



NEXT NCCC MEETING

Monday, October 11th
at the

South Beach Yacht Club
MORE INFO INSIDE

October "Sierra Chapter" Meeting
planned for Reno, NV
Saturday Oct. 23

and you can *always* check:

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

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October Contests

Dates

California QSO Party

Oct 2-3

PSK31 Rumble

Oct 2

VK/ZL, Phone

Oct 2-3

RSGB 21/28 MHz, SSB

Oct 3

EU Autumn Sprint, SSB

Oct 2

Internet RTTY Sprint

Oct 7

EU Autumn Sprint, CW

Oct 9

VK/ZL, CW

Oct 9-10

Pennsylvania QSO

Oct 9-10

BARTG RTTY Sprint

Oct 9-10

FISTS Fall Sprint

Oct 9

Ibero-Americano

Oct 9-10

10-10 Day Sprint

Oct 10

JARTS WW RTTY

Oct 16-17

Worked All Germany

Oct 16-17

Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW

Oct 17

RSGB 21/28 MHz, CW

Oct 17

Illinois QSO

Oct 17-18

QRP ARCI Fall CW QSO

Oct 23-24

Rhode Island QSO

Oct 23-24

CQWW SSB

Oct 30-31

10-10 Fall CW

Oct 30-31

November Contest Summary Date

ARRL SS, CW 2100Z, Nov 6-0300Z,

Nov8

Japan Int. DX Phone

Nov 12-

14

WAE DX, RTTY

Nov 13-

14

OK/OM DX, CW

Nov 13-

14

IARU Region 1 160m, CW

Nov 20-21

ARRL SS, SSB

2100Z, Nov 20-0300Z, Nov

22

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

Ruler Schuller

As I write this, the CQWW RTTY contest has just ended, and we are less than 1 week away from CQP. There were a number of big signals from NCCC members in the RTTY test – the biggest of which had to have been from HC8N! It will be interesting to see how big a score they ran up.

CQP will more than likely be over by the time you read this issue of the JUG. I hope that EVERYONE had a great time in the contest. The NCCC works hard to make sure that CQP is the best State QSO Party going. It's always a great way to kick off the Fall Contest season.

After CQP, our major focus is on (you guessed it!) – Sweepstakes. Our goal this year is to win the Club Championship gavel. The famous NCCC SS Handbook is being updated by our hardworking VP-CC, K6XX. We will have some great incentive awards for all of you who participate and meet certain goals. This needs to be an all-out club effort! We need everyone to get on the air! All scores are important – if you feel that you are not competitive, you are wrong! If you think that a small score doesn't help, you are wrong!

Everyone can make noise in SS, and all scores are important! The key is to ***get on in both modes***, even if you hate one of them (your choice!) To help in our effort(s), the October 11th meeting will be dedicated to the secrets of SS! We will have a propagation report, a short talk on maximizing your score (from the viewpoint of a "city lot" station), a talk on how to stay motivated during the contest, and more. We also plan to have copies of the SS Handbook available. Please, don't miss this meeting!

We will also have another meeting later in October (on the 23rd) in the Reno area. I hope to see all of the NCCC members from the Reno/Tahoe region there. It should be a lot of fun! I know that Tom, K5RC, has a great program lined up. Check elsewhere in this JUG, and/or on the web page for details.

I would also like to remind everyone who has not paid their dues for this year to please do so. It is easy to forget... particularly if you get the JUG

electronically. There are still a number of members who have not renewed. I hope that it is merely an oversight. This is your club. If there is something that you would like the club to do, or to change, please let any member of the Board know. We are always looking for ideas and suggestions for ways to improve the club.

For those of you who have not subscribed to the NCCC e-mail reflector, you are missing out on a great service. This is an excellent source of information and help. We have some amazing resources within the NCCC; this is a wonderful way to take advantage of them. One fine example was the recent order of some coax for a number of members by Ken, N6RO. If you have any questions relating to contesting, this is the place to post them!

That's it for this month. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the October meetings!

73, Ed, K6CTA

YUKON VISIT

As I write this, we are sitting in our trailer in an RV Park in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, having just returned from Dawson. It is raining, as it has been for the past hour or so. It is a cold rain, like you'd find in S.F. in the winter. It's kinda like a "good news – bad news" situation. Good: it dampens the forest fires that were burning around here last week. Bad: It makes dirt roads slimy and muddy. I guess I'll never understand either the weather or HF propagation.

We brought a HGF mobile with us. It's not a great installation. There's too much noise. Now, I find the antenna is not very effective at these latitudes. I haven't made a QSO since early June. I tried IARU for a while. Received signals were good, and I called a few and got NO returns. What? Nobody needs the BY1 mult?

Carolyn and I toured Alaska with Len, K6ANP, and Rae Gerald. We left Sonoma County in early June and went through Tok, Anchorage, and down the Kenai Peninsula. We caught some halibut off Anchor Point. We visited Denali Park, Fairbanks, Valdez and Skagway. Len and Rae left us at Carcross, a junction between Skagway and Whitehorse, to head back South. We continued on to Whitehorse to get some brake work done on the truck. We went up to Dawson for a couple of days, and now we need brake work on the trailer.

I have not talked to VY1JA, but did meet VY1RM. He told us Jay had sold some gear and was doing some rebuilding. If you're in the area and need electronic stuff, Ron works at one of the better-stocked Radio Shack stores. It's in downtown Whitehorse.

By the way, I'd volunteer to receive the JUG by internet, but there's not much support from Earthlink up

here. Telephones are not much better. Different phone companies block different 800 numbers, so you never know what's going to work.

The scenery is beautiful, attractions are very interesting, and we're learning a lot about this area, it's people, and the difficulties of amateur radio up here!

73 to all, Dick Wilson, K6LRN

DOUBLE CROSS

CQP: Now that CQP-99 has come and gone, how many new records were set? Propagation so far this cycle has been disappointing, with low flux values and disturbed conditions whenever the SFI rises to a decent value. CQP succeeds in spite of conditions, however, as we have seen throughout the previous sunspot null. Any wonder why this is my (and several others') favorite contest?!

SPRINT: The Fall North American Sprint went quite well for NCCC. Although others reported lower than normal QSO totals, we did all right: all ten NCCC CW Team #1 members broke the 10k point level. Here's the breakdown:

Station	QSOs	Mult	Score	Team
N5KO	305	50	15,250	1
N6TV	314	48	15,072	1
N6IG	305	48	14,640	1
(@W6GO)				
N6RO	282	48	13,560	1
VA7RR	271	47	12,737	—
K6XX	250	50	12,500	1
K6AW	265	47	12,465	1
(@K6KM)				
K7BV	268	45	12,060	1
AE6Y	249	46	11,454	1
K6GV	231	45	10,395	2
(@W6UT)				
AJ6V	231	45	10,395	2
W6EU	233	44	10,252	1
W6RGG	233	43	10,019	1
(@N6BT)				
W6CT	226	43	9,718	2
(@AK6L)				
N6PN	196	45	8,820	2
NI6T	193	40	7,720	2

Phone Sprint

Station	QSOs	Mult	Score	Team
VA7RR	295	50	14,250	1
AE6Y	208	47	9,776	1
AJ6V	186	46	8,556	1

The Sweepstakes: Early next month, the Sweepstakes takes place. After finishing in SECOND place for the past THREE runnings, Prez Ed assures us a gavel in '99. Here's how you can help our favorite Prez keep his promise...

1. Enter Both Modes
 2. Call CQ
 3. Use your amplifier if possible
 4. WORK ALL NCCCers (Two for US, NONE for them!)
 5. Submit your log - specify
- CLUB PARTICIPATION: Northern California Contest Club**
6. Have fun & KB!

We're going to need about 140 logs to ensure this victory. That means fifty die-hard both mode guys and forty single mode operations, or equivalent. (*How about 90 guys both modes!! ... ed*) Make sure YOU are one of them!

Sweepstakes Entry Categories: The new unlimited (U) precedence in SS provides an increased opportunity to achieve a sweep, especially for the second tier (and lower) stations that cannot depend upon the rarer sections answering a CQ. Although there is a stigma attached to packet assisted operations by those who consider it "unmanly," from the club's point of view, the score increase accompanying a completed sweep is the important thing. Points are points, after all!

I am seriously considering entering the U class this year. In years past, packet helped me pick up a couple of sections that didn't answer my CQ and I never heard scanning the bands, especially during more casual (read: "phone") outings. Previously, the use of packet reclassified you as a multi-transmitter entry, but now it is a separate category. Who will be the first winner (and record holder) of the new "U"?

SS Schedule: Traditionally, NCCC has held a schedule for all club members at 11PM Saturday night on 80m. A suggestion was made that we augment this sked with another on Sunday afternoon. I propose we do so—let's say 0200Z on the same frequencies, 3.545 for CW and 3845 for phone. These are center frequencies; so spread out $\pm 20\text{kHz}$ on CW and $\pm 50\text{kHz}$ on SSB.

SS Handbook: The fourth edition of the NCCC Sweepstakes Handbook is in the final proofreading stage. This new edition has been completely redesigned for on-screen reading. Gone is the two column format that annoyed computer readers by forcing them to scroll back to the top of the page after reading the first column. The font face is larger and clearer on your monitor. Hyperlinks are included to jump quickly from topic to related topic—some inside the document, some to the web (if you are on-line—a web connection is

optional). The new SS Handbook will be available shortly on the NCCC site <http://www.nccc.cc/PDF/SSHB4.PDF>. As always, the book is password protected. Check out your mailing label or send me an e-mail for your password: k6xx@jps.net. If you lack internet access, I'll have copies on diskette at the October meetings (both SF and Reno). Prez Ed promises to have a few printed copies available for the confuzer illiterate—but at 80+ pages each, I imagine he'll print a VERY FEW (better ask him first!).

Please be sure to review the "README.TXT" file associated with the Handbook so you can quickly configure the Acrobat Reader program. I realize you can figure it out yourself, but I played around with the book's format to get the most readable info on each screen, and it works best with one particular setting. Save yourself some time!

Please remember that the Handbook is restricted to NCCers only. Much (most?) of the material included was obtained with the understanding that it would not be distributed outside the club. We now interpret this restriction to grant all members access, not only those within the ARRL 175-mile radius.

SS Telephone Tree: the I need volunteers to call a few nearby members and activate them for the contest. The calls are enjoyable and don't take much time. When we execute an active telephone tree, we do much better in SS, so please e-mail or call me today!

KB in SS!

73 de Bob, K6XX

k6xx@jps.net

(408) 258-1015

OCTOBER MEETING IN THE BAY AREA



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

Time: 6:00PM social hour, 6:30 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 Tony, AE0M, to make your reservation and dinner choice (he'll know what's available) by Friday the 8th (408) 223-6102 or E-mail to

becker@sprintmail.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.

SIERRA CHAPTER MEETING!

The Northern California Contest Club is proud to announce a "Sierra Chapter" Club meeting being held in Reno, NV. It is open to all amateurs, their spouses and their guests. If you are interested in contesting, curious about contesting or just want to partake in a fun evening of radio and fellowship, you are invited to attend this social hour, dinner and presentation.

When: Saturday, October 23, 1999

* Happy hour (cash bar) from 6:00PM until 7:00PM

* Sit down dinner from 7:00PM until 8:00PM

* Program from 8:00PM until 10:00PM

* "Contest DX-pedition to Aaland Island and Market Reef (OH0Z/OJ0Z) by Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Editor of The National Contest Journal (NCJ)

Where: The Atlantis Casino Resort, 3800 South Virginia St., Reno, NV (Interstate 80 to US395 South, exit Moana, west to S. Virginia, south to the Atlantis)

Bar, dinner and program will be in the Brunello Room, Second Floor in the new wing

Who: Your local hosts are Tom Taormina, K5RC; Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Rich Hallman, N7TR, and NACHO (Nevada Association of Contest Highland Operators)

Travelers: Rooms and packages are available from the Atlantis Casino Resort. Reservations can be made at 800-723-6500 or see their web site. Provisions are available for RV's. The Atlantis is convenient to downtown Reno and many other hotels and casinos. It is also 30 minutes from historic Virginia City and 45 minutes from Lake Tahoe.

Web Sites:

www.atlantiscasino.com (Atlantis Casino Resort)

www.modernsolutions.com/reno/sitemap.html

(Local information)

<http://nevadanet.com/renotahoeofun/>

(More Local information)

Dinner reservations are required in advance. We must give the Hotel a guaranteed number 3 days prior.

Name(s) _____

Call(s) _____

of dinners @\$20.00 each _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

E-Mail address _____

Dinner: Caesar Salad, Southwestern Chicken, Rice, Beverage, Dessert. (\$20 includes tax and gratuity)

E-mail or call with Visa or Master Card number and expiration date, or make checks payable to:
Productivity Resources, LLC, PO Box 1126, Virginia City, NV 89440

Mail reservations to the same address, or FAX to 775-847-7930.

Information/RSVP: E-mail: TomK5RC@aol.com or phone 775-847-7929.

HOW I INSTALLED A NEW CRANK-UP TOWER:

A photo story (Part 3)

The last episode closed with a photo of an upright 54-foot Tri-Ex crankup tower, and the crew that helped get it that way, and a promise that this part would show the antenna transfer from the old tower to the new one.

I thought about the transfer for a long time, wondering what would be the easiest and safest way to move the Force 12 C4SXL from its puny 1 ¼ inch mast on the 30 foot tower to the stout 2 inch mast on the new tower. Should the antenna be disassembled and reassembled at the new position? Should it be lowered, the old tower removed, and the antenna raised? Could the antenna be moved intact from the old tower to the new tower?

The latter course seemed to be the most efficient: the height of the antenna on the old tower was about 33 feet. The retracted height of the new tower plus mast was 24 feet, so the antenna could really be LOWERED to the new tower, and there was only 4 feet of separation between the towers. I planned each step of the transfer in painstaking detail: How many bolts are there? Which way should I aim the antenna to make the transfer easiest? Which way do the bolts point now? Is that a 9/16 or a 5/8 inch nut? Do I have to lift the antenna over the mast(s)?

I rented a 25-foot “personnel lift” (which I had used to put the C4SXL up originally) and placed it so it raised its basket up between the towers. I went to the top and removed coax cables, and loosened bolts and nuts. One bolt/nut combination was (of course) galled and seized up. A trip down and back up again with my ½ inch drive sockets and strong-arm bar and I was able to twist the offending bolt off. I left the antenna hanging on one bolt, (If you’re familiar with the Force 12 beams, you know which one!) and, on the way down, got the top of the new mast ready to accept the antenna.

I called my son, Tim, to come over to help with the transfer if I needed it. When he arrived, he put on a full body harness with a fall arrest lanyard. I told him I’d go up in the lift, remove the antenna, and bring it back down to the top of the new tower. If I needed him, he’d climb the old tower and help with the transfer. (Yes, I had a safety harness on, too, attached to the lift.) He agreed, and sat down on the back lawn in a comfy lawn chair to watch my efforts.

I shot back up in the lift, removed the antenna from the old mast, and rested the boom on the lift rails while I lowered the lift a few feet. I placed a “ramp” made of a two-by-six across from the lift to the new tower, and slid the antenna right across to its new position, slicker than boiled okra! I put the nut on the bolt (yes, that one), lined up the other mounting holes, and bolted the antenna in its new position. Done!

I told Tim “Thanks! You can go home.” But he insisted he hadn’t been napping, he’d been looking at the old tower, and thought we could remove it very easily with me at the top, in the lift. He was right! I went back up and tied off the tower (weight about a

hundred pounds) to the lift bucket. He took the joint bolts out of the old tower (hardened steel bolts in the galvanized legs... no trouble) and used a couple of pieces of two-by-four and my little hydraulic bottle jack to pry the tower joint apart. (Again, the Rohn 30-something year old galvanizing was in good shape, and the sections came apart easily.) When it was free, he walked the bottom of the tower away as I lowered the bucket. Thus, when I was back on the ground, the old tower was lying there to meet me! He took off his harness (which had kept him from falling out of the lawn chair!) and went home. Then I went inside and got the camera.

I hope you all will agree with my opinion that the picture to the right is a beautiful sight to behold!

73, K6GT

CONAN'S NOTEBOOK

Conan has jotted down a few cases of horrible English which are indicative of a disturbing trend. Here are some examples:

“He wants to distance himself from the others.”

“You can access that information.”

“Just input the data. The computer will output the answers.”

This misuse of the nouns ‘distance’, ‘access’, ‘input’, and ‘output’ grate on Conan’s ears. It seems sad but true that “There is no noun which cannot be verbed!”

73, Conan



OTHER NCCC ANTENNA WORK



At WC6H, a 5 element KLM 20m Yagi and a 4 element KLM 40m Yagi were taken down to replace a bent mast. The crane is sure a good way to move things around up there!



At K6DB/K6KAY a Force-12 5 element 15m Yagi was put up to round out the collection: 80m rotatable dipole, 2 el 40m, 5 el 20m, and 6 element 10m Yagis! *(I hope that's a tilt-over tower! If not, Ken and Kay have some more work in store for them!... ed)*

=====

LAST CHANCE TO PAY DUES FOR 1999 – 2000 !

Name: _____	Full Members x \$24 = _____
Call: _____	Family Members x \$12 = _____
Address: _____	Associate/Student x \$12 = _____
_____	Donation to General Fund _____
_____	Donation to Repeater Fund _____
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
 San Jose, CA 95148

Cut out the mailing label to the right, and use it to mail the renewal form and your dues check to:

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I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

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