

JUG

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Northern California
Contest Club



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NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
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Guests are always welcome at the NCCC! Please join us.

Annual Awards Meeting

Date: Monday, 15 March 2010

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

Location: Tied House, 954 Villa St., Mountain View, CA 94041



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

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JUG Editor: Rob Brownstein, k6rb@baymoon.com



Inland View

By Jack Morgan, KF6T

Olympic Parallels

Maybe I have been watching the Winter Olympics too much lately but I am struck by the many parallels between our contesting endeavors and athletes competing at the Games.

I have been working on our "medals" to be given out this month at the NCCC awards ceremony on the 15th. I am also getting my own snowboard team ready to compete at the State Championships a week later. We have already won the Division Title and are favored to medal at States. So you see where my head is at.

I have always noticed that my high school team members are always keenly interested in the timing results from any given competition. It is one non-subjective thing

that can't be disputed – a measurement of how good you are compared to your peers. This is a rare thing in their lives. It becomes a stimulus to further train and compete, refine your skills and try to obtain the best equipment possible. Does this sound familiar?

Our NCCC club members have achieved some amazing results during this contest season. We have competed individually, as teams and as an entire Club. We even have an “Olympics” of our own to look forward to – the World Radiosport Team Championships taking place outside Moscow in July. The nine US WRTC teams contain many familiar faces including our own Bob Wilson, N6TV. KB Bob!!

Awards Meeting

This year we will have many CQP awards to present in addition to the customary NCCC plaques and certificates. Some of you better bring backpacks to help cart off all the loot that will be given out. Come to the Tied House in Mountain View on March 15th and join in on the celebration.

ARRL DX CW

The recent ARRL DX contest saw decent conditions across the bands. I tied into the VE7CC cluster and noticed that the bandmaps were totally packed with stations. For example, I got on 40 meters around 5pm local and started “clicking” on the EU spots. Most were S9 and workable on the first call. Amazing conditions! The lower bands were good too – and 160 meters had very loud stations from Asia to Europe. Having major sunspots will be nice but I like the band propagation balance we are starting to have right now.

VP/CC

By: Fred Jensen, K6DGW

NA Sprint CW: Looking at the results, all I can say is WOW! First off, our own Trey, N5KO, operating at W6NL swept to the

Gold Medal position on the podium [OK, maybe a little overdose on Olympics right now] with 385 Q's and 44 mults for 16,555 points. That's a sustained four hour rate of 96.25/hour.

Bob, N6TV, put up a solid 4th place with 367 Q's and 42 mults for 15,414 points and a 91.75/hr rate. And then there were our teams. NCCC #1 took 2nd with 125,805, a little less than 5K behind the Ditters. Since there is no “circle” in NAS, the Ditters were hand-picked from all over the country. NCCC #2 posted a 4th with 104,458 points, less than 4K behind SCC #1. Nice job and congratulations to all.

WPX RTTY: And then there was P49X with Resident Champion Ed, W0YK at the green keys. Apparently, he is the only one who can break his own records. How about a Coastal Pinot Noir named SO2R RTTY? RTTY is growing in popularity in the club ... the NAQP RTTY is tomorrow as I write this and team sign-ups are coming in fairly rapidly. The RTTY Webinar likely has been a big driver for people who have never tried RTTY to give it a go.

I got a tip from K6XX some time ago to begin my macros with a CRLF and end them with a single space [I had been using another CRLF]. He pointed out that line feeds cause your Q to have to chase your call up the screen, and the one space separates your call from the garbage when you drop your carrier. After several contests, I'm convinced he is right.

ARRL DX CW: Way more fun than I thought it would be, we had sunspots and even a few Q's on 10. I really think 10 is opening these days, generally in late morning to maybe 1300 local, just not many there. I managed 14 new ones, now to get them confirmed.

COMING UP: [all dates are UTC]

- 6-7: ARRL DX SSB**
- 10-11: CW-Ops CWT**
- 13-14: Elecraft QSO Party**
- 14: NA Sprint RTTY**
- 20-22: BARTG HF RTTY**

27-28: WPX SSB

As usual, all of them are listed in exquisite and artful detail at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

I will miss the ARRL DX SSB;, no big loss to the hobby. I'm heading down to the Cactus Intertie annual meeting in Ontario. Andrea and I usually turn this into a week-long road trip to see some of the west we've never been to before we die.

Thought about Death Valley [again, got rained out of Badwater the first time], but two nights at Furnace Creek would have set us back about \$800 not counting what we ate, so we 86'd that.

She also has a schedule conflict, so I'll go alone. I'll spend a night with our adopted Paratrooper and family at Ft. Irwin, do the meeting, dinner with one of our adopted Marines and his brand new wife, and several days with college roomie in Atascadero, replenishing our Cal Poly wardrobes, and possibly [☺] replenishing the wine rack.

SSN: As I write this, SSN=30, SFI=84. SSN has been above zero all month [remember last year?] and all of them are Cycle 24. Get ready for good times!

DE: Well, I worked 3 Delaware stations in the DEQP on SSB ... which were the only 3 I heard ... and am still waiting for them to upload to LoTW ... sigh There ought to be a rule – you want to have a QSO Party for your state, get a bunch of stations on in all the counties. For Pete's sake, DE has exactly three [count 'em, 3] counties, and I missed one.

I'm planning on making the March meeting since it's been moved to the 15th, hope to see you all there.

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.

NA Sprint RTTY

Rob Brownstein, K6RB

For all you new RTTYers who got your feet wet in RTTY RU and NAQP RTTY, here's your trial by fire – NA Sprint RTTY.

It's coming up on March 14. It's the same four hours; same rules; different mode. When you're setting up your messages, don't forget to set one up two of them; one for when you call and inherit; one for when you get called and move on.

Unlike Sprint CW, where you send "R" or "dit" to acknowledge, here you will send something that takes more time. It will be interesting to see how that plays out. I can see people jumping the gun to call before the last station acknowledges so you end up with the possibility of lots of obscured "Rs."

If the NAQP RTTY is any indication, there should be enough activity to keep you going without having to invoke the old "dupe" rule. That's good. This contest will certainly keep you on your game. You can't just "run" or just "S&P" and do well. You will need those couplets, which means you will have to learn to tune 'em in and call, fast.

Give it a try. Unlike CW sprint, you don't have to worry about people sending too fast. You just have to keep track of what you're doing.

NAQP RTTY in Review

Rob Brownstein, K6RB

Well, now that it's over, and I have had to chance to compare it with previous NAQP RTTY events, two things were evident: there were more players this time; and fewer of the players were sending bad stuff.

In previous outings, there were many who simply cranked up their AFSK mic gain to a point where the signals could not be decoded. I didn't hear more than one or two this time.

I am, however, still hearing more than a few operators who have not mastered the settings and vagaries of MMTTY or whatever they're using. One W7, for example, consistently called me about 50 Hz higher than my mark frequency. I could hear him in my passband, but the decoder was not registering anything. Every time he called me (I worked him three times), I had to use RIT to get him locked in.

There were still a few participants who insisted upon writing a short story rather than a snappy exchange (e.g. spelling out Michigan, not once, but three times!!!). But, I only got one "pse copy...." So, that's a definite improvement.

I'm glad to see that RTTY sport is becoming more popular. For those of you who have yet to try it, you owe it to yourself to give it a shot. I was probably the greatest skeptic, but I keep coming back.

Upcoming Elections and Future JUGs

Well, April is coming up fast. That's when we sit down and figure out how much Uncle Sam and Uncle Arnold will be expecting us to fork over. It's also when NCCC elects its next slate of officers.

Every year we seem to manage to find a group of members who agree to keep this club moving forward. It's not easy, as

everyone has things to do and limited amounts of time to do them. But, year after year, as the previous year's officers step down, there is always someone who steps up to the plate. This year will be no different.

We've seen how inspirational leadership has increased our numbers and our participation. The new officers will have a tough act to follow. After years of doing a masterful job as club Webmaster, Ed passed the torch to John. We've got a great looking new Website, too.

The JUG – our newsletter mainstay – is now an online only medium. That makes it a lot easier and less costly than printing and distributing a paper version. It also affords us a way to print more content, photos, etc. than when we were constrained to eight pages (four pages, double-sided).

But, the content will not just appear on page. You have to provide it. Each month the president and vpcc provide a column's worth of content. That's two, maybe three, pages. There is now plenty of room for contributed pieces.

As testers, we all struggle with the tradeoff between having good antennas and dealing with county ordinances and CC&Rs. There has been a lot of chatter in the last few days on the reflector about the goings on in San Diego.

How about an article on dealing with the powers that be in your particular county? There have also been discussions, from time to time, about getting PG&E to deal with noise problems. Can you share methods that worked for you?

Everyone likes to look at photos. If you are going to an NCCC meeting, take a digital camera and snap some shots. We have lots of room. If you're participating in a contest, have someone snap a photo of you going at it. If you made some improvements to your station, share them with us.

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