

Club Repeaters W6RGG/R 147.24+, 442.200 (107.2PL)



JUG

NEXT NCCC MEETING!

This meeting will be held on Friday, January 17th, at MIGUEL'S restaurant at 22865 Atherton Street in Hayward. The phone number is (510) 886-7200. You get there by going EAST ON JACKSON off of 880 in Hayward. After you go under the BART tracks, go LEFT on WATKINS, then immediately left on WILLIS. Go a short block, and look across the street to your right. The building with the big longhorn steer logo on it is Miguel's. Dinner is at 6:30PM, and the meeting at 7:30. Prepare for the ARRL DX contest!

NCCC ROSTER ISSUE

Don't pitch this issue of the JUG. (You don't pitch *any* issue, do you? ...ed) Inside you'll find a full membership roster in "callbook" order, with addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses, that you'll want to save in a handy place. This year there's a new feature, too, a cross-reference list of old calls. For instance, if I can't remember my new call, I can look up my old one, ADBYL. The roster tells me that ADBYL is now K6GT. Thanks to Dick Dievendoff, AA6MC, er... K6KR for his hard work in making this happen..

COOK BOOK

Hi gang! I hope that your last couple of months have not been as hectic as mine! Still, I was able to get on both modes of Sweepstakes, and, with a little help from my friends, we racked up about 500K total points for the club. I hope the holidays find you happy, healthy, and ready to make an all-out effort in the ARRL DX contest.

73, Carl, AI6V

HOLIDAY BANQUET

....plus!

Sunday, December 8th

If you're one of the lucky throng who will be attending the unique NCCC Holiday Banquet, here's an unexpected lucky stroke! If you come early, you can have a bit of holiday cheer, and listen to Holiday Dixieland by the "Devil Mountain Jazz Band" with NCCC's own N6RO! They start at 5:00PM.

From the JUGhead

(General commentary on 1996 CW SS)

I attempted to be really prepared for CWSS this year. I spent the previous weekend (CQWW SSB) with the entire family, kids and grandkids for a special get-together. I therefore had full approval to take my 30 hours for Sweepstakes, with everyone's blessing. (Everyone but Murphy, of course.) Last year I borrowed the fine station belonging to my friend Craig, WA6OXX, to take advantage of his 3 element 40 meter beam. I had full approval from him and his wife, Sandy, for this year's effort.

When Craig and I began to set up, tests showed the 40M3 to be resonant at 8.1 Mhz, but the antenna tuner would match it to where the output power was a kilowatt or better. Then, the 80 meter dipole was essentially down on the deck, so it needed to be raised. Not too big a problem. Testing on the CW portion of each band showed a sort of intermittent behavior of the tuner and amp. Sometimes the amplifier protect circuit would kick, sometimes not. When it worked, it was

great, but I couldn't tell when it would work. I decided to weigh his station against the advantages and disadvantages of my known, highly-reliable, home QTH, which is, in two words, aluminum-deprived.

The next day the choice became obvious. I was coming down with some nasty flu-bug, and I didn't want to infect Sandy and Craig, so I opted for the home station. No worries about when and if things would work. Yeah, right!

My attitude was still good. I really wanted to break 100K this year. It only takes 600+ QSO's, and I had approval for the full 30 hours! Let's see, 24 hours at 25 QSO's per hour... 600 QSO's. No sweat. Also, there's the perennial desire for a "clean sweep." That only takes 78 QSO's!

I got a good night's sleep on Friday, and when 2100Z came around, I was feeling pretty good! I started on 15 meters, but couldn't get the rate meter up. Still, I spent 2 hours @ 33q/hr and the 3d call in the log was VI section! Then I moved to the 20 meter zoo, where I couldn't find a frequency or get the rate meter up. Still, I had a 1st hour rate of 33/hr. I spent a while S&P, and found VY1JA doing the same thing. I tried chasing him, but when he tuned up, I was tuning down, and vice-versa. I couldn't catch him.

Then came the next big Murphy hit. If you read about my Dentron conversion in May QST, this is for you. If you didn't read it, skip this paragraph. The good news about that 4CX800A conversion is that, with all that cathode degeneration, you can overdrive it and stay linear to over 1000W out! The bad news is, the 50 watt input resistor won't dissipate 100w drive for the duration of a whole CWSS. The solder melted, the input resistance became infinite, the SWR presented to the transceiver went sky high, so output power went down... way down! I got out my trusty IC-2KL which gave me a nice, reliable, auto bandswitched, no-tuning-required, 500W for the remainder of the contest.

I moved to 40 meters with the HF-2V vertical; the signals were not very good, but the noise was quite low. (... exactly the characteristics of a dummy load, now that I think about it!) I sure missed the 3 element beam. Guess what? I couldn't get the rate meter up. One rate that was up was the QSB rate. The fade seemed always to clobber half of an exchange, requiring a fill on the serial number and precedence, or on the check and section. I switched to the 40 meter dipole which the visiting world-class operators from Croatia used for WRTC. It was no better.

I moved to 80m, where my HF-2V is even more like a dummy load. No chance, I figured. Hmm, lower noise than usual, solid QSO's. VY1JA called me! When the headache got unbearable, I went to bed. A

glance showed I had essentially the same number of QSO's on 80, 40 and 20, and the rate meter said... 32.

I got up at 1400Z, feeling awful, and started on 40. It was still tough going. I moved to 20m then 15m, (got an hour of 41/hr) and then back to 20m. I found a good frequency and started a modest run. At the same time, my temperature started an upward climb, and I promised myself "when the rate meter drops below 30, I'm into bed!" The rate meter went up to 40, then to 50, and above 60 for a while. I stopped when I just couldn't go on another minute. I sat in my easy chair and took my temperature. The thermometer reported 102.5 degrees, a not-insignificant number for a man of my years. I took a couple of aspirins and rested for a few minutes. When I returned (to 20 meters) someone had stolen (?) my run frequency!

I spent a half-hearted and half-headed (or less) effort until 2300Z. I spent 15 minutes in a pileup trying to work the ME multiplier through all kinds of 1's and 2's calling him. I finally got him, but only made 28 QSO's between 2100Z and 2300Z, when my brain and body shut down. I never heard PR or MAR. I went to bed and slept for over 18 hours. The fever was still there on Monday, and I took sick leave on Monday and Tuesday

Damn, this is fun... cu in SS fone!

73, AB6YL

Power Line Interference Solved

A few months ago after retiring we moved to a rural area near Redding, Ca. I wanted room for antennas (got it!) and an "rf quiet" QTH in the country. I had that too, until CQWW. It rained here almost all of CQWW weekend and all of the sudden an S-9 noise level when the Yagis were pointed at JA. This forced me to work JA's on 15 (which were weak anyhow) with beam pointed 60 degrees west of the actual JA heading.

Monday morning after the contest (one week ago) I took a vhf-aircraft (AM) handheld and a vhf Yagi and went looking. In short order I found a PG&E power pole with a transformer, various insulators, and lightning arrestors which seemed to be the source of the problem. I called PG&E and explained the situation and they promised to have someone out within a week. This morning (one week) a PG&E interference specialist arrived. He was extremely well equipped with a variety of receivers (complete with attenuators) and Yagis. In short order he confirmed the pole I had identified and then using a handheld receiver isolated one insulator as the primary source of the "leak". Upon later inspection (same day!!) by a repair crew this

insulator (which I'll describe momentarily) was found to be cracked at the point where one end of a HV line fuse was attached.

According to the repair crew this particular type of insulator has been the source of MANY MANY problems (not just RFI, but power failures as well). This type of insulator has been sold, in his words "to just about every electrical utility in the country". He would not identify the manufacturer or model number of the insulator because of pending litigation between the manufacturer of this defective insulator and several utility companies which are suing the manufacturer.

The supervisor told me that tens of thousands of RFI problems and power failures have been attributed to this insulator. For lack of better identifying information I'll describe it. It mounts ATOP the power transformer (a pair per transformer) and protrudes at a 45 degree angle. It is about 10 inches long and about 3 1/2 inch in diameter. It is used to hold a long line fuse.

The PG&E crew, which by the way I am commending in writing to their boss, not only replaced the faulty insulator and its mate, but re-configured the layout of lightening arrestors atop the pole to reduce the number of nuts and bolts that could later loosen and cause problems. The end result is, the noise is gone and an almost certain power disruption this winter averted.

If you are experiencing a noise problem which you track to a particular pole you might look for the type of line fuse insulator I've described. The crew that came here was sharp and knowledgeable, but not all are.

73, Jerry, KG6LF

**“Vanity,
thy name is ham”**

- or -

We're so vain....

Here are new "day one" vanity calls for our club members. If I missed any, please let me know!

Those who want a new club badge should send \$8 (check made payable to NCCC) and a piece of paper with your first name as it should appear on the badge and new callsign to:

Dick Dievendoff, K6KR
1211 Janis Way
San Jose CA 95125-4050

Old Call	New Call	Name
WM2C	K2KW	Kenny Silverman
WN4KKN	N5KO	Trey Garlough
AA6KX	N6NT	Bruce Sawyer
AA6MC	K6KR	Dick Dievendoff
AB6YL	K6GT	George Daughters
K6PJY	W7DR	Dan Ramsey
AC6XO	N6DE	Dean Wood
KI3V	N7TR	Rich Hallman
KJ6DL	NT6K	Dave Bullard
KJ6PJ	K6PJ	Larry Springer
KK6QM	K6BL	Barb Leeson
N1EE	W6CT	Scott Lieberman
N6IP	K6XX	Bob Wolbert
N6XI	N7TN	Rick Tavan
NB6L	N6ZM	Don Artru
NG0X	N6NZ	Dave Curtis
W6EMS, N4TQO	K6AW	Steve Merchant
K6NLG	W6NW	Gordon Girton
W6PYX	WX6V	Jim Venneman
W6QHS	W6NL	Dave Leeson
W6YKM	W6YM	Fred Honnold
WA6AUE	W6EU	Jim Duffy
WA6BXH	W7BX	Sandy Lynch
WA6TKV	KT6RA	Ray Antasek
WA6YVS	N1CS	Jim Singer
WB6UTY	K6ST	Barry Bettman
WB6YRN	W6DI	Les Valdez
WR6R	AH7G	Al Crespo
WA8LLY	K6UM	Steve Lund

Flash!!

K6ZM issued

After being told first, that since Phil's call, K6ZM, had just been vacated, and that two years had to pass before it could be reassigned, and second, that all further gate II vanity calls were on indefinite "hold," we were notified by eagle-eyed member Gordon (now W6NW)

“K6ZM was issued to the Northern California Contest Club, K2KW, trustee.”

Thanks to Gordon for the first report of the good news, and special thanks to Kenny (up until recently known as WM2C) for the hard work and persistence, and to Peggy for supporting our application for Phil's call! (The former club call, KE6UCF, has now been vacated, which may be of interest to the members of the radio club at the University of California, Fresno.)

ARRL 10M Contest

On December 14th and 15th, the ARRL 10 meter contest will happen! The NCCC is going to make a club entry for the 10M contest, so let's all get on and show the other clubs how it's done. This is not an "official" NCCC effort like SS or ARRL DX, but the club does want to make a good showing. The SFI has been over 100 for the past few days, so I expect that there will be lots of people checking out the 10M contest to see if propagation is really back.

At this time of year, the 10M contest is cool, because you will be able to sleep, AND get in some family time. The likely band openings will be to the East coast, Caribbean, South America, Pacific, and possibly JA, if the SFI remains high.

Please get on and work the other NCCers: SATURDAY December 14 @ high noon (local) for SSB +/- 28.325, and 12:30 (local) for CW +/- 28.125. Don't forget to stick around in the novice CW band to see if there are other novices outside the NCCC, as they are worth 8 points per QSO!

If your Spanish is up to par, here are the LU novice frequencies: 28.030-28.190 CW; 28.300-28.350 SSB/DX/Contests; and 28.900-29.300 SSB/FM.

Even if you make just a few QSOs, please send your logs into the ARRL, and make sure you have identified your entry as a Club Entry for the NCCC, and send your scores to WA6SDM, VPCC. CU on 10M as K6ZM @ likely at the K6ZM QTH

73, Kenny, K2KW

SCORES

Sweepstakes - CW

N6RO	189,728
W6OAT	187,824
AA6KX	144,924
WA6CTA	133,848
K6PU	132,240
WA6AUE	174,252
W6RGG	105,456
K6ANP	94,402
AB6YL	78,280
AD6E	73,164
AE6Y	70,378
W6BSY	51,552
W6PLJ	34,952
WA8LLY/6	27,300
W6BIP	138,776

(W6BIP, N1EE, AE0M)

Sweepstakes - SSB

N6NT	258,960
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W6OAT	156,936
W6BSY	156,312
K6GT	104,192
W6ISO	99,684
AD6E	92,862
AE6Y	81,774
W6PLJ	38,412
W6DPD	13,250
WA6CTA	5,780
N2ALE	32
AE0M	63,024

(AE0M, N0BBS)

CQP

AE6Y	186,219
WA6CTA	138,738
WA6AUE	126,204

You'll see some new calls over the next couple of months. There is a flood of new calls to learn to replace the old calls. I bet there were a lot of banners up over operating positions during SS SSB. How many of you with new calls fumbled and called with the old one? After looking at a list of calls and not seeing anything I liked, I stayed with the old one, and I would didn't want to have to re-register my software.

With the scores I have to date for Sweepstakes the club is at around 2.6 million points. Send your summary sheets to me and the logs to ARRL. Make sure the club affiliation is marked for NCCC.

The next big event the club is going out for is the ARRL DX contest, both modes. DXpeditions now count for club scores, so if you're thinking about a DXpedition to get away from the winter weather, keep this in mind for dates.

I am still without packet, so e-mail me at jholly@cup.hp.com or snail mail to my new address 1799 Westhaven Dr; San Jose, CA 95132. The new home number is (408)-258-0128, and the work number is still the same, (408)-447-0725. I have voice mail on the work number, so call and leave a message anytime.

See you all at the Holiday banquet!

73, Jim, WA6SDM, ex-WA6SDM

Contest Calendar

Dec. 7-9	ARRL 160 meter contest; Telephone pioneer QSO party
Dec 14-15	ARRL 10 meter contest; TARA RTTY sprint
Dec 16-17	Worldwide Naval Contest
Dec 21-22	Croatian CW Contest
Dec 28-29	W1BB (Stu Perry) Topband Distance Challenge
Dec 29	RAC Canada Winter Contest
Dec 31	ARRL Straight Key Night

1996 California QSO Party High Claimed Scores by AD6E

Single Operator, CA (125 entries)

CA station	County	Score	Mult	CW	PH
AB6FO	LA	276196	58	936	977
AC6T	Ventura	237861	57	667	1086
KG6LF	Shasta	225910	58	45	1880
N16T	Santa Clara	215238	58	807	645
K6PU	Amador	203638	58	783	581
N6HC	Orange	200796	58	656	747
AE6Y	Santa Clara	186219	57	663	639
KC6CNV	Orange	178640	58	644	574
N6NB	Kern	168728	56	993	17
WA6TKV	Stanislaus	164546	58	565	571
WA6FGV	Imperial	161560	56	711	376
AB6LJ	Sacramento	161472	58	66	1293
KN6WY	Tehama	156636	57	418	747
WX6M	Solano	150104	58	26	1255
KN6EL	Butte	143782	58	545	422
WA6CTA	Marin	138738	57	638	260
W6JTI	Humboldt	137144	56	711	158
WN6K	San Diego	132411	57	485	434
AD6E	Santa Clara	131892	58	542	324
KI6AN	Butte	126440	58	598	193
WA6AUE	Nevada	126204	52	809	0
N6NF	San Mateo	122493	57	459	386
AC6DQ	Amador	119586	57	0	1049
W6BSY	Alameda	112694	58	327	481
N6IP	Santa Clara	104552	56	463	239
WB6YIK	Tulare	103472	58	100	742
N6CCL	Alameda	102080	58	0	880
W6UM	San Luis Obispo	98904	52	634	0
W6TKV	Riverside	97552	56	66	772
WA7BNM/6	LA	93024	51	608	0
KN6XU	Sacramento	91616	56	0	818
W6MVW	San Diego	90729	51	593	0
KM6CB	Kern	88044	58	0	759
N6NM	Monterey	87620	52	483	118
W6HAL	San Bernardino	87609	53	373	267
KJ6DL	San Jaquine	85842	57	272	345
W6PYX	Mariposa	82060	55	384	170
N6ZB	Santa Clara	72471	49	493	0
AB6YL	Santa Clara	71960	56	239	284
W6ISO	San Mateo	70992	58	0	612
N6GG	Amador	67522	49	458	2

Single Operator, non-CA (221 entries)

non CA stn	QTH	Score	Mult	CW	PH
VE7SZ	BC	140940	58	286	786
K5GA	TX	105966	58	319	435
NB1B	ME	103820	58	276	481
AA4NC	NC	92162	58	235	442
WD0GVY	IA	91314	57	244	435
AA8AV	MI	89552	58	280	352
K7QQ	WA	87858	54	241	452
N8LXS	OH	86826	58	279	330
KE1FO	MA	76444	58	160	419
W4WA	GA	74646	58	169	390
N1CC	NY	73360	56	224	319
K3CR	PA	72856	56	241	289
KE6O/7	UT	69890	58	177	337
KE9I	IN	67488	57	210	277
WA3HAE	PA	67480	56	267	202
N5DO	TX	62832	56	180	291
KP2/AG8L	Virgin Is	60335	55	215	226
KF0LA	CO	59223	57	105	362
VE7NKI	BC	58352	56	0	521
W5TZN	OK	54285	55	103	339
KG4W	VA	54060	53	190	225
K5AM	NM	49875	57	95	295
K9OM	IL	49661	53	187	188
N3RJ	PA	47994	57	178	154
K4BAI	GA	46656	54	214	111
N4YOS	AL	43990	53	204	109
KC5ALW	TX	43071	49	293	0
KG8PE	MI	41605	53	161	151
WA1KKM	NY	39676	52	163	137
VE3KP	ON	38500	50	198	88
AA7CP	OR	34788	52	161	93
W4YDD	SC	34700	50	174	86
KS4DU	SC	34550	50	141	134
KF8TM	OH	34290	45	254	0
ZF8BS	Cayman Is	33400	50	166	85
WD51QA	TX	32968	52	86	188
KN4QV	GA	32242	49	150	104
WB5KIA	TX	32079	51	127	124
K0JPL	MO	31850	50	163	74
WK5K	TX	31518	51	114	138

Multi-Single - California (26 entries)

W6GO	Sacramento	346086	58	775	1821
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Multi-Single - non CA (5 entries)

KC0EI	KS	38955	53	155	135
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Full member through 97
 Charles K. Epps, W6OAT
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