



Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club



Issue 494

July 2013

Inside this issue:

VP/CC	4
Big Signal from K6KR	5
My Townhome Shack	8

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

**Monday, July 8, 2013**

**Time:**

6:00pm schmooz, 6:30pm dinner, 7:00pm program

**Location:**

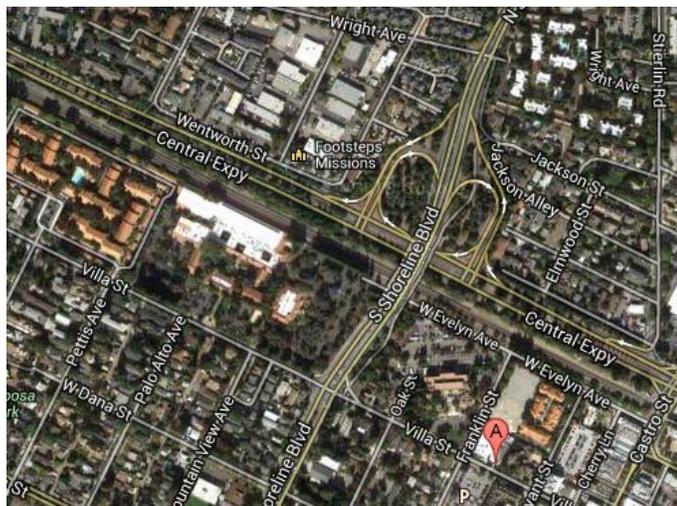
Tied House Brewery & Cafe, 954 Villa Street,  
Mountain View, CA 94041 ([\(650\) 965-2739](tel:6509652739))

**Program:**

1. Paul, N6PSE, reports on recent trip to North Korea (P5) to lay ground work for future DXpedition
2. Alan, AD6E, will cover plans for Sweepstakes club competition
3. Field Day debrief (send your pictures to K6SRZ)

**To register:**

Please RSVP to Tom NS6T here:  
[nccc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nccc.treasurer@gmail.com)



**From the President...**



**No good deed...**

Back in the days of freeform radio—when KFOG and KSAN filled the FM airwaves with Quicksilver and Janis and Jimi and the Dead to name just a few—the psychedelic newscasts were the work of one Wes “Scoop” Nisker. Scoop always closed his newscasts with the admonition that “if you don’t like the news, go out and make some of your own.”



From the now defunct psychedelic 60s "Good Times"

So what does this have to do with the NCCC?

Well, I get letters (email actually) complaining (in a benign way to be sure) that too many of our programs at our meetings that have to do with DXpeditions. “We’re a contest club, dammit,” they say, “leave the DXpeditions to NCDXC.”

continued on page 3



# Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

## Officers:

President	Alan Eshleman	K6SRZ	doctore@well.com	Penngrove CA
Vice President /Contest Chair	Alan Maenchen	AD6E	ad6e@arrl.net	San Jose, CA
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Epperly	NS6T	tepperly@gmail.com	Livermore CA
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Director	Fred Jensen	K6DGW	k6dgw@foothill.net	Auburn CA
Director	Steve Dyer	W1SRD	w1srd@arrl.net	Redwood City CA
Director	Jim Brown	K9YC	k9yc@arrl.net	Santa Cruz CA

## Volunteers:

New Member Mentor	Al Rendon	WT6K	wt6k@arrl.net
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	Rebar Rebarchik	N6DB	rebar@hamilton.com
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CQP Certificates	Andy Faber	AE6Y	ae6y@arrl.net
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Webmaster	John Miller	K6MM	k6mm@arrl.net
JUG Editor	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com

## Thursday Night Contesting:

NCCC—Sprint	Ken Keeler	N6RO	kenkeeler@jazznut.com
NS Ladder	Bill Haddon	N6ZFO	haddon.bill@gmail.com
Slow NS (SNS)	Chris Tate	N6WM	ctate@ewnetinc.com

### NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM  
 Freq: 3.610 +/-

### NCCC

Monthly meetings  
 take place on the  
 second Monday of  
 each month !

Details in May JUG

## NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, you must fill out an [application for membership](#), which will be read and voted upon at the next monthly meeting. ([PDF application form](#))

To join, you must reside within [club territory](#) which is defined as the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).

And I reply “I understand your point of view, but I have to work with what is there. Would YOU like to do a presentation?” Sadly, I’ve had few takers so far. And happily I also get thank you notes.

If I had had to run a competitive race for President of the NCCC, I would have run on a platform of wanting to keep NCCC at the forefront of radiosport and of keeping our meetings entertaining! After all, we come to the meetings to socialize with friends, enjoy a good meal, and generally have a good time. Sometimes a good time includes a seminar on contesting technique and other times a full-color video and sound presentation of a DXpedition.



N6YEU and KU6F at REDXA Field Day—Photo N6VAW

NCCC members go on lots of DXpeditions. When they get back, many are willing to share. Digital photography, Power-Point, iMovie, and a good story can make for a pretty entertaining programs.

Now, the good news for those who want the concentration to be solely on radiosport is that all the coming programs—from September through December—will be focused on contesting. And, with a touch of irony, at least two of our NCCC stalwarts (K6MM and AD6E) will be off on DXpeditions in the Pacific. I hope they’ll have a program or two to contribute sometime next year.

I hope you all had a great time for Field Day. Our July meeting will be at the Tied House in Mountain View and the program will be about a DXpedition-to-be, N6PSE’s report on advance work on a possible DXpedition to P5.

In August we’ll have our three-way NCCC, REDXA, MLDXCC meeting at the Rockville Grill ion Fairfield. I’m still exploring possible programs for that meeting and all contributions will be gratefully accepted.

73,

Alan/K6SRZ

## From the Vice President/Contest Chair...



RING!

Our club has around 600 members listed on the web-roster. Yet, looking at the recent (last year or so) contest results .. <http://www.nccc.cc/members/scores.html> .. I don't see more than about 100 active members. So what happened to the other 500 members?

I suspect they are still all lurking out there. Most are probably still interested in contesting. After all, they all HAD that interest when they joined the club in the first place. Some may be QRT for family or other personal reasons. Others may feel they aren't good enough to participate. 500 of them ???

First, let's step back and see how our roster became so bloated. For the past many years, successive BODs have set the required dues to zero. In our by-laws, the only way for a member to leave the club is by either resigning, or not paying dues. But with volunteer dues year after year, virtually no one ever drops off the roster. In a way, that's a good thing. Should an inactive member decide to become active again, they can still claim NCCC as their club. The club benefits at no cost. Granted, that doesn't happen very often, but I'm hoping it WILL happen this year.

I've reached out to many of our active members to form a "calling tree" in order to reach out to these lost members and ping them about their contesting interest, and see what can be done to get them more active. The response to this effort has been overwhelmingly positive. I now have about 40 volunteers manning the phone banks (so to speak). You will be called sometime this summer .. active or not.

My belief is that a personal phone call is MUCH more effective than an email, or worse; a massively spam-like email blast. I get enough of those as is, and they all are easily deleted. I also get a lot of robo-calls on the phone, so we do have that social issue to contend with. When that phone rings, and the caller ID is not an 800 number, please answer it. It may be your neighbor NCCCer calling to check up on you.

What I expect from this effort is that we may get "some" inactive members back into the active column again. That's good for the club, good for the individual, good for contesting in general. Along that path, I also expect to find that some lost members are inactive because they have technical or personal (training) problems. That's where WE, as a club, can help out. I'm proposing to the BOD that NCCC establish an Elmering committee. We had that several years ago, with an antenna committee, RFI committee, etc. Let's see if we can do both: Find lost members who need help to get QRV, and then get that help to make it all happen.

Suggestions along this line are always welcome.

## BIG SIGNAL FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST—K6KR'S NEW QTH

Club member Dick Dievendorff, K6KR, is well-known to many NCCers—a frequent operator at W7RN, K6IDX and other big stations. Dick and his wife Linda recently completed the construction of their new home on the North end of Whidbey Island. It is a superb radio location, as the photo below shows.

Recently Dick told me that he and my old friend from high school Steve Morris, K7LXC, were planning some antenna work, so I drove from East of Seattle, took the ferry to Whidbey Island, and wandered for an hour or so through very scenic country to the new location. It is truly an understatement to say that Dick and Linda have found a great contesting location: their beautiful home is perched on a cliff overlooking Skagit Bay, with the salt water 250 feet below. Old timers will think of Foul Weather Bluff and Rush Drake.

Here's what you see standing in the back yard looking East:



continued on page 6

Seventy feet of guyed Rohn 55 are actually located in the front yard, surrounded by 120 foot pine trees. At the top is a W6NL 40 meter Moxon. Below that is a 6 element K3LR design yagi for 20 meters. Both beams are rotated by a prop pitch rotator from NCCCr Kurt, K7NV. While I was there, Dick and Steve were installing the K0XG ring rotator for the 7 element 15 meter yagi. Plans are for a Tic Ring turning a 6 element 10 meter antenna, an InnovAntenna OP-DES. A HyTower will cover 80 and 160.

Dick rented a lift for the weekend, making it a bit easier on aging legs. Here's Dick and Steve installing the ring rotator:



continued on page 7

Standing in the driveway the tower and antennas offer an imposing view:



Like many NCCers, Dick has K3s in the shack, set up for SO2R. It would be a bit awkward if he didn't, as Dick now works full-time for Elecraft.

Aching backs and weather permitting, Dick should be done with the antenna work in time for the Fall contest season. Expect big things from this station—and don't be too surprised if you get beat in the pileups.

Kip Edwards, W6SZN

## My Townhome Shack - Byron N6NUL

### Summertime is Antenna Time

Field Day is behind us and that means it is time to begin working more seriously on antenna improvements here at My Townhome Shack. Field Day provided an excellent example of one kind of problem I will try to eliminate this summer.

Donald AE6RF and I operated as K6WC 1B2B for Field Day, QRP from one of our favorite campgrounds at Fremont Peak State Park. For this trip, I made a stealth 20/15 stealth beam out of Wireman #26 stealth wire, swivel clips, and 1/8" antenna rope. The idea was to try and make a lightweight beam antenna for backpacking.



Naturally, the [EZNEC model](#) for it is great, and I was very proud of its construction (Image 1 - Element to Support Detail) and low visibility.

Unfortunately, though, the antenna was far too fiddly a structure to set up.

Because I used rope for the element supports instead of a stiff frame, we were adjusting many guy lines to align the antenna. Eventually, we got the 20m elements aligned pretty well and the perceived effectiveness of the antenna went up dramatically in the radio tent. But, we were never able to really align the 15m elements. This is exactly the kind of problem I have had at My Townhome Shack.

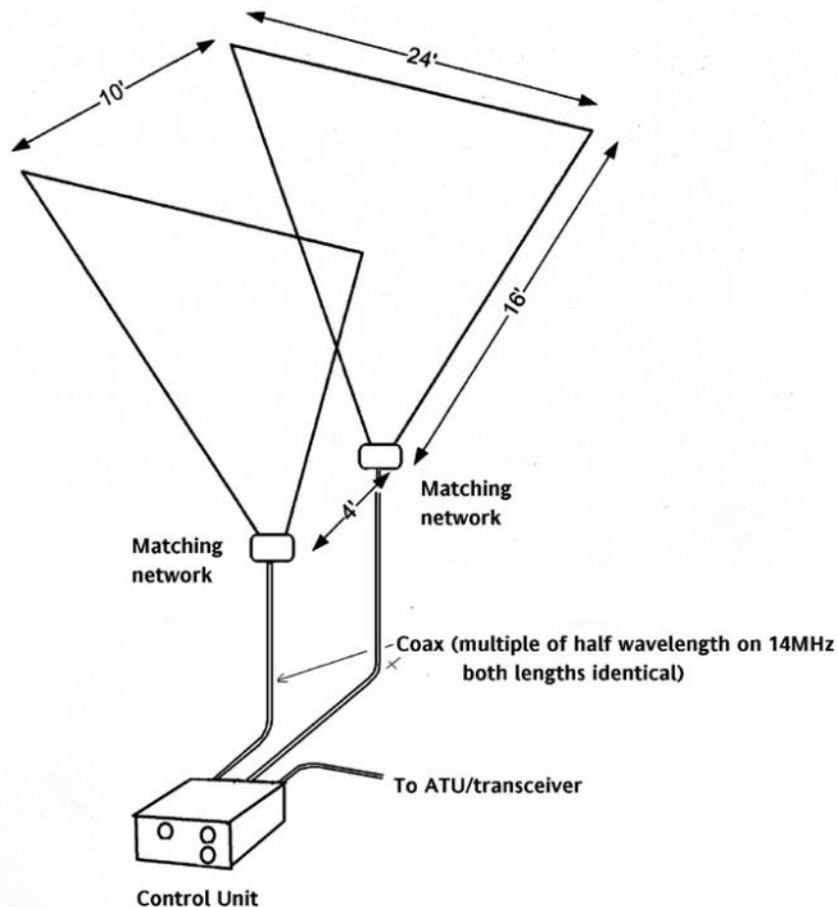
Image 1—Element to Support Detail

The past few years I have attempted to build over-the-roof wire beams for 20 and 15m (see Jug 492). All of the nearby metal makes the elements very difficult to tune (as the roof is too steep to walk on) and without any kind of rigid structure, they are very hard to align. My best efforts to date have not risen to the level of that elusive creature, the modest contest station!

A tower and tribander is not possible in my location, but as I have mentioned in previous articles, our HOA is pretty lenient so long as the visual aspects of my antennas are minimized. This is why wire over the roof is so appealing: black on black is difficult to see, and I can hide the feed lines on the side of the roof away from the neighbors.

This summer, I have decided to push the neighbor-friendly envelope and build a Moxon Claw (Image 2- Claw Schematic). This antenna is described by Les Moxon, G6XN (SK) in his book "HF Antennas for All Locations." More recently, the October and November 2012 issues of RADCOM contain a series of articles by Phil Harman, VK6APH, describing the antenna and its construction in detail.

For me, there are 3 features of this antenna that make it very appealing. First, it is arranged as a right triangle, so I can have 1 element of each loop rise parallel to my roofline, while the other extends over my back yard. My planned construction is a bit smaller than in Image 2, so the entire antenna will fit within my property (the flat top will be just less than 20 feet long), which is one of my station goals (see Jug 488).



Second, the antenna is fed at the bottom of the delta loop. This means I will be able to reach the feed points and antenna mounts without having to get up onto the roof (45 degrees is really steep and scary). And lastly, even if it doesn't work as a beam, I will have more wire in the air and off of the tile of my roof than ever before; that has to be an improvement.

Of lesser consequence, but still appealing, I will build the matching and coupling mechanisms for the antenna myself, and building my radio gear is another goal. Also, I will be constructing an antenna out of aluminum tubes for the first time.

While I'm doing all this antenna work, I will also follow the advice in Jim K9YC's paper on "[160m Antennas for Small Lots](#)" and replace my 16 buried #14 wire radials with galvanized wire cloth as a the ground screen for my 80/160m inverted L. And, since I'll be ordering aluminum anyway, I may replace the vertical portion of this antenna with aluminum tubes.

So, it's going to be a busy summer at My Townhome Shack! As always, I welcome your feedback. And if you have plans for your small station this summer, let us all know on the reflector; it's always great to get more ideas for future projects!

73, Byron N6NUL  
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