



MEETING:

DATE: Monday, May 14,
PROGRAM: Contest Expeditions, by K2KW
Tentatively at South Beach Yacht Club
Pier 40, The Embarcadero,
San Francisco
**QTH NOT CONFIRMED AT
PRESS TIME: CHECK THE
NCCC REFLECTOR
and website:**
<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>

JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT...
k6gt@arrl.net

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

NCCC OFFICERS

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May Contests Dates

MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW	May 5 - 6
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	May 5 - 6
Massachusetts QSO Party	May 5 - 6
ARI International DX Contest	May 5 - 6
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	May 12 - 13
Oregon QSO Party	May 12 - 13
FISTS Spring Sprint	May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 12 - 13
Baltic Contest	May 19 - 20
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 26 - 27

June Contests Dates

IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	Jun 2-3
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	Jun 9-10
Portugal Day Contest	Jun 9
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	Jun 9
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	Jun 9-11
All Asian DX Contest, CW	Jun 16-17
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	Jun 23-24
ARRL Field Day	Jun 23-24

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

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

XI-ting Times

Well, it was a close race, with winners changing positions in the polls right up to the last day, but when the chad fell off and the recounts subsided it appeared that I had won the election. Although I will continue to press for a recount, I'll just have to do the job in the meantime! It is a privilege for which I thank you all. And thanks to our club leadership in 2000-2001! They did a great job and their shoes will be difficult to fill: Bob, K6XX, served as Prez with grace, good humor, and dispatch. Kit, W6SIO, kept us solvent as Secretary/Treasurer, and even had some cash left over at the end. Ken, N6RO, was inspiring at VP/CC. I look forward to their guidance as the new board settles in to its responsibilities. See Andy's column for more.

If you will tolerate some self-indulgence, let me introduce myself to the many newer members (like less than 15 years?) who may be saying XI-who? I'm a once-avid contester, raised on CD parties and two-weekend Sweepstakes' as K3QDD, former trustee and frequent operator of W1MX, occasional stringer at N6RO and other multis, and owner of an adequate Little Pistol station in Saratoga. For the past 15 years I have suppressed most of my contesting urges in favor of raising a family and doing whatever I could to help grow TIBCO Software and its predecessor companies. Until recently my NCCC attendance had been, well, poor. My contesting has been limited mainly to NA Sprints (CW only, of course) and some SS efforts ... and FD, but "Field Day isn't a contest." Now I'm ramping down my professional activities and starting to build up a station in Truckee where I intend to spend increasing amounts of time over the next few years cultivating aluminum and sarcastic remarks.

Now, to paraphrase the marketing department of the Evil Empire, "Where do we want to go today?"... or this year, that is. I see NCCC serving three major purposes. Well, at least three!

- Win contests.
- Learn how people win contests.
- Talk about winning contests.
- Drink beer while talking about winning contests.
- Have fun contesting seriously even though we can't all win all the time. And lay off the beer while operating contests seriously. [But remember, "Field Day isn't a contest."]
- Have fun contesting less than seriously when time is limited, beer is plentiful and NCCC is not mounting a club effort.

(For a more eloquent statement of our mission, check out <http://www.nccc.cc>).

You may have noticed the word "learn" up there. This is very important to me. What good is a contest club that fields the same team year after year as its membership ages and loses brain cells? To succeed, to grow, to set new records and to secure for ourselves and our posterity the blessings of peace and bandwidth, we need to improve our skills continuously, nurture newcomers and encourage beginners. I plan to encourage a lot of mentoring this year: OT's should team up for appropriate multi-op events with a combination of experienced operators and newbies (or OF's like yours truly who still have so much to learn). They say that "those who can, do, and those who can't, teach." Well, I want those of us who can to teach, too. Let's raise NCCC to the next level of contesting expertise! We will win more and have more fun doing it, both conspicuous elements on the same purpose list.

The last point on our list of *raison d'être* is sort of the most important for this month. If we are to enjoy the luxury of casual contesting, we must know which contests are decidedly NOT casual. Those are the few contests each year in which NCCC makes its biggest club effort. Study and practice for these contests. Plan your social calendar around them. Name your next child after them. Then get on, kick butt and SEND IN YOUR LOG! "Which contests?" you ask. We sponsor the California QSO Party, so it is a shoe-in for the title "Biggest, baddest, most important state QSO Party of the year." Count on it.

Most of the time, we also designate Sweepstakes as a club priority. This is for a very good reason – we win it. For the past 25 years or more, when we put our collective minds to it, we win Sweepstakes. It's that simple. It's not easy, just simple. Good ops, propagation advantage, large roster, hard work ... this is a winning combination!

Sometimes we take a deep breath and tackle a DX contest. These are bigger, badder and more important on a global scale than any other contests. They are also more difficult from our propagationally-challenged Left Coast. They are tough, demanding, exciting (XI-ting?), and we CAN win. We have won. We WILL win. Elsewhere in the Jug, VP/CC Andy, AE6Y, lays down a challenge. Consider his logic, debate his conclusions, publish your thoughts on the NCCC reflector and come to the May meeting to pound your shoe on the table and demand to be heard. We will read, listen, digest, ponder and coalesce your thoughts into a consensus contesting agenda for the club for the 2001-2002 club year. Whatever we agree on, together we are going to have a great year and an XI-ting time!

Andy's Dandies

First of all, thank you very much for electing me to be your vice president/contest chairman. I've served in that capacity before, in 1993-94. We won SS that year, but in reviewing my old columns, I note that we had under eight million points. Needless to say, the bar has been raised significantly since that year.

Tribute to past leadership

I'm a bit apprehensive, since my predecessor, Ken, N6RO, has done everything a contest chairman should or could do. He has, as always, led by example. He's done a lot of the grunt work of coordinating things like the SS calling tree, which is so essential to getting out the troops for Sweepstakes. He's been on in not only the major contests, but even the little ones you've barely heard of. As a club cheerleader, he urged and exhorted all of us to do our best both for the club and for the sheer, infectious fun of contesting.

Thanks, Ken. Here's a pome about him (with appropriate apologies to the gods of rhyme and meter):

"Ode to Ken"

A tough act as CC to follow.

No triumph for Ken has rung hollow.

We won the SS,

Had fun in the rest,

So: hats off to N6 and RO.

"Another Opening of Another Show"

Yep, that's right. This year the officers and BOD are committed to putting in a maximum effort to make the club successful. A high priority is going to be entertaining meetings with interesting programs. What.... you've never heard our new president perform stand-up comedy? Well, then, you've a treat in store for you: Rick's only real competition as a master of ceremonies might be Jerry Seinfeld.

Really—meetings are going to be FUN! The only way to get in on the fun is to come to the meetings. We're making a real effort to make them lively and entertaining this year. You can help in both categories by attending, speaking up, hootin' and hollerin', etc.

So let's not just see the same old meeting stalwarts. Meetings need participation. One way to

have more fun is to carpool to meetings with other club members. I've often done this for meetings out of the South Bay. If you'd like a ride, just post a note on the NCCC reflector a week or so before the meeting (or for the organizationally-handicapped, the day of the meeting) asking if anyone would like to carpool. Chances are you'll get several takers, and sharing the commute will add to your enjoyment (*as well as being environmentally friendly!...ed.*)

Our new officers and directors are going to be working really hard to inject a new spirit and enthusiasm into the club this year. If you're not attending, you're missing out. How about supporting your club officers and BOD, who are working very hard this year to move the meetings around and to arrange entertaining programs?

Contest Focus for 2001-2002

Don't miss the May meeting, when, in addition to the regular program, we will be discussing contests to focus on this year. The BOD has kicked around some ideas, and feel that with the help of enough enthusiastic operators, we can do all of the following:

1) Go for broke in SS and win it again. Winning SS in the big dog class (i.e., unlimited club competition) is the ultimate test of a contest club, since it can only be done through massive participation. Everyone has to do his or her part (in 1999 we won by one log score).

2) Put on the best state QSO party of the year, again, in CQP. We want to increase participation even more this year.

3) Encourage activity in NAQP and Sprint as a way of honing operator skills. I've found Sprint to be particularly challenging, and a great way to increase CW proficiency. NAQP is a much easier contest, and probably the best one of all to practice SO2R techniques.

4) Have club members go to active Field Day sites in our area to try to spread the gospel of contesting and to recruit new members.

5) Go after a major international contest. The possibilities are CQ WW, ARRL DX or WPX. I personally favor going all out in WPX, a contest that the club has in fact won a number of times, often without any special effort. Not last year though, in which we finished a very respectable third, but 100 million points behind a massive effort put in by the Contest Club of Finland.

My thinking in suggesting WPX is the following: Since CQ WW occurs in October and November, it conflicts with putting a maximum effort into SS, and might detract from CQP as well. ARRL DX (like CQ WW) can't be usefully supported with efforts from normal home stations on the West Coast. Both depend on massive dxpeditions, primarily to the Caribbean.

There's not much incentive for guys to try to operate from California, since the contributions from here are relatively minimal.

On the other hand, WPX has many advantages. These include the fact that it occurs in March and May, which gives plenty of time for planning and doesn't conflict with other operating events. Also, it's quite possible to get several million points from a reasonable effort at a "normal" station in California. Furthermore, the contest is relatively straightforward to operate. It's not a high stress event like Sprint, and the operating strategy is very simple: go for maximum QSO's and the multipliers will follow (with some thought to low band operation, particularly in CW, and to working stations on other than your continent). Since multipliers count only once (but there are a lot of them), stations can play very well even if restricted to only one or two bands.

We have a number of particular and interesting ideas on this topic that aren't fit to print in a family newspaper, but will be discussed in the flesh at the May meeting. By all means COME TO THE MAY MEETING! Be there and let your opinions be known! The board will finalize plans shortly thereafter.

Finally, as you can tell, I'm fired up to be VP/CC this year. Here's a pome about that:

"No, CC is not Cocos-Keeling"

I'm happy to be your VP
To help Rick run N-Triple-C

We need you to score
Single, Multi, or?

Cause this year we're gonna KB!

73, Andy, AE6Y

Field Day A Non-Contest

This year we will be unable to operate Field Day from K6ZM. Instead, we are going to use Field Day as an opportunity to recruit new NCCC members! There are many hams who emerge from the woodwork with their rigs and antennas once a year for FD, and rarely operate the rest of the year. Other FD operators participate in a few other contests, but have never heard of the NCCC. Field Day is a great time for us to meet these non-NCCC members and tell them about our club!

Most clubs usually always need more operators for their Field Day operations, especially experienced NCCC contesters and anyone who knows CW! If you are not already involved in a Field Day effort, please consider joining one to help operate their station,

mentor their members, and recruit them to join the NCCC.

Jim, WX6V, and I are determining which FD efforts would be best to target, and we hope to develop NCCC propaganda (errrr... I mean an information packet) for members to hand out.

If you are interested in becoming a star operator for a club's FD, and recruit new NCCC members, please e-mail me or Jim:

n6de@arrl.net or wx6v@juno.com.

73, Dean, N6DE

CQP MAILING PARTY

A note of thanks to those who helped out at the CQP mailing party held at Al, AD6E's house. Just about everything got done in a furious 3 1/2 hours of camaraderie. There were several hundred certificates and results to mail out, plus about 100 t-shirts, plaques (with the wine bottles still to go).

Those helping include Al himself, who had organized the supplies... envelopes, stamps, printed labels, etc. That's Chuck, NF6S, with Al, AD6E, below. Chuck is apparently trying to claim the merchandise he's holding.



Also Al's XYL cheerfully accepted the mess and treated us to a delightful homebrew barbecue, and Al's ace-wrapper daughter, Jessica, helped a ton. Other helpers included John, W6LD, Bob, K6XX, Scotty W7SW, and Karen, Bob N6TV, and last but not least, XX's two beautiful girls Sarah and Lisa, who were just about the hardest working people there.



Lisa and Sarah are turning out the work! They aren't diverted from the job at hand by such things as bottles of wine.

I think that's everyone. Thanks to you all!! CQP doesn't just happen; it takes a lot of work by many club members. Please think about helping out in the future (there will be lots of opportunities this year, not just for CQP, but also for SS and ??).

73, Andy, AE6Y, NCCC VP/CC

NOTES

from the April 23 NCCC Board of Directors Meeting

Prez N6XI, VP/CC AE6Y, PP K6XX, Directors N6DE and N6RO and star member W6LD met April 23 for beer, discussion and dinner. Secy/Treas/Webster W0YK sent his input via email. Here are some notes from that first BoD meeting of the current club year.

THANKS to Visalia volunteers: N6TV, K6XX, WX5S, WJ6O, AD6E, N6DE, K2KW, W6OAT, K7BV, AF7Y, N6BT, W1SRD, K0BEE, W6ISQ, ... and probably a whole slew of others of whom I was unaware or perhaps forgot to mention. (To them, my heartfelt thanks, sincere apologies and an IOU for a beer. "What's your call?")

The next Club Meeting: Monday, May 14, PROBABLY at South Beach Yacht Club in SF. Stand by for confirmation of venue. Program: Contest Expeditioning by K2KW.

Contest focus for the year: Lots of enthusiasm for SS, WPX, WW, 10M and other events. See AE6Y's column for details on where we stand on this annual decision.

Recruitment: AD6E and N6ZFO are working on recruitment. We plan to mine contest results for member prospects. We also discussed mining member logs to detect prospects who do not submit logs, and infiltrating FD sites throughout the club area, looking for likely suspects. YOU can help here! See FD notes below and the FD column elsewhere in the Jug.

Field Day: No FD operation at K6ZM this year. N6DE and WX6V will coordinate participation of NCCers in a variety of FD activities. This will be an opportunity for proselytizing contesting and recruiting members. See my XI-ting column elsewhere.

Annual budget: W0YK is preparing the annual budget for membership vote at June meeting.

Nominating Committee: Not shy about identifying his successor, your brand-new prez seeks volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for 2002-03. This group will help to identify event/task volunteers as well as future officers and directors.

I would like to recruit one current BoD member, one recent club leader not currently on the BoD and one knowledgeable member who has not been on the BoD recently to serve on this August Body. This is an opportunity to influence the long-term direction and success of the club. Please contact N6XI if you are even vaguely thinking about helping!

5Meg Award: N6RO to work with W0YK and AD6E to get the database consolidated and updated.

W1AW/6: We have permission to operate as W1AW/6 in the 2001 IARU contest. This will be a "wide-area multi-multi." Several very effective stations will operate several band-modes each. N6RO is coordinating station/band assignments. Station owners will be responsible for operator recruitment. Plum assignments will go to the strongest stations with the most effective/efficient operator teams. Stand by for details from Ken.

Program Ideas: The following program ideas are under consideration for future club meetings. We won't be able to do them all, but any combination looks pretty good to me! If you would like to present one, or if you have more ideas for programs or presentors, please contact N6XI.

- Multi-Two
- SO2R
- Competing when you can't win it all
- Solar max and radio propagation
- Low noise rx antennas (W6RW likely to do this)
- Current contest-grade radios
- Contesting U. - K2KW
- Contest DXpeditioning
- Tower construction - K7LXC when he's in town?
- Great gadgets
- WRTC - W6OAT
- Digital-mode contests
- History of Morse - W6CF

73, Rick N6XI

AND MORE NOTES,

these from the April 9th NCCC meeting

Outgoing prez Bob, K6XX, organized a great meeting for April 9. Contesters gathered at the Agilent (nee HP) facility in Santa Clara for pizza, programs, elections and rag chewing. Here are notes on some of the action, just in case you missed the fun:

Board of Directors

Thanks to the outgoing BoD for their tireless and highly effective stewardship of the club during the 2000-2001 season: Officers K6XX, N6RO, W6ISO and directors K6CTA, AE6Y, N6XI, K7NV did a great job and in all likelihood secured yet another SS gavel!

After a bitter floor fight and numerous nominations from the floor (declared out of order by parliamentarian W6RGG who wasn't even there [*if he had been, he would have been standing up...ed*]), the following officers and directors were elected to serve for the 2001-2002 contest year:

President : Rick Tavan, N6XI

VP/Contest Chairman : Andy Faber, AE6Y

Secretary/Treasurer/Webster : Ed Muns, W0YK

Directors : Dean Wood, N6DE, Ken Keeler, N6RO, and Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV.

Past President Bob Wolbert, K6XX, will round out the Board of Directors.

This year looks like it will be the year of volunteer enthusiasm at NCCC:

Ed Schuller, K6CTA, volunteered to serve as Assistant Contest Chairman,

Jack Leddy, N6EM, volunteered to help line up some meeting programs,

Bill Haddon, N6ZFO, volunteered to help with membership recruiting,

Al Maenchen, AD6E, re-volunteered to chair CQP,

Bob Warmke, W6CYX, volunteered to follow up on a QRP contesting program and a possible NCCC assault on one,

Ed Muns, W0YK, agreed to stay on as awards chairman until a replacement or helper is identified, (Note: Ed is Secy/Trea/Webster - give him some help!)

Andy Faber, AE6Y, agreed to stay on as CQP certificates Manager until a replacement or helper is identified. (Note: Andy is VP/CC - give him some help!)

and finally, George Daughters, K6GT, has agreed to stay on as Jughead until a replacement is identified. George has served with distinction in this position for longer than any of our middle aged memories can recall. He offers FREE training in the mystic rites of

Jugheaddom to anyone with writing, editorial, graphic arts and/or publication skills. Lacking skills, even slight interest or club spirit will be accepted as entry credentials! Seriously, folks, George has served above and beyond the call of duty. If you are so much as thinking about serving your club before you make your final QSO, now is the time to volunteer to help or even to take over the Jughelm. Please contact George or me or any of the other 2001-02 officers and directors for more info.

More Volunteer Opportunities

Contact any officer if you are interested in:

- CQP Certificates - need to mail these for 2000

- CQP Planning for 2001

- 5Meg Award (?)

- Club Awards

- Contest handbooks for contests other than SS

- Visalia help (2001, 2002)

. hospitality suite

. awards desk

. contest forum

. contest banquet

- Program planning and delivery for upcoming meetings (This is a great way to help your club without a permanent commitment. Just recruit a speaker and help plan a program... or develop and deliver one yourself! Easy and fun.)

Show & Tell

Well, hams are just kids at heart, so K6XX organized a good, old-fashioned "Show and Tell." We were treated to inside, outside and shackside views by the following members of some of their most-recently acquired but already prized possessions:

K6III : Elecraft K2, big battery & dummy load – he worked N6XI for a share of the evening's distance record of four feet!

N6XI : Elecraft K1, little battery, wet noodle antenna – shares dx record.

ME6MBR : Another K1 - forgive me for forgetting who brought the other K1!

K6XX : Yaesu 781 portable QRP rig, 2 hotel-friendly antennas

N6TV : WX0B autoswitching bandpass filter

WJ6O : ACOM 2000A control box (He left the 85 pound RF deck at home!)

Future Meetings

It's going to be a great year in NCCC! If you haven't made it to a meeting recently, please do. The May meeting will be at the romantic South Beach Yacht Club in SF. This is a great venue for contesters, other hams and significant others as well. Save the date and stand by for details and directions!

73, Rick, N6XI

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