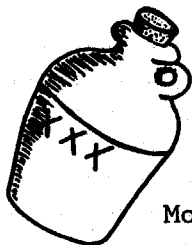


The Contest JUG



Newsletter of the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
3130 Raleigh Court
Fremont, California 94536

More Butts Get Kicks in '76

No. 44
January 1976

Pres.: WB6CEP. VP/Contest Chmn.: WA6DIL. Sec/Treas: W6KHI. Directors: WB6AIN, WB6DSV, W6RGG.
JUG Head: WLARR/6. Folder, Stapler & Mutilator: W6OAT.

PREVIEW OF COMING DISTRACTIONS

Jan. 10-11 ARRL CD Party (CW)
17 ARRL DX Contest Forum, Belmont
Town Hall (see JUG Insert)
17-18 ARRL CD Party (phone)
Feb. 7-8 ARRL DX Competition (phone)
21-22 ARRL DX Competition (CW)
23 NCCC Club Meeting, AS&L Bldg,
Hayward; 7:30 PM

ALL PRESIDENT BUT UNACCOUNTED FOR

WB6CEP, our Club's Effervescent President, will now regale us with his unique brand of Geemingly Endless Platitudes (or, at least, that's our Cynical Educated Prediction):

Guess we were all lucky we didn't have to de home with the Editurkey after our Christmas/Awards Banquet. All he could say was "Goblet, goblet, goblet." Seriously, much deserved, O sagacious JUG Appurtenance.

I had a fantastic time at the Banquet and hope you did too. We were sorry to find that a number of Club actives and out-of-territory members were unable to attend for various reasons. Special tnx are due Masters of Ceremonies W6PAA and K6AQ, and especially to WB6DSV for handling the Banquet arrangements.

As for SS, a final point-count was made after the Dec. 22 log-mailing deadline, based on final reports by the SSCers and summary sheets received. It appears we missed 10 meg by a measly 25,000 points! We beat last year's total score by the end of the CW weekend alone, despite rotten 15M condx. Entries over 1K totaled 136, with 71 on CW and 65 on phone.

As for #1 in SS ... I called the Presidents of MM and PVRC on Dec. 23. WALKID estimated Murphy's at 6½-7 meg and noted they were hurt badly by poor phone condx in New England ("the dfish Curtain"). W3GRF allowed as how PVRC hadn't really gotten it together yet but estimated 9.7 meg + 200K; a more recent check with W3BQV puts them about 30-35K short of 10 meg. What with people failing to send in logs, and

losses in the mail during the holiday crush, it appears we will have to wait for Jim Cain's (WALSTN) final tallies to answer the #1 question. Keep your fingers crossed, OMs!

Looking ahead to the next big Club contest activity, WA6TLV (east of the Bay) and WAØENP/6 (west of the Bay) are honchoing ARRL DX for us and I'll leave the gory details to them. Our Club policy is that we are turning in an entry, and we ask dual members to make their own individual decisions as to which club(s) get their score(s) -- and we really encourage everyone to get out there and KB! A considerable improvement over past performances is anticipated, to say the least.

To sharpen our DX operating skills, we are co-sponsoring an ARRL DX Contest Forum with the Northern California DX Club on January 17. Since this meeting has an insert entirely to itself in this JUG, my comments here will be limited to pointing out the exceptional caliber of the Forum panelists, and to encourage you to come and bring along any DX-contest-oriented hams in your general area.

Finally, one detail that seems small now but will loom very large further on down the pike: reserve Nov. 7-8 and 21-22 for SS, Oct. 3-4 for the Cal QSO Party (to tune up for the SS). With all the experience we gained this year in putting on super efforts for these two top-priority contests, they just ain't gonna believe how we'll STOMP IN '76! -- 73, Bill

HELP -- JUG SOON TO BE HEADLESS!

Upon completion of the April edition of the JUG, Bob Hill will be retiring as Editor of this typographical assortment. After 20 months he deserves a rest! It would be a real shame to have to go back to a meeting-notification postcard, so please let me know if you would be willing to serve as Editor or Co-Editor. Bob can give you details on what the job requires.
-- WB6CEP

* * * * *

WANTED: 50-70' tower (crankup or stackable guyed), 32S3, 20-acre antenna site (W6PAA, 364-3373). FOR SALE OR TRADE: SB101 w/ AC-DC pwr sup, Drake 2B/2BQ (W6PAA).

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

There were about 80 members and guests at our Christmas/Awards Banquet in San Jose on Dec. 20 -- but with all the exuberance and general hubbub, it seemed more like 800! The evening's highlight, of course, was the presentation of awards. Cal QSO Party, DX contests, SS, special and gag awards (so called because they usually make the recipient gag) -- if it seemed like almost everybody got an award, it's only a tribute to the fact that so many NCCers have done so much for the Club during the past year.

We were going to mention some of the joke awards, but somehow they seem to lose most of their humor on the printed page; you really had to be there to enjoy them. Suffice it to say that among the victims were WB6CEP, the WB6DSV/W6OKK combo, DJ6RX, WA6DIL and WB6JGS brother act, VE3DXV, W1ARR, K6EBB and Mrs. W6RGG. Winners of more serious honors were WA6VEF (Rookie of the Year), W6NUT (JUG Head Memorial Award), W6RGG (Leadership Award), W1ARR (we're not sure what you call it, or even why we got it, but it's sure a nice addition to the QTH!) and W6OAT (K6SG Top Combined Score Award).

Oh, did we omit somebody? That would be Mrs. Zachary's boy, the one that always wanted to be President when he grew up. Well, he knows better now, after a year of unceasing slavery on behalf of the NCCC. Bill won the Contester of the Year Award. There were some other candidates, but there wasn't much doubt about who deserved it the most.

Special tnx to WB6DSV, who proved that, although you should beware of Greeks bearing gifts, you can usually rely on them to do a pretty fair job of making banquet arrangements. A big hand for George and Barbara!

LET'S WIN ONE FOR THE TLVER

OK gang! We really kicked butt in Sweepstakes and pretty soon the whole country will know what a giant score we turned in. Let's show 'em what we can do in a DX contest! Mark your calendars for the following dates: Phone -- Feb. 7,8 and Mar. 6,7; CW -- Feb. 21,22 and Mar. 20,21. Those are the weekends of the 1976 ARRL DX Competition. If you're in the East Bay half of the Club, please phone or write me if you plan on participating in the contest, if you are looking for operators or if you are an operator looking for a station. My address is 2650 Haste St. #D-211, Berkeley, CA 94720; telephone (415) 642-8238.

Did I hear myself say "East Bay half of

the Club"? That's right! The East Bay half hereby challenges the West Bay half to see who can contribute the most points to the NCCC's aggregate score. Need I remind the West Bay members that more than half of the top 25 SS scores belonged to stations in the East Bay!

Here's your chance to get even, once and for all. An appropriate award will be awarded to the winner. CU in February! -- WA6TLV

((Ed. Note: Equal space had been reserved for West Bay Captain WAØENP/6, but nothing was heard from Tom.))

NOSEBLEED NOTES

The ARRL Jan. VHF SS, held Jan. 3-4, found several NCCC members busily exploring the exotic World Above 50 MHz. Via VP/CC WA6DIL, we have these scores: WA6JUD 424-17, K6KLY 297-20, WA6VEF 230-4 (approx.) and WA6BMV 150-7. (Gary and Jim didn't operate 6.) WB6DSV also admits to making 3 QSOs in this affair.

With at least five members having been active, the NCCC can (and will) submit a Club score. Was anybody else on? If so, please be sure to send your log in to ARRL Hq.

. . . AND CQ WW STUFF

A few more scores have dribbled in from o intrepid ops: W6YX (WA7MQX, op) 164,865; W6NJU 18,530; WA6TKT 17,286; W6KYA 1,701. TKT was on 40 through 10; KYA 40 through 15; the other two were 80-10 except for W6YX (80-15). Let me rephrase that paragraph . . .

Mike, WA7MQX, put in 19 hours, operating 80 and 40 only the first night and having to put up with a 6:1 SWR on 40. YX's 204BA wasn't rotating, so it pointed at Europe all weekend. A nice effort, Mike.

Gary, WA6TKT, noted with considerable displeasure that WWV was giving out U4 condx.

SS SEDIMENT

Will the November Sweepstakes never end? On the other hand, it was a triumph long to be savored, whether we came in #1 or #2!

Having revised some numbers (including an unfathomable inflating of WB6LPK's phone score -- no fault of Bruce's), we come up with the following Top 20 (stations multi-op one or both modes indicated by asterisk):

WA7NIN (W6OAT) 390,234; W6NUT 340,142; W6-MUR (W6PAA) 316,904; W6JZU (WB6AIN) 304,824; WB6ION 265,136; K6CQF (WB6CEP) 257,692; *W1-ARR/6 250,604; *W6MSF 249,090; *W6OKK 248,936; WA6AHP (WA6TLV) 246,220; *WA6DIL 245,664; WA6-

DQM 241,978; *K6LU 240,356; *W6YX 239,834; K6-HH 234,612; *WB6LPK 216,150; *K6BR 205,160; K6AUC 204,834; W6RGG 192,438; W6LPM (WA6GSN) 184,154.

Top 10 CW: WA7NIN (W6OAT) 160,284; W6NUT 133,592; W6MUR (W6PAA) 138,554; K6CQF (WB6CEP) 120,742; W6JZU (WB6AIN) 119,574; WLARR/6 118,-440; W6MSF (WAØENP) 118,406; WB6GFJ (K6VVA) 115,632; WA6DQM 108,186.

Top 10 phone: WA7NIN (W6OAT) 229,950; W6NUT 191,550; W6JZU (WB6AIN) 185,250; W6MUR (W6PAA) 178,350; W6OKK (WB6DSV) 168,000; WA6DIL 154,-216; WA6AHF 152,700; WB6ION 151,110; W6LPM 146,876; K6CQF (WB6CEP) 136,950.

SOAPSUDS: "An hour and a half into the SSB weekend, flames started shooting out of my amp -- zapping the 3-500Z and forcing me to QRP for the rest of the contest" (WA6DIL) ... "W6-NKR managed to get his beam up the day before the contest started! K6RLY took time out to take his wife to a dance Sat. night. K6SG with no CW filter & plagued with rcvr problems and spurious radiation from a local ham also in SS!" (K6SG) ... "Sorry about my score in CW SS but was tied up for almost the entire weekend" (W6ZGM).

"Moved to my new QTH, a home 10 miles south of Reno on 1/2 acre, over the CW SS weekend, is no way could give any help, sorry" (W7-MRS) ... Conditions up here were deplorable, sounded like Murphy had put up an electron screen, plus having two teeth pulled day before contest started kinda messed up the situation" (K6KWN) ... "WA6JUD operated his first low-frequency SS from W6BSL and did a FB job" (WA6DIL) ... "Excessive heat was screwing up my keyer, so I kept it cool by opening a door to the unheated rest of the house" (WB6CEP at K6CQF). ... "How do I QSL XE2PAT?" (W6OAT).

"Line noise make things miserable for me both weekends" (W6RGG) ... "Our 'KB' slogan caught on so fast that even PVRcer W3LPL was heard to use it!" (WB6CEP) ... "400' Beveridge at W6MSF worked super!" (WAØENP/6) ... "While OKK was operating at my place and I was at Pat's, a neighbor called to say somebody was coming in over her TV set. Mrs. Patterson very truthfully told the woman that Pat wasn't home!" (WB6DSV) ... "Kept a bag of ice on top of my Keyer to keep it cool. Linear didn't work on phone so I went QRP" (WA6VEF).

"Mismanaged my time" (K6AUC) ... "On 40, around 10 AM, worked more than 100 Sixes, most or whom gave me NR 1" (WB6AIN at W6JZU) ... "My last CW QSO was K7WWR, who gave me NR 1 -- seems he was the only sensible one! Phone effort was hampered because TVI kept me off 80 till 11 PM" (WA6TLV at WA6AHF) ... "Phone

SS score strictly for the Club (I'm not a phone contester) and represents my first "serious" attempt at phone SS. On CW, I was shooting for 100K low power but fell way short, due to lousy condx (at least in part)" (W6HJP) ... "New TH6DXX seemed to work OK but condx sure NG" (W6NKR) ... "Lost 4 hours of prime time on CW when power transformer died, among other equipment problems. On phone, was sick almost all weekend, although OWQ and I did our best -- somehow we just couldn't seem to KB like we though we were going to" (WLARR/6).

WATS NU?

From WA6DIL, we learn that WB6ABK is heading for school in 9GL-Land, which is Ghana in human talk ... that Dave himself has sold his 811A amp and now toils on another, this one featuring a pair of 4-400s ... that WB6JGS is remodeling his shack, making room for another Drake line ... that K6ZM is still working on his keyer ... that super-enthusiastic WA6JUD is working diligently toward his General.

WB6DSV remarks that "Pres. Zachy" and those near his table in the cocktail lounge at Zorba's saw the belly dancer rotate her "parabolic dishes" ... that W6OKK received a very nice certificate for 2nd Place for the 1975 phone WPX Contest (2nd place single-op in W6) ... that WR6ADM (AF6ADM) should be back on the air by now, with PG&E finally having gotten off their "kicked butt" ... that George himself is in a photo in the 1976 ARRL Handbook, shown operating at You-Know-Whose-QTH. The caption says it's a view of vox operation -- but what they didn't know was that DSV was using a foot switch under the table!

HAVE A WILSON FILTER TIP

The new model QF-1 active audio filter from Autek is an extremely versatile piece of equipment. Three modes of operation are included: PEAK, NOTCH and LOWPASS. Three large knobs vary the mode, frequency and selectivity of the filter.

In the PEAK position, the bandwidth is continuously variable to as narrow as 50 Hz with extremely sharp skirts. Unlike other audio filters, the center frequency of the peak is also variable -- from 250 to 2500 Hz. This feature allows one to tune in several different stations simply by tuning the frequency control through its range.

The effectiveness of the QF-1 in the PEAK position is illustrated by an example. I tuned in an RTTY signal, adjusted the selectivity control for the narrowest bandwidth, and by adjusting the frequency control I put the peak on

the low note of the RTTY signal. I was astounded to find that I could no longer hear the high note -- it had completely disappeared! When I tuned the peak of the filter across the high note, I completely lost the low note. Astounding!

With the mode switch in the NOTCH position, the selectivity control varies the width of the notch and the position of the frequency control determines which audio frequency is to be notched out. This is the filter's most effective mode for eliminating any kind of carriers. I tuned in a strong foreign broadcast station in the middle of the 40-meter band, adjusted the frequency control until the volume of the carrier decreased slightly, then widened the notch until it was just the right size to "swallow up" the carrier. As a result, the carrier was completely eliminated, yet an adjacent SSB signal was 100% copy!

In the LOWPASS position, the filter eliminates all tones that are above a certain cut-off frequency. The frequency control varies the cutoff anywhere between 250 and 2500 Hz. This mode eliminates hiss and splatter quite effectively.

In conclusion, let me state that I think the QF-1 is the finest audio filter on the market. My hesitation at spending \$52.95 for a filter immediately disappeared when I was told (by W6DGH) that I would cost me much more if I were to build one myself. Apparently the designer of this filter spends all his time hunting for parts bargains.

See you in the QRM! -- WA6TLV

NCCC NET QNI FOR DECEMBER (TNX W6RGG)

5 -- W6RGG. 4 -- WB6EXW, WB6JGS, WA6VEF.
3 -- K6HIH, K6ILM, W6KQG, W6MSF, W6OKK, W6PAA,

4
W6UA. 2 -- K6AUC, W6BB, WB6DSV, W6HJP, WA6-JVD, W6KHI, W6KYA, WA7NIN, W6NLG. 1 -- WB6-AIN, WA6BMV, K6CQF, WB0DJY, WA0ENP/6, W7EXM, WB6GFJ, K6GLC, WA6HAF, K6ITL, K7JCA, WA6KAC, WB6LPK, W6NUT, W6OAT, WB6OLD, K6OZL, WA6PJJ, WA6TLV, WA9UCE/6, WB6YBL.

CU JAN. 17
AT THE JOINT
APRIL DX
CONTEST FORUM!

73,
Bob

W1ARR/6

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
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FIRST CLASS MAIL