



NEXT NCCC MEETING

DATE: Friday, March 19, 1999
at the
"Tied House"

San Jose

6:00 PM : Schmooze
7:00 PM : Forks Up
7:30 PM : Meeting

INFO & DIRECTIONS INSIDE

and you can *always* check:

<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>
for a map and directions!

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de K6AW

A short column this month -- Editor-in-Chief K6GT is breathing down my neck, since I'm late.

The main reason for being late is having just returned from 2.6 weeks in HC8 with N5KO. We were down there to work on the new HC8 station and to enter the RJ/CQWW RTTY WPX and ARRL DX CW contests. W4ZV joined us for the ARRL event that we entered in the Multi-2 category.

The March meeting will be held at the Tied House in **San Jose** on Friday, March 19. This is the annual Awards Banquet and should be a very enjoyable evening. NCCCer W6RN will host us again -- Ron always does a terrific job. Make sure to mark this one on your calendar.

The 50th International DX Convention will be held in Fresno on April 9-11. NCCC will host a hospitality suite, and we're working on having a Contester's Dinner on Friday, April 9. Stay tuned for details.

The April NCCC meeting will be held on Monday, April 19 at H-P in Santa Clara. We will elect new officers and board members. The program will be a presentation by Trey Garlough, N5KO on the construction of the new HC8 station in the Galapagos.

ARRL DX SSB is just around the corner, followed by CQWW WPX SSB. I hope you will all get on for both -- use ARRL as a warm-up for WPX -- that's the one we're really gunning for as a club!

73, de Steve, K6AW

CQP RESULTS IN THIS ISSUE!

MARCH NCCC MEETING TO BE '98 AWARDS BANQUET

It's time again for our annual club awards which will be formally presented at the Awards Banquet on Friday, March 19th, at the **San Jose Tied House restaurant** located at 65 North San Pedro Street in San Jose. Please note the change in date and location!

Menu : The meal price is \$24 for: soup OR salad and your choice from 3 entrees; Beef tenderloin strip with potato and vegetable; Catfish filet with rice and vegetable; or Pasta Primavera with chicken. The \$24 price includes beverage, taxes, and gratuity.

Parking : There is free parking after 6PM at the garage on San Pedro Street.

We hope to see you there to pick up your awards including CQP plaques, certificates, wine, T-shirts, ARRL Sweepstakes certificates, plaques, hats, letter openers, and special award plaques for: SS Big Gun, SS Little Gun, Contester-of-the-Year, Rookie-of-the-Year, Most Improved Contester, Founders Award, K6RU Memorial Award, etc.

Please make reservations as soon as possible by calling K6GT at home (408) 732-2676, or by e-mail at:

gdaught6@leland.stanford.edu

There is a map showing the location of the Tied House at their website

<http://www.tiedhouse.com>

The San Jose Tied House is in downtown San Jose, just a block away from Market Street and from Santa Clara Avenue.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

The abbreviated roster of NCCC members, is now online at:

<http://nccc.cc/roster.html>

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 was included in the last JUG.

N6BT Multi-Op 160m CQ WW Results

459 QSOs, 14 Countries, 50 Sections = 76,800

Team: N6BT, K6AW, K2KW

Equipment: single linear loaded vertical (from 6Y2A), Alpha 76PA, 1000-MP

Location: On the SF bay... with lots of salt water

This sure turned out to be an adventure for us!

Tom was planning on getting up to the site around 6 AM to set up an 80m vertical and play on long path. At around 5AM, I got a call from Tom - he blew a water pump, and is stuck in Oakland. Tom got towed to a 24 hour shop that specializes in trucks... but he still didn't get up to the site until around 1 PM. Since the contest started at 2PM local, we knew we would be starting late... Don't get me wrong, that wasn't a big problem, as both K6AW and K2KW didn't get there much earlier! Steve dropped Ken off at the RV rental place at 9 AM, and it took Ken about 2 hours to get processed (with multiple interruptions with calls from/to Tom and Steve). While Ken was getting the RV, Steve went shopping for last minute materials. They both got to the site at nearly the same time, and started setting up the equipment around noon. With the equipment taking up the dinette area of the RV, plus some shelves, and part of one bed, there wasn't a lot of room left in the 22' RV we rented. We are sure glad we got the RV (we considered a tent), as it was COLD at our on-the-water location.

The location is on a 150' long peninsula on the west side of SF bay, and has salt water to all of the USA, Caribbean, and JA. We were hoping to get an interesting comparison to N6RO's station, but we had many of the typical problems of developing a new site.

Once Tom got there, we got a single vertical up and began running as fast as possible, leaving the 2nd element for the 2nd day. As in Jamaica, we used 2 elevated radials... since we were space restricted, and time at the beginning of the contest is the most critical, we rushed the single vertical into service. When installing the radials, Kenny allowed one radial (#16 THHN household wire) to touch a rock.... "Don't worry, Mon, it will be OK!" were Kenny's words.

While the vertical was set up, we knew we need to modify it on Saturday, as the 2:1 band width was much wider than it should have been, indicating the low radials were coupling into the ground.

The contest started out OK, even though we didn't get active until 3.5 hours into the contest. Kenny hit the band with a burst of 190/hr, but then settled into a steady 90/hr rate. Then things went downhill fast.

There were lots of stations we could call but they couldn't hear us. We were getting beat out by lots of West coast guys, which didn't make sense with our antenna, power, and location. The most frustrating part was we could hear EVERYTHING. We had an S0 noise level, and could hear the weakest signals (No EU though).

On Saturday Morning, N6RO was around 150 QSO's ahead of us. This was not a good sign.

We checked out the vertical in the morning, and found that the radial that touched the rock had been arcing to ground, which was the likely cause of our transmitting problems. At the location where it was touching the rock, there was a thin layer of dirt and sand... this layer was scorched black from the arcing, and the black layer lifted off in melted/coagulated glump of dirt.

Who ever thinks that radials should be laid on the ground needs to have a reality check! Radials should be elevated - end of story.

Most of Saturday was dedicated to raising the radials. While fixing the radials, we also realized that the antenna had been arcing at the linear loading connection points halfway up the vertical. It turns out we installed a long bolt in the wrong direction, which allowed a nearby wire to arc to it. Since fixing the single vertical took so long, we decided to finish the contest with the single vertical, and not install the 2nd element.

Saturday afternoon we were up and ready to kick some butt, but it was very frustrating again to hear everyone, and have few stations answer our calls. Often I could work the weak ones, but the S9 stations would CQ in our face.

Steve slugged it out for many hours on Saturday evening with "last 100" rates *sometimes* exceeding 12/hr! Even with this exciting rate in prime USA running time, we decided to go QRT and get some sleep.

It finally started to rain on Saturday night - no - I mean POUR, with heavy winds in the early morning, and it caused S9 +20 rain static. This put a damper on our ability to work (hear) anyone. When the static went away, we started transmitting, and the antenna started to glow (at the linear loading connection point) and light up our site. We finally shut off the 220v generator, as it was just not worth slugging it out.

All was not lost, as it is always fun to get together with good friends, and start setting plans in motion for future projects and contests. According to N6BT, the

highlight was Kenny's meals: BBQ Filet Mignon tails on Friday night, and tender BBQ NY Strip on Saturday afternoon.

73, and CU on the bands, Kenny, K2KW

VHF ROVER

I finally got my rover scores figured for the January VHF contest. I activated 15 grids, worked 338 contacts in 51 grids for 467 QSO points and a total score of 30,822 points. Band breakdown was: 6m = 57 contacts; 2m = 168 contacts; 222MHz = 31 contacts; 432MHz = 75 contacts, and only 7 contacts on 1296MHz. Highlights (?) included two hours stuck in the mud near Fresno on Sunday morning, a long-haul to grid CM86 for very few points, loss of my Yaesu 736R receiver on Sunday morning which meant the loss of 222 and 1296 capability.

73, Jerry, N6IFW/R

Contest Calendar

ARRL International DX Phone	0000Z 06 March- 2400Z 07 March
Bermuda Contest March-	0001Z 20 2359Z 21 March
Russian DX Contest March-	1200Z 20 1200Z 21 March
CQWW WPX Phone March-	0000Z 27 2400Z 28 March

CQWW WPX is the big one! NCCC is hoping to bring in a new club high for this contest. Plan to get on and do your part. With the recent solar activity, it promises to be a good one!

CQP RESULTS

IN THIS ISSUE!

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.

BURBANK, CA
2492 W. Victory Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Marv, K6VTV, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(619) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94086
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
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