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Northern California
Contest Club



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NCCC Net
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Program

"EZnec antennas for home and Field Day" - Jack Morgan, KF6T

Date: Monday, 11 May 2009

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

Location: Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 (408) 243-0434

Take 280 to Saratoga Avenue and go north two blocks. Harry's is on the right just past Keily Blvd.

Dinner: Purchase your dinner in the cafeteria line and take your tray to the meeting room in the rear.

NCCC Officers

President: [Jack Morgan, KF6T](#)

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

Secretary/Treasurer: [Jack Brindle, W6FB](#)

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Past President: [John Miller, K6MM](#)

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Webmaster: Ed Muns, W0YK w0yk@msn.com

JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com

Greetings from the President

By Jack Morgan, KF6T

Greetings from Auburn (a.k.a. "Inland"). When I am in the Bay Area looking for my home weather, they only report the Bay Area and "Inland" - which sounds like some uncharted territory. It is quite amazing that two of your new officers are located "inland" at Auburn, but it is, after all, the exact geographic center of the NCCC's contest territory!

I am honored to assume the role as NCCC President as we enter the Club's 40th year. I will be drawing on your collective support to continue the many fine programs and benefits the Club has to offer.

First, here are a few words about me. I was born and raised in Connecticut. With no TV or video games as distractions, we had time for lots of different hobbies like snake catching, pyrotechnic experiments and magic. Ham radio came to us by way of the local CD (Civil Defense) group that we discovered would lend you a "Gooney Box" (a 2 mtr Gonset transceiver) for a whole month if you sat through a meeting with a bunch of old guys. I had received my novice license at age 14 with the call of WN1FEA (1955). I

graduated to WIFEA and kept that for many years.

I got a summer job at Hatry's Electronics (like an HRO with electronic parts too) and soon learned that the ARRL hired young people to work in their lab in West Hartford. So, by 16, I was employed by the ARRL and assigned to Don Mix, W1TS, and started building all sorts of gear. I also worked for By Goodman, W1DX, and Ed Tilton, W1HDQ. These wonderful folks helped me in so many ways – my own Dad had passed at about the same time. There was always time to give you some advice or tell you about some great adventure they had experienced as hams.

I also got to know Bill Eitel (co-founder of Eimac) as he visited the ARRL lab frequently. During a summer vacation trip to California, I stopped by to see Bill in San Carlos. I casually asked him “where is a good place to work at in California” and he said “right here – why, do you want a job?” That was Friday and I started work on Monday – I really liked how things worked out West! I never went back home and stayed on five years as part of the “Eimac Gang.”

I subsequently started my own company “Vindicator” and employed over 100 people for 15 years building high-tech security equipment. That was a really great experience. The company became part of Honeywell and I then escaped to Auburn.

There I started another company, got a few patents, developed some neat products and then decided to shift gears and put it all behind me. I became a Scoutmaster and started teaching

computer technology at our local high school. I also took over the ski team as Head Coach and added snowboarding to the mix. I now coordinate all the alpine race programs in our region.

My wife Sandy and I have two grown children (daughter and son) with five grandchildren to frequently entertain (and teach how to ski).

A good QTH in Auburn (~2000 ft ASL in the foothills) and a new call got me back into contesting. It has given me the incentive to build antennas and improve my station. I am moving on to SO2R but need a lot of practice before that is of any help. I really love mixed-mode tests (that allow CW and SSB) like the CQP and 10 meter (remember when??).

Top band CW contests are fun, too. So, now off to Visalia to meet with old friends and get your inputs and ideas about the NCCC program for this year. 73,
Jack, KF6T

VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

It would appear that you're all stuck with me as VP/CC for another year. I was sort of “talked into it” the first time. No broken arms, but the effort was somewhat concerted ... and well organized. ☺

It turned out to be a rewarding, and sometimes humbling, experience. I learned a whole lot about contesting, found a lot of new friends, and I had a lot of fun.

I managed a few Bay Area meetings – names, calls, and faces began to fall together, and membership in this club began to take on a new dimension for me.

This year, I am a volunteer ... arms are just fine; my shoulder's totally in place, I emailed John that I'd stand for election again. I'd like to experience the fun and learning that I did on the first VP/CC tour another time.

It's probably a good fit for me; I tend to think very tactically and I have little if any strategic sense. My very best grade in the military was 1Lt with a small team. VP/CC is a very tactical job; we'll see how this goes.

Floggers: We have some record-holders in the world of radiosport in all modes, and we have a number of stellar stations, a number of big-time DX-peditioneers, and a very large number of stellar operators.

We also have a huge [as clubs go] number of members who, like me, are working at getting better at radiosport. We have our several big team efforts over the year, WPX and SS come to mind, and we'll be onto those [especially SS] as they come up.

There are also several contests [e.g. NAQP's and NA SPRINTS] that offer team competition as well as individual achievement. Someone needs to put these together. NCCC has a fairly rich tradition in fielding teams and winning.

So here's the deal: I'll need people to organize, flog, and set up teams for these contests. The publicity and flogging is easy. Assigning teams is not. If some of our newer members will step up to do the email publicity and flogging, and dog everyone to get their logs in, I'll arrange for you to have expert help in team assignments, and I'll take all the final responsibility.

I'll also help you in flogging, I've done a bit of it, and you always have the recourse to bad Haiku if all else fails.

QSO Parties: We get a lot of participation in the CQP; it is far and away the premier state QSO contest. We need to return the favor. I realize that some of the state QP's have fairly sparse participation compared to CQP, but it might be worth a couple of

hours and a log submittal with NCCC listed as the club. I will do MIQP, mainly to find one of my troops for a chat, and the PSK Skirmish will be a new one for me too.

Help: Thanks to the really great efforts and vision of our recent officers, we have a whole lot of new members, and we may get more.

If you are new to contesting and need advice, guidance, support, or whatever, just email me. I'll find someone to help you. This club is an incredible repository of information and knowledge, and it can all be yours ... just ask.

The complete contest calendar is available at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal Go after what turns you on!

Thanks for electing me for another year. I'll do my very best for all of you.

73,

Fred K6DGW
VP/CC

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](mailto:Jack.Brinkle@W6FB)

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

NCCC Jackets

We can still order NCCC logo jackets with name and call sign. The mesh-lined jackets are \$70 all inclusive delivered to you via UPS. The fleece-lined are \$80.

They are available in black or dark navy, and come in S, M, L, XL-5XL. If interested, contact k6rb@baymoon.com.

Photos from April's Meeting (photos K6RB)





Visalia Contest Academy

By: Rob Brownstein, K6RB

By any measure, the NCCC-presented Contest Academy was a solid success. We filled the room with over 150 people. This was particularly impressive because the event was held at 1 PM on Friday – while people were still arriving.

The attendees ran the gamut from “contest junkies” to “never tried one.” And the feedback sheets indicate we managed to meet a pretty broad spectrum of expectations.

Contest Academy was a four-hour affair. It began with an hour-long presentation by Rob, K6RB and Bob, K6XX covering such fundamental topics as “why bother,” “the language of contesting,” “choosing one that suits you,” and “how not to be a contest lid.”

Following this, the second hour explored some of the more popular contest software (e.g. N1MM, WriteLog, and Win-Test. NCCC’s presenters were John, K6MM; Rick, N6XI; and Bob, N6TV.

Batting third was our own Tom, K5RC, who gave a very interesting discussion about levels of interest (and expectations) mapped to locations, stations and antennas.

The finale kept the people glued to their chairs for the full four hours. Ed, W0YK,

gave an in-depth look at why RTTY is growing faster than any other contest mode; how to set up a RTTY contest station; and some solid tips and how to operate RTTY in a way to optimizes what you’ve already learned in doing CW and SSB contesting and recognizing the difference involved in RTTY contesting.

Visalia Contest Dinner

By: Rob Brownstein

On Friday night at Visalia, Jeff Stai did it, again. He organized the Contest Dinner that appeared to come off hitch-free. The food was quite good, and the company was excellent.

The Master of Ceremonies was Steve, K6AW. He presided over the awarding of several contest-related awards, and was, in turn, presented for an award for having done such an excellent job in picking up the reins for CQ WPX.

Tim Duffy, K3LR, was the speaker, and he brought us all up to date on new additions to the impressive multi-multi contest station. These included a new 240 foot tower and monster antennas, plus a six-computer plus six SDR radio “skimmer” system.

Tim’s talk was not just about his station and efforts but about the sharing that goes on among some of the most competitive multi-multi teams. As he said, “it’s not about winning; it’s about how you win.”

Visalia Contest Academy Photos (photos K6RB)







Visalia Photos (courtesy N6TV)



NOAX



W6OAT, K7CU



F6BEE, W2GD (P40W)



N6TV with W6CF Memorial Trophy



K7JA



W6RJ, OH2BH and K7JA

