



NEXT NCCC MEETING
DATE: Monday, January 11, 1999
INFO & DIRECTIONS INSIDE
and you can *always* check:
<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>

CQ 160-M, CW 2200Z, Jan 29 - 1600Z, Jan 31
 REF Contest, CW 0600Z, Jan 30 - 1800Z, Jan 31

de K6AW

We had a terrific Christmas Banquet at the Pleasanton Hotel with 57 persons joining in the festivities. Santa (Tom, N6BT) was there (but Bonnie-the-elf had the flu and stayed home) to greet us all with interesting quizzes and games. He also narrated a "rough draft" version of the 6Y2A slideshow. (This was an extremely "rough" draft since the group had just gotten back three days previously -- AF7Y provided the A-V equipment and digital images and hadn't known he was going to do it until 5:00 p.m. the night of the banquet.) It was wonderful to see everyone -- I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season.

Ten meters is definitely coming back! Several NCCC members got on for the ARRL 10M Contest and had good fun working all over the world again -- there were even some small EU openings both days, although Sunday seemed a little better. I'm really glad to see the overall level of activity in the club on the increase. More people are getting on for more contests. In particular K5RC (as K7GJ), K7BV and K3EST did extremely well in this event. The other year-end contests were the ARRL 160, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge on 160M and the RAC Canada Winter Contest -- N6RO probably operated in all of these at the same time.

The New Year brings opportunities for all of us to get on for contests we missed or avoided last year, and to see if we can demolish our old personal records. For those of you who enjoy domestic contests, the January NAQP's are good fun and they should be pretty action-packed this time since 10M will be a real factor for a change. Some of us will be on for the ARRL RTTY Roundup (I'll be testing some new software), the JIDXC

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Contest Calendar

- ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 2 - 2400Z, Jan 3
 Japan Int. DX, 160-40m 2200Z, Jan 8 - 2200Z, Jan 10
 Midwinter Contest, CW 0700Z - 1900Z, Jan 9
 Hunting LIONS 0900Z, Jan 9 - 2100Z, Jan 10
 NA QSO Party, CW 800Z, Jan 9 - 0600Z, Jan 10
 Midwinter Contest, Phone 700Z - 1900Z, Jan 10
 NA QSO Party, Phone 800Z, Jan 16 - 0600Z, Jan 17
 ARRL Jan. VHF SS 1900Z, Jan 23 - 0400Z, Jan 25

and the CQ 160M CW Contest. February brings a ton of good contests -- the NA Sprints, CQWW RTTY WPX, ARRL DX CW, and CQ 160M SSB, and many others.

In the next issue of the JUG, you'll find a report from Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Lab Supervisor on the outcome of his investigation into a 3.5 MHz interference problem first reported to ARRL by members of NCCC. We are certainly fortunate to have so many talented engineers in our ranks to provide the necessary data for this to have gone forward so quickly. We are also fortunate to have a Division Director and Vice Director who are NCCC members and who keep their ears close to the ground on matters such as these.

For you DXers out there, NCCCer Trey Garlough, N5KO left December 26 for Wellington en route to Campbell Island as a member of the ZL9CI expedition. Look for them on the air in early January.

I hope to see you all at the South Bay Yacht Club in San Francisco on January 11 at 6:00 p.m. Our program will be a presentation by the CQWW World Champion Multi-Multi winners from 6Y2A. It will be an exciting show!

73 de Steve K6AW

Help Wanted

It's getting to be the time of the year when we are hunting for a few good folks to take over the day-to-day operation of the club for next year. If you have an interest in helping out in any capacity, please drop me a note at merchant@garlic.com and I'll send you a set of job descriptions for your review. Thanks!

K6AW

DIRECTIONS TO THE JANUARY MEETING



Seeing this sign will indicate that you've found the right place for the January meeting!

Time: 6:00PM social hour, 7:00 PM dinner, 7:30PM meeting

Location: South Beach Yacht Club, Pier 40, SF

The menu isn't decided yet, but will be two great choices as usual. Price including soft drinks, tax, and tip will be the same ... \$10. Call Al, AD6E, to make your reservation and dinner choice (he'll know what's available) by Friday the 8th (408) 725-3534 or E-mail ad6e@aol.com. Remember ... families, guests, prospective new members, etc. are always welcome!

Directions to SBYC

From the SOUTH: take 280 North to its end which turns into King Street. Follow King for a few blocks until it merges onto The Embarcadero. Turn right into the Pier 40 parking lot—if the parking spaces are filled, drive into the building on the pier for more spaces. The SBYC is the first building next to the yacht harbor, right off the parking lot and adjacent to the pier building just noted for additional parking.

From the NORTH: Get on The Embarcadero and Pier 40 is just South of the Bay Bridge. Turn into the Pier 40 parking lot and follow instructions above.

From the EAST: Come over the Bay Bridge and get on The Embarcadero to Pier 40 just South of the bridge. Turn into the Pier 40 parking lot and follow instructions above.

TIME TO GIVE THANKS!

(the trials and tribulations of overseas operations)

Hello Everyone from Scotland,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe I've survived a bit over a year in the nether regions of Northern Scotland but somehow it has occurred. After a year I have managed to get through the reciprocal licensing nightmare, the even more daunting RAE exams and am now fully entrenched in the UK ham radio contest scene.

After the bureaucratic nightmare, perfected by the Brits in centuries of colonial dealings, the first license finally arrived. My first license, a 6 month reciprocal, was MM/N7OP. (No, not GM/N7OP as I expected.) After several hundred QSO's I finally had to tell people up front that I wasn't on a boat, didn't own a boat and definitely was not maritime mobile. This definitely slows the contest exchanges. Half the QSL's and SWL requests to date have asked the name of my vessel.

The obstacles to ham radio operation in the north of Scotland are many. I was one of only one in northern Scotland that took the written exams when I tested in the last twice a year event. The fees to hire a proctor and a hall for the exam cost about \$170. While waiting for a CW exam, I received a Class B license (No Code)

and callsign MM1DDU so I could try and find a DX packet cluster. After many VHF/UHF antenna construction efforts to get a signal over the highlands I gave up on that. There is not a DX cluster within 300 miles of here.

The CW exam (only \$40) given by an elderly Scottish gentleman some months later was something I shall never forget. The CW key he produced for the sending exam would be a Straight Key Night special cover edition for QST. It had to be at least two feet long and the sending pad was at least 5 inches in diameter. The table shook violently when he administered my receiving portion of the test. I could have copied it through the seismic waves alone. Sending on such a large instrument was a unique experience. After the long wait to find and schedule a CW exam I got my current license a few months later. Watch for my call in the contests: MM0BYC. (Mickey Mouse Zero Big Yellow Cheese).

Antennas are not a fact of life over here. Any antenna over the size of a CB whip antenna is intensely scrutinized and the talk of the village. Being a "crazy" American has some advantages in that zany things are expected (and tolerated) of me. I finally put up an outdoor antenna this last weekend. It was an unimposing Cushcraft R6000 multiband vertical on top of a "towering" 10 foot mast. The top barely made 35 feet. It stopped traffic on the small main road some 50 feet and two fences away. I erected it after dark (4PM around here) and before the last bolt was tightened I had a crowd of neighbour kids interrogating me. I will soon be putting the antenna and mast on a tip over structure as to allow traffic to pass on the road when I am not operating. (The local constable will be relieved.) The gale force winds which constantly gust here also have put a slight lean into the antenna after only a weekend of operation so I will be attempting to extend its life by tipping it over when the wind is over a hundred knots. The sheep and highland coos (cows) have guy wires as well.

I did the RSGB 21/28 contest as Single operator, non-assisted, QRP, with a wire sloper and from the early indications of the contest adjudicators (judges) I may have won for Scotland in that category. Should know soon.

The 1998 ARRL 10 Meter contest this last weekend was fun. I stepped up to Single operator, non assisted, QRO (50 watts.....a S unit down from the max power allowed over here), the aforementioned new vertical and worked 271 contacts and 76 multipliers in 17 hours of ops. It was fun to do SSB again and the band was pretty good.

I worked most of the states except for KL7, KH6 and a few 7's. I now see why 7 call signs cause such a stir over here!

So, contesting over here means: No large antennas, usually low power and no DX cluster. It's good practice, I guess. The concept of a N6IJ type station would be a national treasure over here. (*It is here, too! ... ed*)

I've had no trouble working a DXCC over here. I will have to get all the cards of course, but the close proximity of countries over here makes it too easy. I do miss the Pacific Islands, and I would kill to hear signals like Jim Smith, VK9NS booming in across the water but instead I get to listen to hundreds of IK9's and DK's in pileups.

I take back anything I ever said about W5's and 6's in pileups. Compared to the QRM over here the loudest, most obnoxious of the US crowd is a gentleman compared to the behavior over here. I see why DX peditions have to spend so much time "controlling" the crowds in Europe. The concept of split operation and listening seems unfathomable to most.

I heard AA6EG in the California QSO party on 15 a while back. I was working the RSGB qrp contest so couldn't get back to him. Winter is here and cw on 80 and 40 is improving to the states. Well, that's enough of my ramblings...

I'll be looking for all of you in the contests. Please pass this on to others in the club if you wish.

Missing Monterey and sunshine, See you in the contests!

73, Rich, MM0BYC/N7OP

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

E-mail addresses of all members will be added to the abbreviated roster at the NCCC website, which will include nick name, last name, callsign and E-mail Address UNLESS individual members contact me and request not to be listed.

The advantage of this website Roster is that it is updated monthly and can be consulted for the latest e-mail addresses at anytime needed. The printed paper Roster with complete mailing addresses and phone numbers is published annually and the 1999 edition is included in this JUG.

73, Al

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