back on for a good final two hours. This worked great last year, but not so well this time. It's very frustrating with a high noise level, particularly trying to work the JAs that are calling. I do get a few, with some new prefixes, but require many repeats and fills. I think I'm going to lose some in the log checking for sure.

It became obvious on Saturday that we were playing for fourth place or so, when I worked D4B. I gave him number 2820 or so, while he replied with a number over 4000! On Sunday afternoon I work D44TD, who is over 5000 Qs, but says he is behind D4B and a C5 in the Gambia.

Final tally was 4844 contacts, 989 multipliers and 15,458,070 points. As compared to last year at ZF2AF, contacts were down by almost 300, multipliers down by 80, and score up by two million points. Score is up because of the advantage of a South American QTH, but also because I spent much more time on 40 and 80 to try to maximize points. Thus, at ZF2AF average points per QSO were 2.46, while at P40Y they were 3.23. The lower totals are accounted for by two factors: (a) High power line and/or atmospheric noise levels this year, often S6-7 on 15, for example, and (b) much worse propagation to Europe.

Last year, 35 percent of the contacts were with EU, but only 16 percent were this year. This led to reduced mults, and also to lower rates, as I spent several hours trying specifically to work EU on 15 and 20 even when higher rates were available on 10 working NA.

I suspect that the final score will also be reduced by a greater percentage this year, as many of the EU and even the few JA QSOs were made under difficult conditions that undoubtedly contributed to more errors.

After the contest mercifully draws to a close, I end up chatting on 15 with some guys calling in, including NM5M at HC8N, who claims to have broken the world M/M record with some 63M points, and Rick, N6XI, who was M/S as NZ6Q. Then it's off to the traditional post contest dinner at Brisas del Mar with Jackie, John and John's wife, Leslie. Both of them are somewhat reticent about their scores, but I gather that I have won the great Aruba shootout, though John gets the moral victory for his great low power effort, and Jackie had the disadvantage of having to work all week right up to the start of the contest, unlike us two vacationing Americans.

Here are the statistics by band:

QSOs	10	15	20	40	80	160	Total	
US	1239	812	1105	314	13	0	3483	71.90%
VE	68	73	73	21	2	0	237	4.89%
NA	14	17	30	11	1	0	73	1.51%
AF	4	4	13	0	0	0	21	0.43%
JA	0	27	40	0	0	0	67	1.38%
AS	1	7	29	6	0	0	43	0.89%
EU	1	282	406	68	0	0	757	15.63%
OC	11	10	38	1	0	0	60	1.24%
SA	23	31	30	15	2	0	101	2.09%

	RATES PER BAND						OVERALL
Hrs	8:46	9:54	12:19	4:40	0:17	--	35:57:00
Q/H	155	127	143	93	63	--	134
P/H	460	375	423	546	352	--	434

If you're looking for things to do this month, check out the full schedule of events:

VK-ZL Trans-Tasman Contest, CW	<a href="http://nzart.org.nz/nzart">nzart.org.nz/nzart</a>	June 7
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	<a href="http://iaru.org">iaru.org</a>	June 7-8
QRP TAC Sprint	<a href="http://n3epa.org/Pages/TAC-Contest.htm">n3epa.org/Pages/TAC-Contest.htm</a>	June 7
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	<a href="http://users.bigpond.com/ctdavies/">users.bigpond.com/ctdavies/</a>	June 14-15
Portugal Day Contest	<a href="http://gpdx.netpower.pt">gpdx.netpower.pt</a>	June 14
WW South America CW Contest	<a href="http://labre.org">labre.org</a>	June 14-15
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	<a href="http://jsfc.org/apsprint">jsfc.org/apsprint</a>	June 14
West Virginia QSO Party	<a href="http://qsl.net/wvarrl">qsl.net/wvarrl</a>	June 14-15
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	<a href="http://arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/june-vhf.html">arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/june-vhf.html</a>	June 14-16
All Asian DX Contest, CW	<a href="http://jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm">jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm</a>	June 21-22
SMIRK Contest	<a href="http://smirk.org">smirk.org</a>	June 21-22
Kid's Day Contest	<a href="http://arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html">arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html</a>	June 21
DIE Contest	<a href="http://arrakis.es/~ea5ol">arrakis.es/~ea5ol</a>	June 22
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	<a href="http://qsl.net/ik6ptj/">qsl.net/ik6ptj/</a>	June 28-29
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>	<b><a href="http://arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/rules-fd-2003.html">arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/rules-fd-2003.html</a></b>	<b>June 28-29</b>
QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day	<a href="http://qrparci.org/">qrparci.org/</a>	June 28-29
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	<a href="http://ure.es">ure.es</a>	June 28-29
RAC Canada Day Contest	<a href="http://rac.ca/CANDAY.htm">rac.ca/CANDAY.htm</a>	July 1
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	<a href="http://qsl.net/miqrclub">qsl.net/miqrclub</a>	July 4-5
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, SSB/CW	<a href="http://radioclubvenezolano.org">radioclubvenezolano.org</a>	July 5-6
<b>IARU HF World Championship</b>	<b><a href="http://arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/iaru.html">arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/iaru.html</a></b>	<b>July 12-13</b>
FISTS Summer Sprint	<a href="http://fists.org">fists.org</a>	July 12

## Notes from Ed Muns, W0YK

### Club Call Signs

We have procured 3 additional call signs for the NCCC. They are K6CQP, N6CQP and W6CQP. We already have K6ZM, which is associated with the physical club station in Danville, in memoriam of a former NCCC member. The CQP team, headed by Al, AD6E, will determine how we want to use these call signs to augment CQP. If you have suggestions on how the club might best use these call signs, please contact Al. It is possible for these call signs to be available outside of the actual CQP as well ... get your inputs to Al. George, K6GT, QSL manager for K6ZM, has graciously agreed to handle the QSLs for these three "CQP" call signs. If the load gets too much, though, he may ask for some help!

### RFI Suppression Ferrites

I still have some inventory from the large ferrite order I personally placed for club members a few months ago. I would greatly appreciate depleting the inventory ASAP and recovering my cost. I have divided up the remains into \$24 packages of (10) ferrite bead pairs, (2) plastic cases for same, and (2) 1.5" toroids for larger cable. Please let me know if you'd like me to earmark any of these packages for you. I will have them at the June meeting.

### ARRL Membership

You may be interested to know that 227 of our current 234 active NCCC members are also ARRL members. And 72, or almost a third, are Life Members! Thanks for supporting our national organization.

12 Store Buying Power!



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