

The Contest JUG



Newsletter of the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
Post Office Box 2025
Castro Valley, California 94546

An Oasis of Mediocrity
in a Desert of Quality

No. 32
January 1975

President: W6RGG. VP/Contest Chmn: WB6AIN. Sec/Treas: WA6NLQ. Directors: W6HQN, W6OAT, W6PAA.
Ink-Stained Wretch: W1ARR/6. Folder, Stapler, Spindler and Mutilator: WA6NLQ.

NCCC Net meets every Tuesday night on or about 3815 kHz at 7 PM local. NCCC repeater, WR6ADM, operates on 449.2 MHz input, 444.2 output. All club members are encouraged to participate.

PREVIEW OF COMING DISTRACTIONS

Jan. 27	NCCC club meeting, American S&L Bldg, Hayward, 7:30 PM
Feb. 1- 2	ARRL DX Competition (phone)
1- 9	ARRL Novice Roundup
15-16	ARRL DX Competition (CW)
24	NCCC club meeting, American S&L Bldg, Hayward, 7:30 PM
Mar. 1- 2	ARRL DX Competition (phone)
15-16	ARRL DX Competition (CW)
24	NCCC club meeting, American S&L Bldg, Hayward, 7:30 PM

FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM PRESIDENT VALLIO. Our Club President, W6RGG, is cheerful and outgoing. On the evening of January 27, he will become even more outgoing and we will become cheerful. Since the JUG editor believes that every dog should have his day, we have allotted space for Bob's valliodyctory message to his flock. The following is a paid political announcement:

This is my last chance to receive priority treatment from ole "R&R" Hill, so you may not be seeing too much more from me in future issues! It is, however, a pleasure to write my last monthly column as your president in such a professionally edited and well-written club publication as the JUG! ((Ed. Note: You see how much good flattery did him.))

It does appear that the NCCC has at last made its presence felt on the national contest scene. We have a long way to go, to be sure, but I think we're well on the way. There are many reasons for our past successes, too numerous to mention here, but the main ingredient has been our active membership.

If we are to continue to grow in stature as a contest club, it will be those active members who make it possible. There is a large group of potential leaders in our Club, but the best generals can't win the battles without plenty of good troops in the trenches. Let's keep that in mind for the future. Operate all you can, when you can, and send in those logs. Send in your scores to the VP/Contest Chairman

so he can get them counted for NCCC.

Attend meetings as often as you can, and when you have an idea, bring it up from the floor or write it to the JUG editor for publication. Take an active role in the Club, each and every one of you, and there will be a new pecking order in national club competition. I believe 1975 will be the year for NCCC; now let's prove it!

I wish to thank all of you for your support of the Club during my term as president -- especially the other officers and directors: WB6AIN, WA6NLQ, W6HQN, W6OAT and W6PAA, and W1ARR, editor of a club publication without parallel. Last but not least, those of you who supported the Club by operating our stations, turning in your logs, recruiting new members, helping others with their problems, getting on our repeater and helping to get it on the air, checking into the 75-meter net, attending meetings and being active in Club affairs.

Let's make 1975 the year of the NCCC. We can do it if we try, and a good way to start it all out is to attend the January 27 meeting and elect the new officers to lead us through this year of challenge. 73 -- Bob, W6RGG.

And so, breathing a bit heavily from his eloquent exertions, Ol' Blood and (Especially) Guts Vallio sets off down the long, lonely road to San Cle . . . to Castro Valley -- soon to be an Elder Statesperson, forgotten but not gone. His last audible words, uttered in a kind of shriek, were "Your president is not a lid." And we shall all sleep a little bit better each night, knowing that W6RGG is our past president.

Forsaking levity for the moment (with some reluctance), your JUG editor would like to express his gratitude and stuff to Bob Vallio for his conscientious leadership over the past year of rapid Club growth. Fortunately, Bob will be serving on the Board of Directors next year, thus assuring NCCC that we'll continue to have the benefit of his help. Tnx from all of us, Radio Goo Goo. And special tnx for your good-natured acceptance of unrelenting JUG insults!

THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN AIN. Chairman Ain did not have a single Thought this month. In fact, Dean has been out of town most of the month, apparently in the fond hope that by absenting himself he would escape his customary monthly skewering in the JUG.

Pusillanimous little feller, ain't he? But some people will always take the coward's way out. Since the grass-roots reform movement is about to sweep him out of office, along with Vallio and the rest, we take this opportunity to thank Dean for his considerable efforts on behalf of NCCC over the past year. The VP/CC job is a heavy burden that Dean shouldered admirably. Tnx, OM!

NEW TROOPS. Our swell ranks were further swelled in December with the addition of two new members. Say hello to:

WA6DJI Hensley J. Morehen
81 Cielito Drive
San Francisco, CA 94134
(H: 587-3315 W: 986-0511)

WB6LPK Bruce P. Swearingen
1204 Awalt Drive
Mountain View, CA 94040
(H: 967-0194 W: 493-6800 x-48)

NEW POOP ON OLD TROOPS. Living in California is certainly a moving experience. Here are the latest moving experiences:

K6AHV 184 Lombardy Lane
Orinda, CA 94563
(H: 254-2323)

WIARR/6 1626 Bonita Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709
(phone # still 549-3963)
QSY effective February 1

W7CFJ/6 (W: 408-249-5500)

W6PAA (W: 408-249-5500)

WA6UZA 123 McGivern Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(no phone)

THE CHRISTMAS/AWARDS BANQUET was wholly FB, with about fifty members and guests, good food, good booze, and an excellent program highlighted by the Club Awards ceremony, which elicited much raucous laughter (intentionally) and cheers. Your editor will always cherish the award he received, whatever the hell it was. If you missed it, you missed a good one. 'Twas a great opportunity to get to know your fellow NCCC'er and confirm your suspicion that you wouldn't want your sister to marry one.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL. The next regular meeting of the Northern California Contest Club will take place on Monday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 PM. QTH: American Savings & Loan Bldg, 22533 Foothill Blvd, Hayward.

On the agenda: election of new officers, tape/slide presentation of PJ9GIW DXpedition, discussion of ARRL DX Competition.

The AS&L building is located between A and B Streets in downtown Hayward; any decently detailed road-map will get you there. There's ample parking behind the building. Enter from the rear and walk up to the 2nd floor. Follow the sound of pandemonium.

After the meeting, we adjourn to a nearby Round Table Pizza joint for unrestrained revelry. All stout hearts are invited!

BULLETIN BOARD. For Sale: KWS-1, 75A-4. Make offer. (WB6CEP, work # 642-1871.)

SSUCCESSFUL SSCORERS. A recent ARRL official Bulletin reveals the following '74 SS high claimed scores:

CW: W6RR (W6RTT) 172,350; W7RM (K7VPF) 168,150; W6MAR 163,800; K7NHV 161,550; WA7NIN (W6OAT) 160,800; K4PUZ 156,074; W9YT (K9ZSE) 154,800; W6HX (WB6OLD) 154,500; W6NUT 153,750; K4GSU 153,446.

PHONE: W6HX (WB6OLD) 256,800; WA0CVS (WB0DJY) 249,300; W6RR (W6RTT) 237,244; WB2OEU 226,200; WA7NIN (W6OAT) 219,000; K7NHV 218,700; WB5DTX (WA3GBU) 218,520; W5MYA 216,000; WA5JMK 215,700; K0ZCM (W0LBP) 209,124.

→ NCCC -- #1 CLUB IN '75 SS. CAN DO! ←

SEDIMENT. While dining out recently at a Chinese restaurant, W6HQN opened his fortune cookie and found himself the recipient of the following message: "You like to have your own way, and are, on occasion." . . . The JUG's hard-hitting investigative reporter, W6OAT, passes along a number of tidbits, to wit: W6KHI has added another 10-foot section to his tower; should make a vast improvement in his signal. . . . WB6AIN is now actually on the air from his own home. . . . W6OAT is finally on the 450 MHz repeater -- and already experiencing rig problems. . . . UA0FGM will be on 3583 kHz both weekends of the ARRL DX Test (CW). He's also on 3503 or 3583 every Monday at 1200Z looking especially for ME, VT, RI, WV and IA (IA?) . . . W6OAT got his 40 WPM certification from ARRL. . . . Contrary to rumor the National Contest Journal is doing OK. I would do even OK'er with more subscriptions. If interested, drop a line to its editor: Tod Olson (W0IYP), 292 Heather Lane, Long Lake, MN 55356. (Tnx all the info, Rusty.) By the way, NCJ subscription rates are modest: \$2 a year.

MORE SEDIMENT. W6RGG comes through with a few more items: W6OKK would like to put on a big multi-multi effort in both modes of the ARRL DX Test. Pat boasts a 4L quad and an all-around good setup. Interested in operating? Contact him or WB6DSV. . . . The NCCC QSL Card Committee (W6OKK, chairman) has its proposed card QRV for display and approval at the Jan. 27th meeting. Orders will also be taken. . . . The 75-meter net is doing pretty good business on 3815 every Tuesday at 7 PM. The roster of those NCCC'ers who have checked in reads like a veritable What's This: K6OZL, WA6JVD, WA6HAF (WA6GMR), WA6AHF, K6EBB, WA6LHN, W6HQN, WA6UZA, WB6DSV, W6OAT, W6KHI, W6RNF, W6RGG, K6CQF, VE3DXV/W6, W6NJU, W6OWQ, WA6GFY (WB6EXW). Let's keep the net growing. . . . Armed Forces Day is May 17. If you're interested in enlisting for duty as one of the NPG ops, let it be known at the meeting.

A USEFUL SUGGESTION. Jim Rafferty, WA9-UCF/6, proposes a major change in the ARRL SS, viz.: allow contacts with a station on each of the 5 bands and allow the 75 multipliers on each of the 5 bands. Why? (1) It would boost the 5B-WAS award. (2) It would make the SS a real challenge, requiring extra strategy to nail all 375 multipliers. (3) It would place more emphasis on operator ability, less on station setup. (4) It would allow stations active only on some bands to see as much contest excitement as the all-band stations. He adds that logging and duping would be no more difficult than in the ARRL DX Test.

What's your reaction, gang?

PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF. A newspaper clipping from WA6NLQ informs us that a 92-year-old Berkeley man was recently critically burned when he fell while attempting to get out of bed, became entangled in the cord of an electric clock that shorted out and ignited his night clothing and bed covers. The man is a retired electrician. (It's not funny, but there must be a moral there someplace.)

Novice Contest Seminar
by Bill Zachary, WB6CEP

The Novices of today are the potential NCCC'ers of tomorrow. So let's start the new year off right by giving them a nudge in that direction.

This year's Novice Roundup contest starts February 1 at 0000 GMT (see January QST for details). If you are a dyed-in-the-wool CW nut and are ignoring ARRL DX phone, think about inviting a group of local Novices over to your shack for a few hours to talk about contesting -- and actually give it a try.

At the UCARC (W6BB), our tentative pro-

cedure will be as follows:

- (1) Obtain a list of interested persons at our next meeting.
- (2) Get a photocopy of the NR rules to each i.p. before the contest starts.
- (3) Meet at W6BB on Friday evening (40/80) or Saturday noon (15/10) as determined by member preference.
- (4) Run through the rules; try a few sample exchanges on a code-practice oscillator.
- (5) Verbally go over operation of the rig, then demonstrate these points; then lead into contest strategy.
- (6) Make a contact or two (at slow speeds) to show how it's done.
- (7) Let 'em have at it, with encouragement and suggestions as seems appropriate.

Your local club or high school is a good source of Novices, or get one Novice you know to spread the word. Point out that only 30 hours of operation are allowed over a 9-day period, so there will be plenty of time for the Novice to apply his new-found knowledge at his/her own station (and probably make a better rate, too!).

CQ NR CQ NR DE W6BB/WN6XXX K.

(Ed. Note: Many NR participants are really sharp Novice operators. WN's in general have come a long way since those days when the NR was smilingly referred to as the Nervous Round-up!)

Avoiding Duplicate DX QSO's
by Stu Carp, WA6NLQ

Those of you who attended the January 1974 meeting may recall the contest forum directed by W6PAA. During the discussion, one of the favorite topics of West Coast testers was bounced around the room by such successful "rate men" as W6PAA, K6AHV and W6RRR. The subject was: what do you do about JA's and duplicate QSO's? The consensus seemed to be that it was faster to work a station a second time than to try getting the message across that the two of you had already QSO'd.

It wasn't until the CQ CW contest that I had a chance to experiment and find what I consider an acceptable alternative. Why is it so difficult to explain to a foreign station that you've already QSO'd? First off, he probably doesn't speak much English. Second, when you send to him, you abbreviate the words. That's fine if he understands the abbreviated form of the word or phrase. But if he doesn't, how will he be able to figure out a message in a language he doesn't know, if you don't even send the correct spelling of the words?

If you are going to use a standard universal CW abbreviation, make sure it's as universal as you think! If I spoke very little English and you sent me the contest exchange "QSO B4,"

would reply "TNX FOR INFO -- I NEED CHINA
PER MULTIPLIER -- QRG?" You might think "B4"
is a well-understood abbreviation, and you're
right -- in Sweepstakes.

Thinking that confusion arises because of
"B4," I tried another message. It didn't make
sense in terms of English grammar or syntax
(Ed. Note: sounds like the JUG), but that's
probably why it worked so well. I just sent
"QSO SRI." It was nonsense to me, but it
worked. Evidently SRI is better misunderstood
than B4. I don't recall a single station that
didn't get the idea. In fact, as a test, a
couple of times I sent QSO SRI followed by BK.
Each time, the reply was something like SRI or
TU.

To me, this was proof: if he didn't come
back with an exchange, he must have understood.
I became so confident I could now politely
discourage duplicate callers that I would send
QSO SRI SK CQ TEST DE . . . K" and take for
granted that the dupe would not call again. I
was not disappointed.

What the Devil You Running, OM?
by Stu Carp, WA6NLQ

Some of our more recent members may not be
aware that we used to hold meetings at members'
homes. (Or perhaps that's why you waited till
now to join?) No one will ever forget the
summertime feast at K6SSJ's or playing cars
with John Vallio. But we're too big for that
now (all except John) and the meetings these
days are held at institutions of high finance.

I really miss that opportunity to see the
stations that fellows have put together. It
was a good lesson to learn that some of the
top scores came from stations using tribanders
and fewer than five S-Lines, and that the
floor beneath Ken Keeler's operating desk
looked like a warehouse for a footswitch manu-

facturer.

Since it is unlikely that most of the club
members will get to visit your station, why
don't you send the JUG editor a description of
your setup? We could start a station profile
column. Maybe you've found a way to interface
two pieces of gear that could save someone
else hours of trouble. Maybe someone would
like to ask you how you like a certain receiver
before he trades his old one off on some un-
suspecting Murphy's member. If we all know
what equipment other members are using, we can
trade information to improve our stations.

It should be an important part of NCCC mem-
bership that each of us knows fellow contesters
who can lend a hand when we need information or
muscle. Do you hesitate to put up a new an-
tenna because you're short of manpower? No ex-
cuse! The Club should have a Beam Team / Quad
Squad on the ready, to help members maximize
their station potential. The NCCC should be
more than a place to report your contest scores
and watch the president perform once a month.
GET INVOLVED!

(Ed. Note: As a name for our antenna-help
crew, WB6CEP has suggested the Erector Set!
Love it, love it, love it.)

* * * * *

With the exception of another article by
WA6NLQ (this one having to do with antenna de-
sign), plus a summary of CQ WW scores (which we
don't have yet), the JUG is once again drained.
In the best environmental tradition, our JUG is
of the refill-and-use-again variety (though
there are those who call it a throwaway). But
virtually all the refilling is done by a few
members in the SF-Berkeley axis of the Club.

Rather than continue to plead monthly for
more input, we will simply put out a shorter
JUG unless material is forthcoming.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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