



NEXT NCCC MEETING

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2000
at

**HP Santa Clara
Building 50**

6:00 PM : Schmooze

6:30 PM : Pizza

7:00 PM : Meeting

INFO & DIRECTIONS INSIDE
and you can *always* check:

<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>
for a map and directions!

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March Contests

	<u>Date</u>
ARRL Inter. DX, Phone	Mar 4 - 5
QCWA QSO Party	Mar 11 - 12
RSGB Commonwealth, CW	Mar 11 - 12
World Wide Locator	Mar 11 - 12
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 12
UBA Spring, CW	Mar 12
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 12 - 13
High Speed Sprint, RTTY	Mar 12
Bermuda	Mar 18 - 19
BARTG WW RTTY	Mar 18 - 20
Russian DX	Mar 18 - 19
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 18 - 20
CQ WW WPX, SSB	Mar 25 - 26

April Contest Summary

	<u>Date</u>
SP DX	Apr 1 - 2
EA RTTY	Apr 1 - 2
Japan Int. DX High Band CW	Apr 7 - 9
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	Apr 8 - 9
His Maj. King of Spain	Apr 8 - 9
UBA Spring, SSB	Apr 9
Australian Postcode	Apr 15
YU DX	Apr 15 - 16
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	Apr 15
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 15 - 16
Holyland DX	Apr 15 - 16
SP DX RTTY	Apr 22 - 23
Helvetia	Apr 22 - 23
Six Club Sprint	Apr 22 - 23
NA Hi Speed Meteor Scatter	Apr 29 - May 7
Florida QSO Party	Apr 29 - Apr 30
Nebraska QSO Party	Apr 29 - 30
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 29 - 30

Full details are on WA7BNM's up-to-date web site:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

RULER SCHULLER

It looks like we had another great month of contesting. Between the NA Sprint, RTTY WPX and ARRL DX contests, there was plenty of activity from the NCCC. It was a great tribute to Bip, W6BIP, to hear all of the "BIP's" in the Sprint. (*See the list elsewhere in the JUG... ed*) There were even a few outside of the NCCC (and California) who found this to be a fitting tribute to a great tester. I'm sure that Bip was smiling somewhere... he will be missed by all.

Last year, the NCCC and the CCF put together a challenge for the CQ WPX contest. The CCF is a club that is very similar to ours, with lots of energetic and die-hard testers! The initial guidelines were laid out by K6AW and K7BV for the NCCC. The first year of the challenge is 2000 (NOW!). The CCF is gearing up for this in a big way; check out their web site to see what THEY are up to!

www.contesting.com/ccf

We need to be ready for this challenge. The WPX contest has always been a favorite with the NCCC; this should add just a little more incentive to get on. The WPX contest is also a great point builder for the 5 meg award!

Looking forward to April, don't forget the Contesters Dinner at the International DX Convention in Visalia. This was an excellent event last year, and I know that K2KW, K6AW and others are planning another great event for this year. Full details are on the NCCC website.

Also, April is election month for the NCCC. If YOU have an interest in serving the club as an officer or director, please contact either myself or any of the members of the BoD. Unlike most of the rumors that you hear, it isn't hard to serve! In fact, you might find that you not only will meet lots of NCCC members, but you will actually enjoy it!

I hope to see everyone at the March meeting. Rod Stafford, W6ROD, who just finished serving as ARRL President, will be our speaker. If you have any questions on what the ARRL is up to, this will be the time to ask (and actually find out!)

WOW!! In what looks like another great NCCC race, HC8L (W6NL) and ZF2NT (N6NT) have both turned in phenomenal scores in the ARRL DX Contest (CW). These 2 fine op's are within a hair's breadth of each other! This was a great effort by both Bruce and Dave. It will be interesting to see how it turns out after the log checkers get finished. I also know that

Kenny, K2KW, put on a great performance at VP5TT in a single band effort. I'm sure that there are other good scores out there, too!

73, Ed, K6CTA

DOUBLE CROSS

CQ-WPX Phone This Month

Our next "focus" event, the WPX, begins this month. Remember that we've been challenged by the OH-club (those same jokers that 'stole' our long-held club score record) for this year's event. They have won the competition the past couple of years, and think they can keep it away from us again this year. Conditions should be excellent for the phone portion in March. Winning this club competition requires making hay *this* month, since it is hard to forecast much for the CW weekend in late May, as summer conditions will then prevail.

I strongly recommend that those of us with 1x2 callsigns make an arrangement with a less-active 2x1 or 2x2 holder to borrow their call and attract more attention. The other callsign need not be owned by a NCCC member; find an extra class, "shack-on-the-belt" FM-type and enthrall him with stories of exotic QSL cards or something to convince him fame and glory await by merely lending you his call.

Two bits of strategy to remember: low band QSOs count double, and domestic Qs score points again this year. Work 'em all so we can set another record that'll hold for the next decade!

Sprints are Successful

NCCC fielded four teams for the February 2000 Sprints: one phone and three CW. With five scores over 300 QSOs and 21 (!) over 10k points, I'd say "we done good".

Congratulations to VA7NN!

Last month, I was pleased to announce that N6TV was chosen as a WRTC-2000 team member by Eric, K3NA. This month we hear Gary, VA7NN, (WA6VEF, ex-VE7NIN) has been selected as a teammate by VE7SV, leader of Canada's team No. 2. Congratulations & KB, Gary!

The list of NCCC competitors at WRTC stands at four: N6IG, K7BV, N6TV, and VA7NN. Could it possibly get any better?

W6BIP

There is much in this issue devoted to Bip. A measure of the importance of ham radio to Bip, and

Bip to ham radio, was that nearly half of the non-relatives at his memorial service were amateurs (and a good percentage of his relatives, too). Also, his remembrance card identifies him as “Wilbur E. Bachman, W6BIP”. Bip will be greatly missed.

Scores

After you enter the myriad of second-half contests this season, make sure you get your scores posted so your fellow NCCers can marvel at your prowess. If you don't see your scores immediately, be patient! They'll be in a future issue of the JUG! Post them to our reflector, nccc@contesting.com, and/or send them directly to me.

73 & KB
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BIP

(The following were submitted by those wanting to share some of their memories of Bip... ed)

I first met Wilbur “Bip” Bachman in May of 1965 when I went to work for Philco-Ford in Palo Alto, CA. Bip was a Senior Project Engineer heavily involved with the tracking station network to support the US Space Program. The final hardware for the Mission Control System at Houston had just shipped and the various tracking stations around the world were being built. By contract, every tracking station was to have an identical configuration, and Bip was charged with making sure it happened. Bip was a real “in charge” type, and a stickler for detail, so this was a natural job fit. It was also job security, because over time every station got modified and only Bip managed to keep track of the changes.

In an era when hams were viewed by management as nerds and a bit weird, Bip was a “ham's ham.” Licensed in 1928 as a teenager in San Francisco, he would talk ham radio to anyone who would listen. For a number of years he had operated from small rented house on a hilltop 20 acres, owned by the City of San Francisco, where he had erected six Vee Beams each “a city block long.” Needless to say, he was king of the hill and he loved to tell the stories. Marriage, a family and the city development of the property

eventually forced him to move to a smaller (but still a hilltop) location in San Francisco.

Bip kept his station in the kitchen, the theory being it kept him close to his family. As his oldest son Bob, K6DJC, memorialized “there was high voltage everywhere; it's amazing we didn't kill ourselves.” A pair of 304TL's, as I remember, with an open tap HV transformer that was adjusted by moving an alligator clip and tuned for proper tube color. Years later Bip finally resorted to buying a “Henry”.

Bip was a very persuasive individual. I remember working with him at Vandenberg Air Force Base at the tracking station on top of the hill. Down below at the main base was a MARS station fully equipped with Collins gear and Telrex antennas that was used about one hour per week. Only Air Force personnel, and certainly no Contractor personnel, were allowed access. As the workload increased, Bip started missing his skeds with friends around the world and that vacant station was too much. Bip walked into work one morning and handed me a key. He had persuaded the powers that be to grant us access in exchange for fixing the broken amplifier and replacing a few vacuum tubes. Shortly thereafter, he activated rare Greenland as XP1AA from a similar station.

Travel was a part of your life when you worked for a company like Philco-Ford and Bip loved to travel. Almost always, he managed to bring his family along to the various places, usually with a ham reception upon arrival. His family fondly recalls his desire to show them other places and cultures, even Kodiak, Alaska, and Thule, Greenland. Bip eventually traveled to, and operated from, each of the tracking station locations including his favorite, the Indian Ocean Station (IOS) in the Seychelles.

Bip was active in every SweepStakes and ARRL DX Contest since inception until just the last couple of years. For years W6BIP was your only contact in the SF Section. He got many a ham started through the San Francisco Radio Club and the South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK), including his XYL of 56 years, Elsie, WA6GQC, sons Bob, K6DJC, and Larry, KA6EZP. Daughters Gloria and Helen and youngest son Don somehow managed to “avoid the persuasion.” Bip was also a pioneer in eliminating interference to electronic devices. Someplace in our shack, almost all of us have a ferrite rod that we got from him. His next door neighbor of 40 some years proudly states he has 12 such rods in his house installed by Bip.

I owe Bip a special thanks for getting me back into DXing and Contesting. With college, family, and a career I had put ham radio aside until I started working with him. His enthusiasm and encouragement got me back on the air where one of my first contacts

was with... W6BIP in the SweepStakes. In those days, your birthday was part of the exchange and as we sent our exchanges, we realized we shared the same birthday, November 16, which was just a couple of days away. From then on, "Happy Birthday" became part of our exchange, something I will miss.

The key of W6BIP is now silent.

Ken, K6DB

One story that I'll never forget was Bip talking about his operating from VQ9..."the pileup from Europe was so big and unruly that the only way to control it (them) was to continue to lower the power output of my transmitter... after a short while of working the pileup and lowering the TX power, the pileup dwindled to only a handful. I think the last reading was somewhere just above 1 watt output"

George, WB6DSV

As most of you probably know, I operated from W6BIP's during the early 90's for CW Sweepstakes and the CQP.

In the November 1993 CW Sweepstakes, Bip and I did a multi-op. Bip was "only" 82 back then. Those of you who have been to Bip's station know that he had a CW memory keyer that predated the Accu-Keyer/Memory. The thing worked, and even generated incremental serial numbers. But, it was only programmed to go up to 999 QSO's, and in 20 years of use he had never hit that limit. Around 4pm that Sunday, I hit QSO number 1000, and I had to use the regular electronic keyer for the rest of the contest, because Bip's keyer could not send QSO numbers over 1000! But, Bip was absolutely overjoyed that we had done so well. We ended up with 1046 QSO's and a sweep, which is pretty respectable for a small tribander, a bare bones 2 element 40 meter yagi, and 700 watts.

Bip was unique- they don't make 'em like that anymore. I will miss him.

Scott W6CT

I am indebted (as are many Bay Area hams over the past several decades) to Wilbur (Bip) Bachman for much useful advice on reducing RFI and neighbor relations obtained two weeks ago during the SS CW M/S operation at W6BIP in San Francisco. My job was to listen to Bip lecture on technical topics while Scott, N1EE, passed out the SF multiplier for the CW faithful. The hospitality was superb for the entire weekend, ending with a concert by YF Elsie, who plays a mean set of 88 keys too.

Tony, AE0M

W6BIP - That sparks some memories... The bug... a Vibroplex perhaps? We all remember the very distinctive swing in OM Bip's cw, and his very sharp, and loud signal, floating effortlessly.

From KL7Y, my training ground and favorite QTH on the planet, the sounds of Bip's signal rings in my ears. It would portray the Pacific Bounce, as if nothing were in the way... a floating and swirling that only the biggest stations would emit, this alone proved he had a QTH to endear.

I remember meeting "Bip" and his wife in Seattle at the NW DX Convention, way back around 1982 or 84 ? The same time I was introduced to all the other NW boys we've all become so fond of: W7RM, NN7L, K7SS, K7LXC, etc. I was 12 years old.

Being dropped off with that bunch was a brave maneuver on the parent's part, as we all stayed up late into the night talking of DX, etc. Bip was there too; up late with the rest of us. The last time I saw him was that same weekend, waving good bye to him and the XYL as they drove back to W6 land.

Farewell BIP - thanks for the Q's.

73 de KL2A (those were the days)

Here's the list of Sprinters that used the name "BIP" in the CW sprint:

AE6Y, AJ6V, K1AR, K1DG, K2UA, K5ZD, K6CTA, K6DB, K6GV, K6III, K6RC, K6SRZ, K6XX, K7BV, N7NG, KF6ZWZ, N6IJ, N6RO, N6TV, N6ZFO, NI6T, W6OAT, W7AT, WA6O, ZF2NT.

73, N6RO

Though I don't have my old logs, I expect W6BIP was one of my first contest QSO's from CA, when I was K2EIU in New York, in the mid 50s. His signal from the hill overlooking SF Bay was always a band-opener, a beacon to start activity on the higher bands, as a contest hit Sunday morning. I worked him during my college days at W2SZ in the late 50s, and K3EIU/5 during my USAF days, in the 60s, and of course since 1972 or so when I first met him in person at an NCDXC meeting. In the CD parties and SS, I would seldom miss the SF multiplier, thanks to BIP.

I also recall some sing-along parties at NCCC Christmas Parties, when some of us would sing, accompanied by Elsie on piano. We're still keeping one of our dogs sheltered in a large doghouse that BIP gave me about 20 years ago. He was one of the first to use a digital keyer - hardwired in those days, and of course who could forget his flashing light pins, ever present at DX Conventions.

73, N6RO

I met Bip years ago in Visalia; it was the year his wife played all the old sing-alongs on the piano. He

had brought down some ferrite rods for me and so we went out to his car in the parking lot to get them.

Standing outside in the warm night air he told me about a lady in his neighborhood that came over irate one day and said his radio wrecked her phonograph. Bip dutifully looked inside the old unit, found the problem, put the new parts in and called her back. She came to get it and he said that it didn't seem possible that his rig could have caused that problem. She confessed that she didn't have much money, and saying his radio wrecked it was the only way she could figure to get it fixed. He said he knew that, and it was OK.

Cheers, DRBILL, K6GNX

Bip's first year as a ham was 1928: Holding to the truest spirit of the hobby, Bip died at age 88, with 73 years as a ham.

73/88 to you Bip.

Bill, N6ZFO

MARCH MEETING DETAILS

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

Dinner: Pizza (2 slices) and a soft drink will be provided for \$6/person.

Please email reservations to AE0M by 9pm Sunday, 12 March. People with reservations get their dinner before others, to encourage you to help us plan the right amount of food.

Thanks for your understanding!

Meeting Date: Monday, 13 March 2000

Time: 6pm schmoozing, 6:30pm pizza, 7:00pm meeting/program

Program: ARRL Update by Rod Stafford, W6ROD, past ARRL President

Location: Hewlett-Packard - Building 50, 5301 Stevens Creek Blvd, Santa Clara.

(Lawrence Expressway and I-280)

KA6BIM	HP	230	28	3	16,430
K6XX	HP	93	29	3	7,488
W6ISO	HP	38	12	0	912
N6ZFO	LP	146	35	2	12,284
K6EP	LP	69	15	2	2,584
K6III	Q	26	9	2	387
N6BT	MS	569	54	17	116,795

(+ K2KW)

Asia/Pacific Sprint, CW

Call	QSO	Pfx	Score
K6XX	35	28	980

North American Sprint, Phone

Call	QSO	Mult	Score
NCCC Team 1			
NR6O (N6RO)	305	55	16,775
K5RC	295	49	14,455
W6EU	275	51	14,025
AE6Y	269	49	13,181
N7MH	256	51	13,056
KR6RF (N6EE)	230	49	11,270
KA6BIM	181	51	9,231
K6EP	115	41	4,715

North American Sprint, CW

Call	QSO	Mult	Score
NCCC Team 1			
N6TV	337	49	16,513
K7BV	302	50	15,100
N6RO	325	46	14,950
K6XX	317	46	14,582
AE6Y	295	49	14,455
K6GV	259	48	12,432
N7MH	266	45	11,970
AJ6V	235	45	10,575
N6IJ (AE0M)	221	46	10,166
N6PN	234	43	10,062
Team 1 Total			124,345

NCCC Team 2

HC8N (N5KO)	284	53	15,052
W6OAT	299	49	14,651
K6CTA	243	46	11,178
NI6T	248	45	11,160
K7NV	239	46	10,994
KF6ZWZ	142	38	5,396
AA6W	30	17	510
Team 2 Total			68,941

NCCC Team 3

W6YX (N7MH)	266	45	11,970
K6III	155	42	6,510
N6ZFO	92	36	3,312
Team 3 Total			21,792

NCCC Scores

CQWW 160m CW

Call	Class	QSO	State	DX	Score
N6RO	HP	643	52	18	158,060
K7NV	HP	151	44	5	17,836

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 Janet, KLTWF, Mgr.

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