



**NEXT NCCC
MEETING**
Monday, November 15th
at the
Tied House
in Mountain View
MORE INFO INSIDE
and you can *always* check:
<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>

NCCC OFFICERS

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JUG Editor: George Daughters, K6GT
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November Contests	Dates
ARRL Sweepstakes, CW	2100Z, Nov 6-0300Z, Nov 8
High Speed CW	Nov 7
Ukrainian DX	Nov 6 - 7
Japan Int. DX Phone	Nov 12 - 14
WAE DX, RTTY	Nov 13 - 14
ALARA	Nov 13
OK/OM DX, CW	Nov 13 - 14
Six Club Winter DX	Nov 19 - 22
ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB	2100Z, Nov 20-0300Z, Nov 22
LZ DX, CW	Nov 20 - 21
IARU Region 1 160m, CW	Nov 20 - 21
LI/NJ-QRP Doghouse	Nov 20
RSGB 1.8 MHz, CW	Nov 20 - 21
CQ Worldwide DX, CW	Nov 27 - 28

December Contest Summary	Dates
ARRL 160-Meter	Dec 3 - 5
TARA RTTY Sprint	Dec 4 - 5
ARRL 10-Meter	Dec 11 - 12
OK DX RTTY	Dec 11
RAC Canada Winter	Dec 19
Croatian CW	Dec 18 - 19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Dec 18 - 19
Internet CW Sprint	Dec 31 - Jan 1

Full details are on WA7BNM's up-to-date web site:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

**GET A GRIP ON IT!
(THE GAVEL!)**

Treasury Report

First, let's welcome the following new NCCC members!

<u>CALL</u>	<u>JOINED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
AA7WB	10/23/99	Bill	billhamrdo@aol.com
DL4JLM	10/11/99	Lars	lmesow@mc.hl.Siemens.de
K7NV	10/23/99	Kurt	k7nv@contesting.com
KA6BIM	10/11/99	Dave	dtucker@inreach.com
N7IOD	10/23/99	Al	n7iod@webtv.net
W7VI	10/23/99	Steve	

Treasury Report through 30 Oct.

INFLOWS

Dues:

Current Year	3343.00
Future Years	48.00
Prior Years	<u>24.00</u>
TOTAL Dues	3415.00

General Fund:

Prior Years	3048.21
Current Year	<u>230.00</u>
TOTAL G.F.	3278.21

Repeater Fund:

Prior Years	1159.65
Current Year	<u>93.00</u>
TOTAL R.F.	1252.65
TOTAL IN	7945.86

OUTFLOWS

CQP:

Plaques	-1470.00
Premiums	-70.00
Publicity	<u>735.96</u>
TOTAL CQP	-804.04

JUG	487.19
Misc	89.10
Self-Funding	178.47
Visalia	17.84
Pending	<u>30.00</u>
TOTAL OUT	-1.44

OVERALL TOTAL 7947.30

Notes: All figures above are net per account. A negative outflow is actually a cash reserve against an expected expenses in that account. Most of the Self-funding shortfall is due to a deposit for the Reno meeting room. The pending \$30 is a check gone missing; I have asked the party for another check.

73, Tony, AE0M

Ruler Schuller

The Contest Season is in full swing! We had a very successful CQP in October, followed by the SSB portion of CQWW. Sandwiched between these 2 events were a pair of great NCCC meetings: one in the Bay Area, and one in Reno. It was nice to see the folks from the "Sierra Chapter"; we even signed up 4 new members. Thanks go to Tom, K5RC, for organizing the meeting (along with Rich, N7TR and Dennis, K7BV.) Dennis gave an interesting presentation on Market Reef. We will be back next year for another meeting! Bob, K6XX had copies of his latest edition of the NCCC SS Handbook at both meetings. This masterpiece is available to members only on our www site. It is truly a work of art; thanks go to Bob for all of his hard work, and to the many contributors. If you have not looked at the handbook, be sure to do so in the next few days before SS. There are a lot of tips and techniques.

Speaking of SS tips, Dean, N6BV, has prepared a great propagation prediction chart for the contest. It is also available to members on the www site. It can be very helpful in planning an operating strategy for the weekend. One of the keys to a successful SS operation is a good band plan; you will never work those "rare" sections if you are on the wrong band for propagation.

As Sweepstakes approaches, I can't emphasize enough the need for EVERYONE to get on and operate. If we are to win the gavel in 1999, we need maximum participation by club members, on BOTH modes. As I have said in the past, this is truly a club effort. It takes more than a few "mega" scores to win SS; it takes a lot of hard work and dedication by everyone. I know that every member of the club has the skill and ability to help make this happen.

I want to congratulate Jim Pratt, N6IG, on his selection as the team captain for Team NCCC at WRTC-2000. Jim is an accomplished operator and competitor, and will be a great representative for the NCCC!

The next meeting of the NCCC will be on Monday, November 15, at the Tied House in Mountain View. Please check the www site for details, and give your reservations to Tony, AE0M. (We have moved the date from our usual 2nd Monday to give everyone a chance to recover from the CW SS weekend!)

Between SS and CQWW, there is a tremendous amount of contesting for all of us over these next few weeks. Be sure to know the rules and the exchange(s). Take your time to get the call and exchange right; with the increased accuracy of the log checkers, we can't afford to be penalized for mistakes. Of course, no one is perfect. However, there are a lot of careless errors that can be avoided by paying close attention, and, if in doubt, asking for a repeat. And above all, have fun! I hope to hear (and work!) everyone in SS. Don't forget our NCCC schedule on Saturday night, where we can all work each other in quick fashion (2 points for us, none for them!) Good luck to all!

73, Ed, K6CTA

CQP comment

Received and forwarded by Kit, W6ISO:

"It Sure sounded like you were having a good time! It could get me interested in serious contesting!"

Dave, KU4YM

FAQ'S ON CQP IN THE YUKON

Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Aurora

Q. Why the Yukon?

A. I'd been thinking for some time that it would be fun to get my feet wet in a DX-pedition, and I also had the feeling that I had about "maxed out" in operating CQP from my home station. When Jay, VY1JA, announced earlier this year that he didn't expect to be on the radio this fall, and Ken, K6LA, announced on the contesting reflector that the Yukon Amateur Radio Association station was operational and looking for operators --- well, the pieces fell into place.

I started an email correspondence with Jay and with Ron, VY1RM, the president of the YARA, paid my \$50 dues to join the YARA and donated another \$50 to reserve the station, and started making plans. First I talked my law partner and fellow NCCC'er Bob, AA6VB, into being a coconspirator. Bob had never done any real contesting, but was used to going off to places like Montana for fly fishing expeditions, so it seemed a natural for him.

Q. Where is the Yukon anyway? And what's NWT?

A. The Yukon is the Canadian territory just north of British Columbia and east of the state of Alaska. To the east of the Yukon are the Northwest Territories. Because CQP takes certain liberties with Canadian political geography, we lump both territories together as the NWT multiplier, so that's the mult we usually gave out in the contest. To get an idea of the size of the Yukon, imagine California (though the Yukon is larger) with 30,000 inhabitants, 20,000 of whom live in San Diego (Whitehorse).

Q. Is it hard to get to?

A. Not at all, if you fly. It's 2400 miles by road from here to Whitehorse, but we flew Air Canada from SFO to Vancouver and Canadian from there to Whitehorse. Each flight was a bit over two hours in a jet. Bruce, N6NT, drove there, so you can ask him about that trip, but for us it was a piece of cake. Whitehorse is a modern town (exactly 100 years old -- founded to service the great Klondike Gold Rush of 1899) with lots of guest service facilities.

Q. What's the weather like?

A. Well, naturally it can get pretty cold. You see lots of pictures of snow-covered ground, but it's actually a semi-arid region. It's just that once the snow starts in October or November, it sticks around till June. While we were there the temperature was between 35 and 45 degrees, and generally cloudy -- not at all unpleasant weather for our purposes (Jay called it a rare spell of excellent antenna-fixing weather).

Q. Did you take radio gear with you?

A. The station has a TR-7 and an FT-767, but I decided that I wanted to bring my own radio, so bought a used TS570D off the internet, and we brought that along with Bob's Thinkpad to use as a logging computer. We took headphone/mikes, hand mike, key, and a bunch of cables and tools. We had some fast talking to do to various security officers at the airports, but they always let us carry on our gear after we explained what it was.

Q. What's the club station like?

A. The station is in a heated trailer (without indoor plumbing, however) located about four miles out of town up a dirt road, sharing a large site with a gun range. It's quite well set up, and has two operating positions, a TH6 on a 60 foot tower, 40m delta loop and 80 and 160m dipoles. They had done a lot of antenna work and are in the process of hooking up a 5 kw emergency generator also. The resident amplifier wouldn't load properly, so Jay very kindly lent us his AL80A (about 700w out) for the duration.

Q. Why isn't there more VY1 activity?

A. Actually, there are dozens of hams in the Yukon (the Callbook lists 80 or so!), but most are vhf types only, and only a handful have hf facilities. They have a very extensive repeater network that is used for emergencies and also by truckers on the Alaskan Highway. YARA seems to be a pretty active group, but biased towards vhf. They do get some financial support from the government, but are always looking for donations of used gear to add to the facilities. Both Jay and Ron are actively seeking more guest operators like us to stimulate hf activity.

Q. What's the status of VY1JA and his station?

A. Jay was extremely hospitable to us, picking us up at the airport and even insisting that we borrow one of his cars for our visit! He lives about 15 miles out of town and has about 15 acres of property – plenty of room for antennas. Last year he disposed of all his gear, but now, thanks to donations from the SCCC, Boring Radio Club and others, he has reassembled a station and has new antennas for 160-10 up (including an A4 on a 60-foot surplus steel tower.) He promises to be back on for SS!

Q. How did the TS570 work out?

A. It's a great travelling radio. It weighs only about 15 pounds, and with a 4 pound Astron switching supply, it worked for the whole contest without missing a beat or even getting hot. It's very easy to use, even though it has lots of bells and whistles, including audio dsp, keyer, auto antenna tuner, transmit audio equalization, etc. The only knock I have on it (which wasn't an issue in CQP, but it was in Sprint), is that even with the optional 500 Hz CW i.f. filter installed, there seems to be i.f. "blowby". The effect is that a strong CW signal on an adjacent frequency will pump the agc (which cannot be turned off) and make it difficult to copy a weak signal, even though you can't actually hear the interfering strong signal.

Q. What were conditions like?

A. Conditions were merely OK on Saturday. Jay's advice was always to stay on the highest band possible, and we did. Unfortunately, we had only a very brief 10m opening on Saturday. On Sunday, however, 10 was open for hours and we had our only real runs of the contest (actually getting the rate over 50 an hour for two hours!) on 10 phone. Aurora wiped out 80 completely, and made 40 very tough. We managed 52 Q's on 40 in several hours of discouragingly hard work, and heard nary a signal on 80. However, on Sunday night, we were treated to some magnificent (Jay called

them ordinary) auroral displays when the clouds actually cleared up.

Q. What's it like to operate CQP out of state?

A. Boy is it different. Even as a rare multiplier, we were in search and pounce mode for most of the contest. Virtually no CQ's were answered on CW, and not many on phone till we got to 10m on Sunday and started hearing from low power mobile stations. Sometimes it seemed harder to work "super" stations with highly directional antennas pointing east, than to work ordinary guys with verticals and dipoles. We often got beat out by stations in the Midwest and East. Our overall rate was 30/hour on phone and 32/hour on CW. Obviously, we were more productive of points on CW, but just ran out of California stations to work each time we tried it. We finally ended up at a claimed score of 675 by 58 for 90k points.

Q. Does your software work for out of state stations?

A. Of course. I added a special feature to CQPWIN 7.1 (soon to be available on our web site) for out-of-state use. Often you tune across a California station giving his exchange, but you don't hear the callsign. If you type in the county and hit F8, the program will show all the calls from that county in the log, highlighting those worked on the current band/mode, so you can make an educated guess as to who it might be and whether it's worth waiting for the exchange to be completed to call him. We used the sound capabilities of the laptop to play WAV files for phone CQ'ing, as well as using the normal CW CQ'ing and exchange sending.

Q. Was it hard to get the sweep?

A. Counties started filling up the log quickly. After about eight hours we needed only Sierra County for the sweep. We were getting desperate; at one point I even tried to talk a guy in Plumas County into driving over the county line to Sierra. THE VY1DX GOOD GUY OF CQP AWARD goes to Tom, N6BT. He had been handing out multipliers to us as he drove up I-5. I kept asking him to go to Sierra, which was "only" a few hundred more miles. Lo and behold, less than two hours from the end of the contest, he called in from Sierra County and gave us contact number 1! Thanks, Tom. (*Now THAT is worthy of an award!... ed*)

Q. How did you handle the multi-op?

A. We ended up in a routine of switching off about every hour. Bob was a bit shaky at first as a relatively new contester, but soon got his sea legs and at the end was achieving our highest rates of the contest on 10 phone. On Sunday we were able to use the FT767 as a

spotting station to improve our search and pounce rate on 10 – this was a good team activity. Otherwise, the switching off made the whole thing much easier on us mentally and physically (for example, we were each able to go running on both days while the other operated). I'm sure if I had been alone I would have quit 40m in disgust Saturday evening, but having two of us meant there was always a fresh operator available. It also enabled the relief operator to interact with local hams who dropped by from time to time.

Q. Do you recommend an SS expedition to VY1?
A. That's a toughie! It's been done by Bruce, N6NT, and Ken, K6LA, from Jay's station. Both report results similar to ours: an enjoyable but frustrating experience due to the hit or miss propagation. I suspect in SS, one can get a much better run rate going than in CQP, so that would be an advantage. However, the club station has a clear shot to the south, but aims into a mountain to the southeast, so it might not play as well for SS – Jay might have some thoughts on that (his station is in a flat area and should work well in all stateside directions).

73, Andy Faber, AE6Y

DOUBLE CROSS

The Sweepstakes

It's time! The Sweepstakes, CW, is this weekend and 'phone follows in two weeks! Now that the preparations are finished, we must execute. With the solar flux approaching 200, the WEST coast has the advantage this year; instead of fighting over a 40m run frequency, we'll find a productive spot on 15m and tap into the vast quantities of W2, W3, and W4's that cannot hear each other. Its our year for the gavel! **You've** gotta play if you want us to win. We need about 140 logs to ensure victory. That means fifty die-hard both-mode guys and forty single mode operations, or equivalent. Make sure YOU are one of them!

SS Schedule

NCCC has held a traditional schedule for all club members at 11PM Saturday night (local time) on 80m. At the SF meeting, we discussed the value of a second sked on Sunday. We decided that this sked should be just before the end of the contest, Sunday evening at 6:45 PM local time on the same frequencies, 3545 for CW and 3845 for phone. These are center frequencies; so spread out ± 20 kHz on CW and ± 50 kHz on SSB.

SS Handbook

The completely redesigned fourth edition of the NCCC Sweepstakes Handbook is available on the NCCC web site,

<http://www.nccc.cc/PDF/SSHB4.PDF>.

As always, the book is password protected. Check out last month's mailing label or send me an e-mail for your password: k6xx@jps.net. Please remember that the Handbook is restricted to NCCC'ers only. Much (most?) of the material included was obtained with the understanding that it would not be distributed outside the club. N6TR sent me a nice e-mail regarding the handbook last week, but who shared it with (non-member) Tree?

SS Telephone Tree

Reports from the SS calling tree are just beginning to arrive at my JUG deadline. We'll have details at the club meeting. Some score commitments are shown here but many more are expected.

CQP

There were great conditions for a great contest! Check out the claimed scores on the NCCC Scores page. Try:

<http://www.cqp.org/results/1999/California.html> and see how the locals did. Congrats to the N6O team for a new multi-multi record and to N6TV for squeaking past his old record for Most CW QSOs.

Scores

CQWW RTTY

N2ALE32 x (8+22+20) 4,150 points, Single Op

CQWW

Although NCCC is not focusing on CQWW this year, we will make a club entry—send me your scores and I'll get 'em to Hicksville (Davis?).

73 de Bob, K6XX

k6xx@jps.net

(408) 258-1015

4M7X

Coche Island, Venezuela

During the CQ WW CW Contest, 4M7X will be activated by "Team Vertical." Team Vertical, the

contest group who uses only vertical antennas, will be defending their world multi-multi record they set in 1998 as 6Y2A. 4M7X will be a multi-multi operation with 6 complete KW stations using high-gain vertical antennas provided by Force 12 on all bands. 4M7X is located on Coche Island, IOTA SA-012.

The 4M7 prefix has never been activated on CW, so prefix hunters should be looking for this one! Most of the operators will be active from November 20 to December 01 before the contest signing YV7/homecall.

Many NCCC members are part of the team: N6BT, N6BV, N6TV, AD6E, and K2KW. The following operators round out the team: KE7X, AG9A, K9ZO, NT1N, W4SO, YV5EED, WA5VGI + some others. QSL 4M7X, K2KW, and W4SO via WA4WTG. QSL others via homecall. For more information about the 4M7X team and the past 6Y2A operation, visit the Team Vertical web site:

<http://pages.prodigy.net/k2kw/>

or contact Kenny, K2KW at: k2kw@prodigy.net

73, K2KW

DIRECTIONS TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The program will be: “CQWW lies and Sweet Sweepstakes Success stories”

Date: Monday, 15 November 1999

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

Location: The Tied House restaurant in Mountain View. We had a terrific meeting there last year! We can begin shmoozing at 6PM. The restaurant is at 954 Villa Street, in beautiful downtown Mountain View, between Castro St. and Shoreline Boulevard.

The menu will include beef, chicken, and fish entrees, with a vegetarian menu available. The price, including soft drinks, tax, and tip is \$16. A map is online, at: http://www.tiedhouse.com/tied_mv.html.

Remember ... families, guests, prospective new members, etc. are always welcome!



NCCC DRINKING TEAM No. 1 AT K6ZM : NI6T, N6NT, N5KO, N6RO, and K6GT enjoy “Field Day” at Peggy’s place.

NCCC SS Commitments to date

Call	CW		Phone		Notes
	QSOs	kPoints	QSOs	kPoints	
N6XI	1000				
W6DI		50	1000		
K7CO		100		100	
WA6O	800			50	
KF6RIP		50		50	
AD6E	967			100	
N6EE (@KR6RF)	500		1300		M/S with W6XK
AE0M/N0BBS	1000		1000		M/S
N6BV		200			
N6RO		50		500	hosting N6BV CW; dual Ph multis
N6NZ				150	Phone @ N6XI
K6GT		100		100	
W6ISO	350		350		
AE6Y				250k Total	
W6PLJ	1000		500		
K6EP	500				
K6ANP	1000		1000		
K6RIM	1000		1000		
KA6BIM	300		1500		with NC6K
NC6K	250		1500 M/S		with KA6BIM
K6CTA	1001		500		"gotta beat 'RIM"
W0YK	1100		1900		
K6AW	1200		800		
AA6W	500		500		
K6XX	1250		500		CW @ W6RN
K6GNX	1000				
N7TR	1250		2300		
K7BV			1500		
AA7WB	200		200		
N7IOD			200		
K6XN					500 Combined
K7BNV	800		200		
AK6L	500		1300		
K6MIG	500				
K6RB					1000 Combined
K6SRZ	500		500		
AA6W	500		500		
N6TV	1200				
N6TU	1201		1000		"More than N6TV"
21,369Q's+550K		19,550Q's+1050K			

Grand Total Score Commitment: 5,507,702

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Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

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

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510 Lawrence Exp. #102
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(408) 736-9496
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Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101

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