



# NEXT NCCC MEETING

**Monday, August 9th**

**HP Santa Clara**

**6:30 Pizza and Shmooze**

**7PM meeting**

**Program: Elecraft K2 Transceiver**

**MORE INFO INSIDE**

**and you can *always* check:**

**<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>**

**for a map and directions!**

## NCCC OFFICERS

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## August Contest Dates

European HF Championship	Aug 7
10-10 Int. Summer, SSB	Aug 7-8
ARRL UHF	Aug 7-8
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 7-8
WAE DX , CW	Aug 14-15
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 14-15
SARTG WW RTTY	Aug 21-22
SEANET WW DX, SSB	Aug 21-22
Keyman's Club of Japan	Aug 21-22
North American QSO Party, SSB	Aug 21-22
New Jersey QSO Party	Aug 21-22
TOEC WW Grid, CW	Aug 28-29
Ohio QSO Party	Aug 28-29
Hawaii QSO Party	Aug 28-29
South Dakota QSO Party	Aug 28-29

## September Contest

### Summary

### Date

All Asian DX, SSB	Sep 4-5
<b>North American Sprint, CW</b>	<b>Sep 5</b>
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Sep 11-13
North American Sprint, Phone	Sep 12
Washington State Salmon Run	Sep 18-19
Tennessee QSO Party	Sep 19-20
CQ Worldwide DX, RTTY	Sep 25-26

Full details are on WA7BNM's up-to-date web site:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

# Ruler Schuller

I hope that everyone is having a great summer. There is still plenty of time to work on your station to get it in tip-top shape for the upcoming contest season. With conditions at levels that seem to be better than the last few years, it looks like the 1999-2000 fall contest season could be one of the better ones we've seen recently.

Speaking of 2000 (!), I'm sure that you are all aware that the NCCC is one of the 9 clubs in the US that can nominate a team for WRTC 2000. The team is made up of 2 members; one from the NCCC, and one non-member. I am pleased to announce the formation of the NCCC WRTC 2000 Nominating Committee. It is: Steve Merchant, K6AW, Chair, Rusty Epps, W6OAT, Ken Anderson, K6DB, and Rich Hallman, N7TR. You will be receiving a letter from the committee shortly, outlining the selection process. I'm sure that the NCCC team will be one that we can be proud of.

As we approach CQP, the club is looking for volunteers to help out in many areas. We need people to help with mailings, publicity, and other general areas. If you would like to volunteer, contact Al, AD6E (or any board member). Not only does CQP kick off the Fall contest season, but it also is the Premier State QSO Party.....and we intend to keep it that way!

The August NCCC Meeting will be at HP in Santa Clara. The topic will be a presentation by Eric, WA6HHQ, head of Elecraft. He will give a presentation on the new K2 transceiver that is being produced by Elecraft. This is a very interesting rig. It looks like a great contest expedition radio (with the optional P.A.), plus....it's a KIT! There has been a lot of interest in this rig; the ARRL lab got their hands on one and didn't want to give it back. Come and see what many are talking about. In September, we will have our meeting at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Oakland. The subject will be (naturally) CQP. There will be 2 meetings in October... Bay Area at the South Beach Yacht Club, with SS the topic, and one in the Reno area on October 16. For those of you in Nevada and Eastern California, this will be a more convenient chance for us to get together in person. Tom, K5RC, is planning a great event!

As you know, we are pointing again for a Sweepstakes win. It's going to take a big effort by all of us. If any of you have any ideas, tips, or thoughts on

preparing your station (or yourself), please share them with us. Either send them in to George, K6GT, for inclusion in the JUG, or use the NCCC email reflector. Better yet, do both! I know that there is a lot of experience out there... and what you may think is a simple (or basic) idea could be new to someone else.

Regarding the NCCC email reflector... this is a great way to disseminate information quickly and efficiently. Please remember that it is for contest related items only. Items relating to other clubs, or non-contest oriented material should not be posted to the NCCC reflector.

I hope that everyone enjoys the rest of the summer. (I'm writing this while on vacation at Lake Tahoe!!) See you at the August meeting.

73, Ed, K6CTA

## DOUBLE CROSS

August and September. The calm before the season begins. Long hours of daylight and limited contesting make this the best antenna working season of the year. Take this opportunity to improve your outdoor hardware before the rigors of CQP, CQWW, and SS are upon us.

### Sprints

One contest of note is the CQ Sprint, with its team competition. As this JUG goes to press, there is furor over the NCJ's (the Sprint sponsor) decision to change the weekend of both the CW and phone sprints. Just after my JUG deadline, K7BV announced the original dates will prevail, so CW will again be the first Saturday (Sunday UTC) of September. Phone will occur the second Sunday 12 September. That means the NCCC "Always Finishes in Second Place" CW sprint team will strive for First on September 4 (0000Z September 5). Scott, W6CT, will soon be assigning teams of the faithful for this event. **Let's win this time, OK?**

### IARU HFWC

Conditions were great for July's big event. Fifteen was open to Europe much of the day, and was open somewhere most of the day. The contest was much better than any in the past decade, as the WRTC-2000 boys were out to impress the masses. My only disappointment was the glaring lack of JAs, especially on the lower bands.

### QSL? QRZ?

Contemplating higher rates during contest runs, we observe a few semi-common practices that waste precious time. The first two time-wasters are generally

heard from the searchers answering our CQ's and the third is common to phone band CQ'ers.

1. Sending/saying "QSL" instead of "R" or ROGER". Especially on CW, where this practice takes 33 dit lengths instead of only 7, it is wasteful and exasperating, especially since most of its practitioners are generally near the noise level.

2. Appending the hated suffix "/QRP". Why do so many operators insist on advertising their weakness—to both of our detriment!?! I cringe whenever I hear "/QRP", not due to hatred of the operator's chosen handicap (heck, I still WANT the QSO!), but because I fear that some hyperaggressive operator will plop down a fast CQ during Mr. /QRP's exchange, obliterating the reply and endangering my run frequency. Signing "/QRP" does NOT hold the same attraction as "/KH1"—I simply do not care about the other guy's chosen handicap; let's just get on with the QSO.

3. Clearing with "Q R Zed". While Carl, P49V, instructs us to simply send our callsign, I believe a W6 must be a bit more polite when running and transmit "Thanks! K6ZM Contest." This is the same number of syllables as K6ZM QRZed, but communicates a much clearer and friendlier message. Thank goodness virtually no CW contesteer sends "QRZ" after a QSO. The short & sweet "TU" says it all.

What should we do about the ops that cost us time and reduce our rates? Set a good example both during runs and when searching; an example the inexperienced will recognize as superior, and, one hopes, emulate. Complaining about the practices of our run "customers" wastes further time and tends to turn off other potential callers. (However, a snide comment regarding a CQer's poor procedure may be therapeutic—to you—and might even cause the lid to reconsider his practices. On the other hand, it might just waste more of your precious time.)

73 & CU in the Sprint  
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 (408) 258-1015  
 10028 Bon Vista Ct.  
 San Jose, 95127

# SCORES

IARU HFVC

Call	QSOs	Mults	Total
K6AW (at K6KM)	1601	157	1,039,497
K7BV	1470	154	972,048
AD6E	508	87	168,432
K6CTA	404	79	115,972
K6III	264	88	86,152
VA7RR (at VE7SZ)	2519	219	2,418,855
KH6RS (NU6S)	1670	136	1,396,524
K6XX (@ W6RN)	1355	158	849,836
4M1X (K2KW, N6TV, K6KM, YV5EED)	3279	197	3,133,679
NN6NN (N6EE, W6XK)	1091	156	709,956

## Canada Day

Call	CW	Ph	Mults	Total
N6RO	304	537	90	657,360
VA7RR	505	1019	25	233,150

# AUGUST MEETING

**Place:** Building 50, Hewlett-Packard Santa Clara, 5301 Stevens Creek Boulevard, right at the intersection of 280 and Lawrence Expressway.

**Menu :** Pizza, from "Give Pizza Chance" for about \$6, or \$2.50 per slice, or whatever is decided.

**Program:** 6PM, schmooze; 6:30PM Pizza; 7PM Election of Officers, followed by "The Elecraft K2 Transceiver" presented by Eric, WA6HHQ.

**Parking :** In the lot in front of Building 50.

# ARE YOUR DUES OVERDUE?

If you haven't renewed, then your dues are OVERDUE! Go to the last page, fill out the form, and mail it and your check to AEOM, now, so you don't forget it!

# HOW I INSTALLED A

# NEW CRANK-UP TOWER:

## A photo story (Part 1)

First, I got my wife's permission to saw a hole in her patio. Then, I got the city's permission for the project, in the form of a building permit. Then I hired a man with a concrete saw to cut the hole in the patio. (Hint: It's best not to let the XYL see this step.) Then I started digging!



I dug some more! In fact, I dug a lot!



When I thought I couldn't dig any more, I built a big rebar cage, and hung it in the hole from some wooden forms. I had the hole inspected by the city, which gave me permission to pour concrete in... to fill up the hole I had just dug!



The photo above shows a city-approved hole!

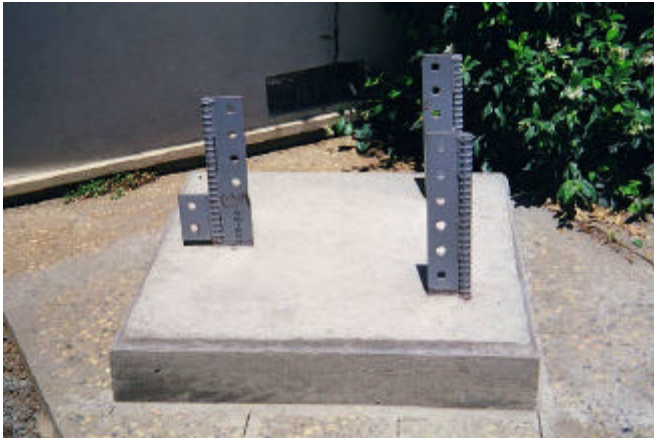


Next I bought a load of concrete, and hired a pump and a long hose, like the rig shown above. This was used to put 9000 pounds of concrete into my city-approved, XYL-approved hole in a bit under three minutes!



After the concrete had set for just a few minutes, the top was smoothed off, and I let it cure for a day or so.





I removed the forms, and I had a place to bolt my new tower!

The most annoying part of the process so far has been seeing the hole, into which so much work was put, filled up so quickly!

What did I do with the dirt I took out of the hole? I dug a hole and buried it!

Next, I have to hire a platoon of marines, or maybe get a couple of gorillas, to carry out the next step in the tower instruction book. "Tilt the tower to the the upright position" it says. It reminds me of the recipe for hassenpfeffer that begins "First, catch your rabbit." Some things are truly easier said than done!

73, K6GT

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e – mail address: _____	TOTAL enclosed ..... _____

**I'd like to get my JUG at the NCCC website each month, and donate the savings to the general fund!**

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Tony Becker, AEØM  
 3273 – B Rocky Water Lane  
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Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.  
So. from Hwy. 101

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