



#618 – January 2024



JUG

Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club

NCCC

**NCCC – 53 years
of contesting
excellence**

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NCCC MEETING

<https://nccc.cc/meetings.html>

Next ZOOM Meeting Tue 9 Jan 2024
1800 PST

Ken, K2KW: "Verticals On The Beach – low power at VP2VMM"

President's Report

David West, KO6M



Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you refreshed from the holidays. Great job in ARRL 10M we are all anxiously awaiting the results. I hope you all got on and had a great time in the RTTY RU as well.

In the coming year I hope we can all find more time to get butt in chair time. As we all know BIC Time = points and points = wins. I challenge us all to try something different. Learn from others and maybe what works for someone else could help you gain a few more points. Which in turn could gain you a win. Or it could just gain you more fun. Either way that's a win in my book.

Upcoming contests to note

NA QSO Party CW	1800Z, Jan 13 to 0559Z, Jan 14
NA QSO Party SSB	1800Z, Jan 20 to 0559Z, Jan 21
ARRL January VHF	1900Z, Jan 20 to 0359Z, Jan 22
Winter Field Day	1900Z, Jan 27 to 1900Z, Jan 28
CQ 160-m CW	2200Z, Jan 26 to 2200Z, Jan 28

73 and KB!



About NCCC

Officers and Directors, 2023-2024 Contest Season

President: David West, [K06M](#)
Vice-President/Contest Chairman: [Chris Tate, N6WM](#)
Secretary: Greg Alameda, [K6PXT](#)
Treasurer: Nian Li, [WU6P](#)
Past President: [David Jaffe, WD6T](#)
Director: Bob Cox, [K3EST](#)
Director: John Miller, [K6MM](#)
Director: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

Volunteers

Charter Member: Rusty Epps, [W6OAT](#)
Awards Chair: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)
California QSO Party Chair: Dean Wood, [N6DE](#)
QSL Mgr [[K6ZM](#)]: vacant
QSL Mgr [[K6CQP/N6CQP/W6CQP](#)]: [Dean Wood, N6DE](#)
NAQP Teams: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)
NA CW Sprint Teams: Bob Vallio, [W6RGG](#)
NCCC Email Reflector Admin: Phil Verinsky, [W6PK](#)
Worked All CA Counties Award: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)

NCCC Thursday Night Contesting

NCCC Sprint: Tom Hutton, [N3ZZ](#)
NS CW Ladder: Bill Haddon, [N6ZFO](#)
NS RTTY Sprint/Ladder: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

Communications

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)
Webinars: Bill Fehring, [W9KKN](#)
Membership: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)/Ian Parker, [W6TCP](#)

JUG Editor

Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#): k6dgwnv@gmail.com
Home: 775.501.5488
Cell: 530.210.0778

there, many you work as DX in contests regularly. follow the fun at <http://clip.pdxg.net/> I wish you all the best of luck contesting in Jan/early Feb. I should be able to return to spearhead WPX RTTY.ark your calendars for 2/10-2/11, always an amazing and fun time.

73, and most importantly, KB!

Chris, N6WM

VP/CC Report

Chris Tate, N6WM



I want to start by thanking past prez WD6T for stepping up and serving as interim contest chairman over the next month, as I will be departing for Clipperton Island [TX5S] in a couple of days. the post holiday personal prep has been quite intensive for me so I thank all of you for your patience.

I once again congratulate you all on your efforts in the 10 meter contest, we remain cautiously optimistic our efforts may have have paid off. I also thank all of those who have stepped up with information to assist in the effort unsolicited I may add such as CQP chair Dean N6DE as well as Bill N6ZFO. your contributions to club efforts are immeasurable. we are lucky to have you.

I also want to encourage as many of you as possible to work with WD6T as he spearheads efforts to get as many of us qrv for RTTY roundup as possible. Last year PVRC took the gavel in this contest for the first time in many years. it would be nice to take that trophy back! As will all unlimited competitions.. every log.. every point.

I am sure many of you have seen the TX5S press releases, and providing all goes well this will be a major show. We have a significant contingent of active NCCC members on the Expedition team--

W1SRD, N6WM, N6XG, N6NU, N6PSE, along with some of the most experienced hams/expeditioners out



More W7RN Sweepstakes Lumber Tom, K5RC

Heavy package from ARRL today. Two more SS plaques to add to our Wall of Fame for a total of 22 Division plaques for N6TV and WX5S. Let's keep the legend going!

By the way, the station now has 410,000 QSO's on LoTW since 2007. That's an average of 25,600 Q's a year. The trend is upward!



K6EI Wins The QST Dec 2023 Cover Plaque Award *"My Introduction to Parks on the Air"*

Jim Peterson, K6EI, has won the QST Cover Plaque Award for his article detailing his POTA activation at the Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park in Mendocino County. Congratulations Jim!



Tube of the Month

Norm Wilson, N6JV

(Department of Thermionic Paleontology)

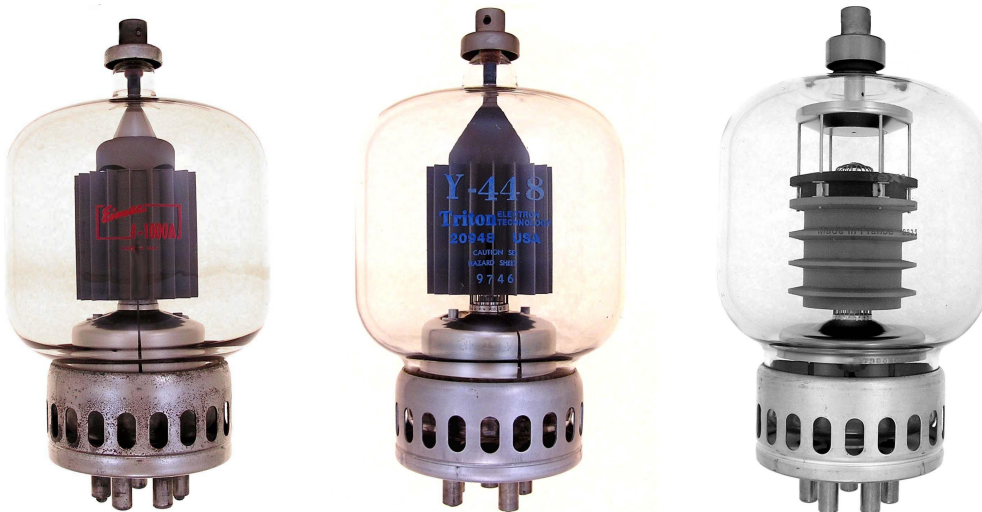
Visit the Tube Museum at n6jv.com

Y488



When EIMAC saw an opportunity to develop a new tube for the public or military market, they attached “X” numbers to the different tubes produced in the experimental stages. Occasionally a customer needed a special tube for a specific use. Often existing tubes were available that would work but the variability wouldn’t be usable when they wanted all tubes to draw grid current in a tight range for instance. For these tubes, a “Y” number was assigned. The characteristics of these Y tubes was somewhat confidential as they were meant for a particular customer. A few of these tubes had a wider appeal and were eventually available to the market with the Y number or with a new standard product number.

All seasoned DXers are familiar with the [4-1000A](#) tetrode. The Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Menlo Park, CA had been using the 4-1000A or the pulse rated 4PR1000A version. These tubes were born on the same assembly line but the PR tubes passed a higher voltage breakdown test so they were separated and marked for pulse. SLAC wanted a 4PR1000A that had a longer life and higher emission. The solution was to make a pulse tube with a higher current filament. The current was raised from 21 to 30 amps and this tube was designated the [Y-448](#). In time, Y-448 tubes started appearing on the surplus market. There was no data sheet published and hams started trying them in their amps with mixed results. They worked fine until the filament transformer failed. I recently saw an amplifier with one 4-1000A and one Y-448 in it. EIMAC has stopped making the glass tubes and Triton (as seen in the second example) has taken over production. Amperex has also made the Y-448 as seen in the last example. If you don’t know what you have, bring it over as I have several clamp-on ammeters.





Editor Notes



Welcome Back to NCCC Founding Member Rick, K6VVA, following an extended and mysterious absence. Can the Locust QSO Party be far behind?

Our esteemed VP/CC, Chris, N6WM, plus a number of NCCC members are off to Clipperton Island as TX5S. If HC8N from the past can be any indication, it ought to be a literal pipeline into NCCC territory. If you're new to ham radio, Clipperton is out in the Pacific Ocean, SW of

Mexico City and there is very little land between NorCal and the island, which is even true for us landlocked folks in Western Nevada. It should be fun.

The JUG articles pantry was nearly empty as we began the new year, hence this issue is a bit thin ... OK, very thin. Everyone has a story to tell, some have more than one, how about telling us about yours. We'll do the formatting for you, just type it into an email, attach [not embed] the photos/diagrams/graphics, and post it to k6dgwnv@gmail.com



NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, please fill out an application for membership, which will be read and voted upon at our monthly meeting. To join, you must reside within club territory which is defined as everything in California north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon state line, and part of northwestern Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles north of Auburn on Highway 49).

Life Memberships

Life memberships are \$250.00 Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com. Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been an NCCC member for 20 or more years are eligible for Honorary Life Membership (“80/20 Rule”). Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com

JUG Articles Wanted!

Your help allows us to produce a quality newsletter. Please consider submitting an article! The editor welcomes any and all relevant articles for inclusion in the JUG. The preferred format is plain, unformatted ASCII text, MS Word (.doc/.docx) are acceptable. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos/diagrams separately. Pictures should be as high a resolution as available. Please do not spend time formatting your submittal, the publication templates will re-format everything. Send your material to k6dgwnv@gmail.com indicating “JUG Submittal” in the subject.

Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines

The NCCC email reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting. Topics include contests, station building, dxpeditions, technical questions, contesting questions, amateur radio equipment wants/sales, score posting, amateur radio meetings/ conventions, and membership achievements. Postings may not include personal attacks, politics, or off-subject posts. Such postings will be considered a violation of the Guidelines

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Welcome to the NCCC Land's End store. You can choose many different products and add a custom-embroidered NCCC logo.

If you would like to add your name and/or call sign, click the Add Personalization button when designing your garment (\$8 charge, 10 character limit).

If you have questions, contact the NCCC secretary at: secretary.nccc@gmail.com



Northern California Contest Club

[NCCC Lands' End Store](#)

We are pleased to announce that the new NCCC Land's End store is online! You can choose from an array of shirts, jackets, and hats and apply your choice of custom-embroidered NCCC logos: A plain one, or one that also says Fifty Years. And, you can personalize your item by adding your name and/or call sign. The store is open 24/7 and items are shipped directly to you. No more waiting for everyone else to make up their minds on a group purchase.

<https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/> or from the NCCC website: <http://nccc.ccc/members/lestore.html>

Thanks to W6TCP for helping to set this up. Instructions for purchases from Lands' End NCCC Store

1. Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>
2. Click on Men's or Women's link, then choose item(s)
3. Pick color, inter quantity of each size you want to order.
4. Click Apply Logos and Personalizations. This will display the logo choices. Try them out. It will show you what they look like on your chosen fabric color.
5. Select a location for logo (left side, ride side, back, etc)
6. Click Apply Logo.
7. Optionally, click Add Personalization to add your name or call sign (\$8.00, 10 character limit)
8. Click Add to Bag and Continue Shopping or.



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K4 HIGH-PERFORMANCE DIRECT SAMPLING SDR



A direct-sampling SDR you'll love to use

Our new K4 transceiver harnesses advanced signal processing while retaining the best aspects of the K3S and P3. It features a 7" touch display, plus a rich set of dedicated controls. Per-VFO transmit metering makes split mode foolproof. Band-stacking registers and per-receiver settings are versatile and intuitive. Control usage information is just one tap away thanks to a built-in help system.

Modular, hybrid architecture adapts to your needs

The basic K4 covers 160-6 m, with dual receive on the same or different bands. The K4D adds diversity receive, with a full set of band-pass filters for the second receiver. (Thanks to direct RF sampling, there's no need for crystal filters in either the K4 or K4D.) The K4HD adds a dual superhet module for extreme-signal environments. Any K4 model can be upgraded to the next level, and future enhancements—such as a planned internal VHF/UHF module—can be added as needed.

Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

The main panadapter can be set up as single or dual. Separate from the main panadapter is our per-receiver *mini-pan* tuning aid, with a resampled bandwidth as narrow as +/- 1 kHz. You can turn it on by tapping either receiver's S-meter or by tapping on a signal of interest, then easily auto-spot or fine tune to the signal.

Comprehensive I/O, plus full remote control

The K4's rear panel includes all the analog and digital I/O you'll ever need. All K-line accessories are supported, including amps, ATUs, and our K-Pod controller. The Video output can mirror the K4 screen or display a high-res Panadapter only screen. Via Ethernet, the K4 can be 100% remote controlled from a PC, notebook, tablet, or even another K4, with panadapter data included in all remote displays. Work the world from anywhere—in style!

K4 KEY FEATURES

Optimized for ease of use

Modular, upgradeable design

7" color screen with touch and mouse control

ATU with 10:1+ range, 3 antenna jacks

Up to 5 receive antenna sources

Full remote control via Ethernet



The K4 interfaces seamlessly with the KPA500 and KPA1500 amplifiers

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IC-T10 | Rugged 144/430 MHz Dual Band
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