



**Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club**



Issue 483

August 2012

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Guests are always welcome at the NCCC!

Please join us.

Next Meeting

"Contesting From A City Lot" Ira, K2RD

Date:

Monday 13th August.

Time:

6:00pm schmooze, 6:30pm dinner

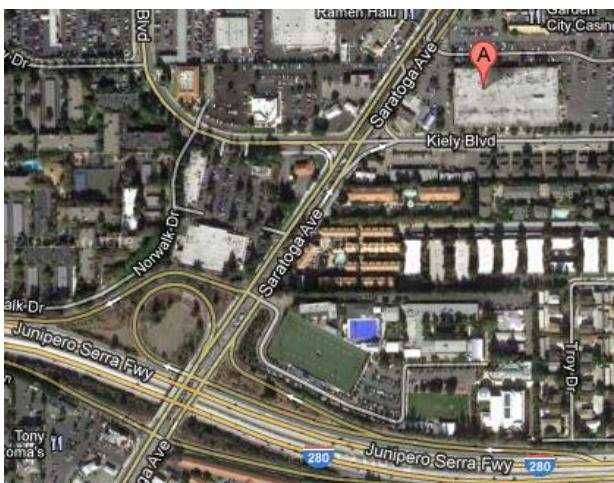
7:00pm program

Location:

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 **(408) 243-0434**

Dinner: Purchase your dinner in the cafeteria line and take your tray to the meeting room in the rear.

Take 280 to Saratoga Avenue and go north two blocks. Harry's is on the right just past Keily Blvd. http://www.harryshofbrau.com/Where_is_Harry_s_.html



From the President...

August already? Less than 2 months to the 2012 California QSO Party and the thick of the new contest season... I haven't even seen a ripe tomato from the vines yet!

I know many of you are in the thick of antenna projects and stations rework... from replacing antenna stacks to moving into a new shack, there is plenty of dust being kicked up. For the rest of us, time to schedule outside work while the going is good and bite the bullet with a station upgrade plan if appropriate.

There's still time left to plan a county expedition for CQP and activate some of the rarer counties – check with N6TV and you'll find some much needed counties aren't all a 7 hour drive away. Better yet, think about a serious rover entry and plan a route to put as many counties on the air as you can – there's a plaque for that!

Later in this edition of the JUG, you'll find a meeting report on the first tri-club meeting between MLGXCC, NCCC & REDXA which was held late last month in Fairfield. There was great attendance from all three clubs and many thanks to all those members of NCCC who made the journey for the meeting! The meeting was a great success and hopefully becomes an annual event. Thanks to REDXA and MLGXCC for coordinating the meeting logistics and both President's for throwing down the gauntlet (once again!) for contesting the 2012 CQP Club contest.

Continued on page 3



Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

Officers:

President	Stu Phillips	K6TU	stu@ridgelift.com
Vice President	Dean Wood	N6DE	cqden6de@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Dave Ritchie	W6DR	nccc.treasurer@gmail.com
Past President	Chris Tate	N6WM	ctate@ewnetinc.com
Director	Kevin Rowett	K6TD	kevin@rowett.org
Director	John Miller	K6MM	k6mm@arrl.net
Director	Ira Stoler	K2RD	k2rd@arrl.net

Volunteers:

New Member Mentor	Al Rendon	WT6K	wt6k@arrl.net
Charter Member	Rusty Epps	W6OAT	w6oat@sbcglobal.net
Awards Chairs	Joanna Dilley	K6YL	joanna.k6yl@gmail.com
CQP Chair	Rebar Rebachik	N6DB	rebar@hamilton.com
CQP Certificates	Alan Eshleman	K6SRZ	doctore@well.com
K6ZM QSL Manager	Andy Faber	AE6Y	ae6y@arrl.net
K6CQP,N6CQP,W6CQP QSL Mgr	George Daughters	K6GT	k6gt@arrl.net
NCCC Email reflector Admin	Ed Muns	W0YK	w0yk@arrl.net
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JUG Editors	John Miller	K6MM	k6mm@arrl.net
	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com
	Stu Phillips	K6TU	stu@ridgelift.com

Thursday Night Contesting:

NCCC—Sprint	Ken Keeler	N6RO	kenkeeler@jazznut.com
NS Ladder	Bill Haddon	N6ZFO	haddon.bill@gmail.com
Slow NS (SNS)	Chris Tate	N6WM	ctate@ewnetinc.com

NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM
Freq: 3.610 +/-

NCCC
Monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of each month !

Details [here](#)

NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, you must fill out an [application for membership](#), which will be read and voted upon at the next monthly meeting. ([PDF application form](#))

To join, you must reside within [club territory](#) which is defined as the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).

Speaking of the JUG, we need your help to keep the content flowing! Anything ham radio and contesting related are fair game – technical, operating, general interest, product reviews, contest write-ups, hints and tips... long, short... even somewhere in between! Grab a camera during this next operating season and send your pictures and thoughts to the JUG editors – we'll help with editing and layout as necessary.

Short and sweet this month so that's all for now folks!

Stu K6TU

VP/CC Report

Recognition for NCCC members in July:

IARU: N6TV, K6XX - Bob N6TV entered the S/O CW HP category, and Bob K6XX entered the S/O Mixed Mode HP category. Both had outstanding scores, placing in the overall Top 10 box in the 3830 listings for their respective categories.

RAC Canada Day: K6MMM M/S (KE1B, W6NN) – Strong score placing 2nd in the non-VE M/S Top 10 box from 3830 reports.

NAQP RTTY: WK6I – Jeff placed 3rd overall with a strong score in this challenging summer NAQP for the West Coast from the W7RN station.

Remainder of August Calendar:

Worked All Europe DX CW: August 11 0Z – August 12 2359Z

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

SARTG WW RTTY: August 18 0Z – August 19 16Z (3 operating periods)

<http://www.sartg.com/contest/wwrules.htm>

NAQP SSB: August 18 18Z – August 19 06Z

<http://ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

VP/CC Report

Dean Wood, N6DE

Dues are due

\$24

**paypal@nccc.cc
or send a check payable to
NCCC to W6DR, Treasurer,
at his CBA**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CONTEST CLUB



First (Annual?) Tri-Club Meeting

MLDXCC – NCCC – REDXA

July 28th, 2012

Fairfield, California

NCCC has a long history of joint meetings with other contest and DX clubs in it's territory but this July marked a new milestone – the first three way club meeting between the Mother Lode DX & Contest Club, NCCC and the Redwood Empire DX Association.

In true collaboration, all three clubs participated in the logistics, promotion and organization of the event starting with venue selection. After some discussion, the three clubs agreed somewhere close to Fairfield would be a good spot for the venue and Bob Hess, W1RH drove (literally!) the process to identify a restaurant with reasonable meeting space. Destiny led us to the Rockville Grill in Rockville (!), just north of Highway 80 near Fairfield.

We wanted to recruit a high profile speaker for the meeting. After some noodling, John Miller, K6MM reached out to Paul Ewing, N6PSE who was a key member of the 706T Dxpedition to Yemen earlier this year. Paul graciously agreed and we had the backbone of our agenda.

Choosing a Saturday in late July away from normal vacation and Holiday events pretty much guaranteed (this is California after all!) great weather and minimal traffic issues. We weren't disappointed and had almost 70 members from all three clubs converge on the Rockville Grill for the meeting.



Paul led off the meeting with his presentation on the Yemen Dxpedition including many great pictures of the country, DX station set up and the people of Yemen.

Paul surprised many people with his account of the short notice that led up to this expedition – it was literally planned on the fly at this year's International DX Convention at Visalia with the expedition a short number of weeks later.

Paul is an excellent speaker and gave a great account of the DXpedition including a perspective of the people of Yemen regarding the situation in the country and positive views of the USA.

Next up on the agenda was a surprise event organized by Ira Stoler, K2RD – a CW Pileup Competition between the three clubs driven by the same software used at Dayton - originated from the Kansas City DX Club.



Ira came armed with a collection of five computers and networking gear – one computer as the coordinating server, one for each of three participants and one to drive a real time scoreboard driving the video projector.

Each club recruited a team of three contestants who competed against one another in three heats. Each heat was a 5-minute audio clip with 110 call signs (all recorded off the air – together with background noise and different rates/tones). The real time scoreboard showed the progress of each contestant in the heat against one another as well as against the current leaderboard. Each contestant had to log the calls they heard and gained credit for each call correctly received.

Bob Wilson N6TV came in first with 67 calls correctly copied – he led team NCCC to an overall victory and won the prize of the day... a bottle of Morse Code red wine! All teams put on a great effort and it was clear the adrenaline was flowing by the end of each heat. Here's the final score board!

Club	Call	Calls	Characters		Club	Calls	Characters
N	N6TV	67	331		N	147	730
N	K6RB	44	215		R	85	415
N	W6OAT	36	184		M	71	335
R	K6SRZ	36	174		Visitor	25	124
M	W1RH	29	138				
R	W6OSP	28	137				
Visitor	K4QPL	25	124				
M	WC6H	23	109				
R	K6MM	21	104				
M	K6LRN	19	88				

The meeting concluded with Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ & CQP Contest Chair giving a summary of the CQP 2011 results highlighting the club competition and the close race between MLDXCC and REDXA.



Bob W1RH and Jim K6JS wrapped up the meeting with a wager of a case of wine to the winner of this year's CQP club contest.

It was a great meeting with excellent attendance; it was great to be able to put more names to familiar call signs and make new friends in the Northern California area.

Business Tripping with an Elecraft KX3

by Don K6GHA

Although not your usual destination location, Anacortes Washington (2 hours north of Seattle) is a sleepy port town offering ferry service to the San Juan Islands off Washington's NW coast. This unique small town location just happened to be the destination of my future business travel.

At an informal meeting prior to the trip (lamenting the remote destination, the lack of late evening non-business activity, early flights, and long drive), Bob (K6XX) brightened my travel options by suggesting I operate HF from hotel room. I thanked him for the idea, with a muffled snort of laughter, and under muted breath I said, "Oh sure, like I am going to carry the K3 and an antenna". My negative response was cut short when he offered up his Elecraft KX3 for the trip. My "like lightening" response, while picking up my jaw off the floor, was "uh...Cool!", this business trip suddenly got a lot more interesting.

For those of you who haven't seen the Elecraft KX3, on the web, or in person, it is a portable HF radio that offers exceptional features and performance in a light weight (1.5 lbs), all HF band (6-160m), 10W PEP, tight sized (3.4H x 7.4W x1.8D) radio, offering a lot of the features of its bigger brother the K3. It is an easy transition to the KX3 layout and button menu logic if you know the K3.



Packing the KX3 in my carry-on suit case (KX3, spare AA batteries, dipole antenna, mic, and CW keyer), required less space than a pair of shoes! Notice I said carry-on, I wasn't going to let this little guy out of my sight! Breezing through the airport was completely uneventful, both ways. I was never asked to open my carry-on. It seems TSA was more concerned with my PC being out of its bag, my shoes off, and cell phone to be run through the x-ray machine than the KX3 secure in my carry-on. I am still baffled.



Arriving at my destination, I checked out all the options for operating. To my surprise I found the hotel had a top floor lookout over the city, and a view to the San Juan Islands. The plus was it had sliding windows! Two minutes later, high atop Anacortes, I tossed the dipole antenna out the window and on to the roof surrounding the lookout, turned on the KX3 and scanned the bands. Conditions weren't great that week for the evenings I operated; the antenna was a quick wire dipole and untested. However, I immediately picked up South America, Florida, and the East Coast on 20m. I used the built in speaker for the first few minutes of operation. Other guests (two Canadians and an Australian couple) were enjoying the view from the lookout and soon focused on what I was doing. They commented on the radio, its size, and what they were hearing! I surely hadn't planned on demoing the KX3, but heck... It is really cool (I think I said that before!).



This little box packs a punch in its small footprint. Anyone thinking of doing remote DX, backpack radio, or even having fun on any trip should consider this light weight, fully featured, little power house.

I reluctantly returned Bob's KX3, and suggested that I need more operating time with it on ANY of my future trips in order to write a more complete review (...wink). He just smiled.

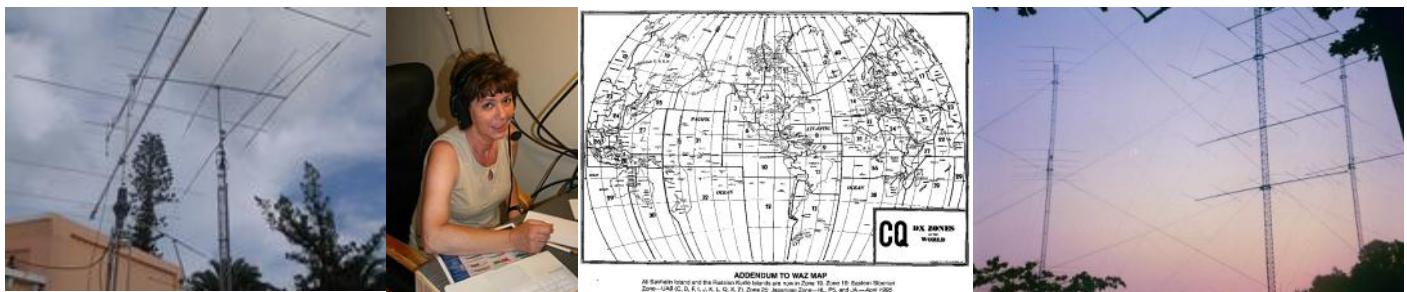


Please consider writing an article for JUG !

September 2012 Newsletter Deadline—August 28th

This is your newsletter so lets make it something we are proud of. I hope you will consider writing an article for the JUG! Whether its about your station, recent contest experience or a technical article we would appreciate hearing from you.

Send your articles to Ian W6TCP w6tcp@comcast.net and Stu K6TU stu@ridgelift.com



12 STORE BUYING POWER



IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM
- 2x DSP
- Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display
- 503 memory channels
- Remote control mic



IC-7700 Transceiver.
The Contesters Rig

- HF + 6m operation
- +40dBm ultra high intercept point
- IF DSP, user defined filters
- 200W output power full duty cycle
- Digital voice recorder



IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver
- Dual DSP 32 bit
- Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15khz
- 5.8 in WVGA TFT display
- Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-7800 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 200W
- Four 32 bit IF-DSPs
- + 24 bit AD/DA converters
- Two completely identical, independent receivers
- +40dBm 3rd order intercept point
- And much more!



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