



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



July
2009
Issue 446

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3610+/-

Program

"Remote Control Stations"

To be announced...

Date: Monday, 13 July 2009

Time: 6pm schmooze, 6:30pm dinner, 7pm program

Location: The Tied House, 954 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

Dinner: See Website for menu details.

NCCC Officers

President: [Jack Morgan, KF6T](#)

Vice-President and Contest Chairman: [Fred Jensen, K6DGW](#)

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Inland View

By Jack Morgan, KF6T

Field Day on Martis Peak

I hope you had a chance to participate in one of the many Field Day operations around the State. Some notable KBers made their way to the Martis Peak (~8700 feet) lookout tower to help set up and operate the K6NV 2A plus VHF/GOTA stations. This spot, just East of NorthStar ski area, has a commanding view of Lake Tahoe and Truckee region. Almost everyone was feeling a little oxygen deprived but made it through the weekend. We caught a fantastic 6 meter opening on Friday

night with hours of S9 contacts made all over the East Coast. Naturally it did not happen again during the contest. We finished with over 2300 contacts and had a great time operating and enjoying the view.

Barry, K6ST organized a ham radio training program for the Boy Scouts that hiked up the mountain to visit us. They got to operate our GOTA station (appropriately K6BSA) and several expressed a desire to get their licenses. What a great way to get started in our hobby! If every one of the 1400 participating clubs did something like this, imagine the impact.

Two July Webinars Planned

There will be a NCCC Webinar on Wednesday, July 8 at 7pm. Dean Wood, N6DE is coordinating these events and you will hear from him how to join the group. If you have never participated in a Webinar before, you should check these out. Ira Stoler, K2RD will be discussing how to set up a MicroHam keyer and software router.

The second July Webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 22 at 7pm. Jack Morgan, KF6T will be covering the issues (hardware and software) involved to make your own station control (SO2R+) box.

July Meetings

We have two meetings scheduled for July -

The first, a regular NCCC meeting, will be on Monday, July 13th at the Tied House in Mountain View. The program will include presentations on remotely controlled stations.

The second will be the annual joint NCCC and MLDXCC (Mother Lode DX and Contest Club) meeting in Stockton. This will be on Saturday, July 25th at the Old Spaghetti Factory (same location as last year). Check out MLDXCC.org for meeting and menu details. The program will feature "DXing from P29" by our own Alan Maenchen, AD6E. Jack, KF6T will present a short video tour of ARRL and W1AW.

VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

I'm wondering why time seems to be flying by, here it is already July, I became a 69-year old at the beginning of June, Field Day is over, and the Keplerian satellite elements I get weekly via email which are numbered by the day they are issued are already past the 180 mark.

Reading my LCR's is painful and at the beginning of the year, I decided to see if I could reduce the pain some. I briefly considered just not reading them, but finally decided to see if I could ferret out what was going wrong that was leading to the busted calls and exchanges.

I recorded the entire NAQP CW and then reran the contest with my log in front of me. The best I can tell is that at least half of my errors are made on the keyboard rather than the radio. I had to get a new laptop this spring and am switching from TR to N1MM, and the keyboard is much easier to use. We'll see if that helps.

The call is out for a volunteer to flog the NAQP's. The RTTY comes up on 18 July. I'd love to have one of our newer members give it a try, and I'll make sure

you get all the help you need for team assignments. It's really easy and doesn't take much time. Just drop me an email at k6dgw@arrl.net and I'll take care of the rest for you.

We've got the IARU coming up 11-12 July, the NAQP RTTY on 18 July, and the CW and SSB NAQP's in August.

Our granddaughter's softball tournaments seem to have ended which will give me some contest time on weekends. And this summer, I really am going to replace my 160m and 80m cloudwarmer with an antenna that actually radiates past the Rockies ... of course, that's what I said last summer too.

Don't forget the Spartan Sprint next Monday night [6 July] from 1800 to 2000 PDT. Turn your radio down to 5W and join the fun. And the July meeting is on the 13th at the Tied House.

Dues

Have you paid your dues for the year? It's still just \$24 (cheap), with students just \$12 (even cheaper) and family members \$12 (what a deal).

Contact [Jack Brindle, W6FB](#)

We can get your dues via PayPal or snail mail or via cash at the next meeting.

Photos from June's Meeting (photos K6RB)





Webinars in Your Future

Dean Wood, N6DE

- **How to set up a Microham Keyer**, by Ira K2RD

Wednesday, July 8, 7-8PM

- **Making your own station controller**, by Jack KF6T

Wednesday, July 22, 7-8 PM

Register for each with Dean, N6DE, at cqden6de@gmail.com

Field Day 2009



Field Day Effort -- K6NV -- on Martis Peak Fire Lookout station. From left to right, the operators are: N6TU, AI6V, WX6V, KF6T, K6ST, K6NV, N6RC, WC6H and NU6T. (Photo courtesy of Jack, KF6T)



The "Reverend," Jim K9YC, at K6WC FD



Nothing fancy... (photos courtesy of Donald AE6RF)

PAARA Field Day 2009



Ants...lots of ants



Photos courtesy of Phil, AE6K

George Washington HS – SF – Amateur Radio Club FD



L to R: KI6UOO, K6JEB and KI6PVO. KI6UOO and KI6PVO are sophomores at San Francisco's George Washington High School.



(photos courtesy of Dean, N6BV)

Thursday Night Contesting *Sponsored by the NCCC*

Practice Contests

The Northern California Contest Club sponsors Thursday evening (NA local time) contest practice sessions of 30 minute duration. On the Thursday (and, sometimes Friday also) prior to a major contest weekend, the practice format follows the upcoming contest.

NS (NCCC Sprint)

Generally, on other Thursday evenings, a special format is followed, called NS or "NCCC Sprint". The NS began in the summer of 2004 as a snappy, concise contest occurring most Thursday nights, North American time. NS participants are asked to listen for slower stations and reduce their CW speed to accommodate them. In the long run this tactic may increase the pool of active contest participants. To provide a more equal playing field the power limit is 100 watts. For high QSO rate, NS [Rules](#) allow dupes after just one intervening QSO and other modifications of the NCJ NA CW

Sprint rules. There is no score reporting and the goal is to keep in practice and have FUN!

Ladder Competition

During periods of infrequent major contests, an NS ladder competition may be held. There may be one or two ladder competitions per year. A ladder competition is a series of NS events (NS [Rules](#)) where competitors are ranked based on the sum of their best X of Y event results. For example, if the series is 18 Thursday evening NS events, the ladder may be based on one's best 12 NS results in that series. For details on the current ladder competition, go to [Ladder](#). For the current ladder rankings, go to [Results](#).

N6ZFO analyzes the results of including, or not, the "legal dupe" rule where a station can be worked again on the same band after at least one intervening QSO. [Here](#) is his analysis of the two "no-dupe" test sessions in the middle of the 2009 NS Ladder series.

Logging [Software](#) information is available for the major logging programs listed in the left-hand navigation menu. Please send W0YK any information you have on these and other loggers when used for NS. This will enrich this web site and make it easier for others to join in NS.

The NCCC holds its weekly club net at the close of these Thursday night contests on 75-meter LSB. The net is open to all and often the check-ins will share their results and experiences in the just-completed Thursday night contest. The exact time and frequency of the net is included in the weekly announcement (see next paragraph) of the Thursday night contest.

Weekly announcements are made as to the format for these Thursday evening contest sessions and other related information. Watch the [Next NS](#) web page or the email reflectors, e.g., CQ-Contest, NCCC, CT-User, TR-Log, etc. Questions can be directed to [N6RO](#), [N6ZFO](#) or NCCC VP/Contest Chair [K6DGW](#).

NS Scoring

NS is scored like NAQP with multipliers counting again on each band. In addition, dupes receive a QSO point as long as there is at least one intervening QSO with another station. For example, here are N3BB's results:

Bands	QSOs	Mults
160	8	3
80	18	8
40	23	15
20	15	11
Total	64	37

Jim's score is 64 times 37 = 1,998.

See [NS Score Calculator](#) for a post-contest scoring tool to score a NS Cabrillo log.

For reporting to the 3830 reflector (when there is no input form), Copy/Paste the following text into an email message to the [reflector](#) and edit with your information:

NCCC Sprint

Call: W0YK
Operator(s): W0YK
Station: W0YK

Class: SO LP
QTH: CA
Operating Time (hrs): 1

Summary:
Band QSOs Mults

160: 5 3

80: 40 7

40: 28 8

20: 0 0

Total: 73 18 Total Score = 1,314

Comments:

2009 NS Ladder Competition (aka Spring/Summer Madness)

NCCC announces the Sixth NS Ladder Competition, the contest series of Spring and Summer fun.

Dates

- Friday morning UTC 3 April - 7 August (Thursday evening NA time)
- 0230-0300 UTC (Note: Because of short event, precise timing is essential! Synchronize start to WWV.)
- No Ladder 15/22/29 May (regular NS instead), 26 June (regular NS instead) or 3 July (no NS)
- Out of 14 NS ladder contests, your top 9 scores count toward awards
- For complete schedule, see [Next NS](#)

Rules

- Bands: 20, 40 and 80. No 160 meters. Spread out between 30-45 kHz up from band edge.
- Exchange: serial #, name, state/province
- Dupes allowed after one intervening QSO on same band or back-to-back with band change
- For complete rules, see [Rules](#)

Reporting

- Post to the 3830 reflector via the [3830 submittal web page](#) for the NS Ladder Competition.
- Submit by Sunday night following contest; deadline is one week.

Logs

- No week-to-week submission of logs required
- Logs must be made available at the request of the NS organizers

Awards

- Special prizes, probably CA wine, to the leaders in our four divisions. Your 9 highest scores out of 14 total events count toward the award in all except the Newcomers Division, which is restricted to those who have not entered NS Ladder in the past three years. NS Ladder X prize to the first station with 3000 or more points in a single half hour Ladder session (courtesy, K6VVA). Divisions:
 - East of the Mississippi River (Canada: East of Manitoba/Ontario border)
 - West of the Mississippi River (excluding people in the next category)
 - NCCC member
 - Newcomers (different award requirements, tentatively highest 6 scores in last 10 weeks of NS Ladder)

Software Support

- See links to specific logging programs under [Software](#) in the navigation menu on the left side of this, and all, web pages.

Questions? Contact NCCC NS Ladder Competition Director Bill, [N6ZFO](#).

