



**Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club**

**December  
2002**  
Issue 367



NCCC Net  
Thursday 9PM  
3830+/-

**NCCC Meeting:  
Annual Holiday party**

Tom N6BT, Master of Ceremonies

**Date:** Monday, 9 December 2002  
**Time:** 6:00pm schmooz, 7:00 Dinner

**Location:** Chef Wang's  
5100 El Camino Real  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
(650) 965-2689

RSVP to K6RB

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JUG Editor: HELP WANTED

**Musings from the VP/CC**

Bill Haddon N6ZFO.

First, Season's Greetings to all NCCC contesters. It's be a great pleasure to work with all of you over the past eight months sorting out all the various issues and challenges.

2002 Sweepstakes

Well, we're done, except for final details on getting logs in and verified. At press time, the total predicted NCCC score is roughly 14,000,000, down from last year's spectacular 18.1M claimed score. Thank you all who participated and helped with organization. Jerry, K6III is taking charge of the effort to verify log submission, so prepare to get hounded for Phone SS if your log doesn't show received status at ARRL a few days in advance of the deadline.

If one just looks at Ed's web summary of the contest scores, the real success story doesn't pop out. Ken, congratulations on your record-setting 210,000 point score from N6RO, and after only 50 Sweepstakes outings! Ken's achievement is an inspiration to all of us, and should be one for every contester in the world. Ken's spectacular SO score was topped only by the W6YX multi-single effort.

I'll have more extended comments on Sweepstakes at the January NCCC meeting, including some thoughts on strategy.

### ARRL 10-M Contest

This is a banner year for the club in that we've organized a major effort in not one but two fall contests. Please do your very best for this one. Not only will NCCC look good, but we may all learn a few tricks and, importantly, get a feel for how the West Coast plays in this event. The discussions on strategy and technique at the November meeting were inspiring and informative -- thanks Dan, K6IF, Jim, N6JIM and Dave, KA6BIM, chief honcho for the NCCC 10m effort, and to Rick N6XI for hosting the event at TIBCO.

The ARRL 10m event could be an excellent one for NCCC for several reasons. First, it's both a DX and domestic contest. From the "organizational" standpoint, that DX/domestic mixture should make it easier to convince a broad variety of members to participate. Second, the relatively small antennas required for 10m make it easy for those on smaller real estate holdings to building effective contest antennas. And third, even VHF-weak-signal enthusiasts should like this contest for the challenges it offers in weak signal work, both meteor bounce, backscatter and maybe effects I don't even know about. So we'll hope all of you give this a try, and think of the money you'll save by not spending that weekend in the stores doing holiday shopping.

Watch the club reflector in the coming two weeks for a lot of details and discussion. Particular questions may be directed to Dave, KA6BIM.

### NCJ Sprints

The renewed interests in the NCJ Sprints, particularly the phone sprint, has been particularly pleasing. We know we're good at this, and the results prove it. For the CW Sprint, would you believe that NCCC Team #1, with N6TV as top scorer (11<sup>th</sup> Nationally) actually beat the SCCC Team #1 by 3120 points, 110,312 to 107,192?. Jim W6EU deserves major credit for assembling the talents into a cohesive group - N6TV, N6RO, N6XI, K6XX, K5RC, K6NV, W6EU, AJ6V, W6RGG and NI6T. Way to go. Now we don't quite have top team -- that honor apparently went to the 5's in SSSC Team #1 with 137,296. You can review and digest these spectacular results yourself at [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com).

For SSB Sprint, Mark KI7WX, assembled an NCCC (and friends) team. This group simply overwhelmed all other competition, with a score of 92,772, with 2<sup>nd</sup> place apparently going to SMC, with 72,166. However the NCCC team included 3 non-NCCC members. Interesting, though, that a ten-station team of NCCC members would have scored 87,295 points. So we learned a few things here. Incidentally, the board approved the idea of including non-NCCC members on Sprint Teams, but with the caveat that such teams aren't to be labeled "NCCC #1 etc" but rather something like "NCCC and friends" or something more creative.

We'll review and confirm these web results again when full official results

are published in NCJ. And, we had another first, at least for recent history, with Doug N6TQS's effort to organize an NCCC Team for the RTTY Sprint. As yet, results are not available, so we'll postpone that discussion until later. But I hope that members with RTTY interest will consider giving this one a try. Talk to Doug or Garry, NI6T if you have an interest in this challenging contest.

The Sprints are excellent events for NCCC. In all, at least 40-members participated in the Sept/Oct CW and SSB and RTTY NCJ Sprints. I'll claim that the sprints display our talents to the max, plus serving as an excellent training ground for other contests, including Sweepstakes. Let's continue to participate and show NCCC talents to the rest of the contesting world.

#### 160-meter Contests

It's not a serious possibility to win anything from the West Coast on 160m, but that having been said, our own N6RO walked away with a Pacific Division plaque for last year's ARRL 160 meter contest. As conditions get better, you may want to give 10m a try. Inverted L's and above ground radials make reasonably effective antennas for this band, and can be easily installed. There are actually four major contests to enter: the Dec 6 weekend features the ARRL 160m contest; the infamous Stew Perry contest, honoring W1BB, in late in December, and after the first of the year you can be challenged by the separate weekends of the CQ-WW CW and SSB 160 meter weekends. Watch the reflector for details as these contests approach.

#### Winter/Spring DX Contests.

We generally don't organize major club events in the ARRL and CQ WW DX contests, recognizing that these events probably aren't winnable from the West Coast. But individual efforts are another thing. We'll try to have more to say about that in next month's JUG, in time for the ARRL DX contests, including a review of Ken K6TA's spectacular performance last year (you may want to check the recent summaries of these contests for details).

#### WPX

Now is the time to be thinking about WPX. Remember, this is the contest we can actually win. Andy's spectacular organizational effort for last year will be a hard act to follow, but this is almost certainly the spring contest that NCCC should aim for. Let us know your opinions and thoughts.

Again, Season's greetings and Happy Contesting New Year to All, and we'll be looking forward to seeing many of you at the December 9<sup>th</sup> celebration.

73 Bill, N6ZFO VP/CC.

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#### Dave's Waves



Phew! A big contesting month is behind us. I hope you had fun and did well against your goals. Thank you everyone for the great effort in Sweepstakes. Many fine scores were turned in for the NCCC.

Now we get a short breather, but don't forget that very soon we have another club focus contest coming up: ARRL 10M. This should be a very interesting contest. The wild card, of course, is

propagation. Will old Sol be shining his favors on us for the contest? My tea leaves are unclear. Maybe Sol doesn't speak through Earl Grey, and has switched to herbal decaf instead. In any case, let's hope he's working overtime that weekend. But one thing I can say from my VHF contesting experience: When the propagation is iffy, the rewards go to those whose butt is in the seat. To not be there in the chair is to err.

### November Meeting

We had a great meeting at Tibco in November. Thanks to N6XI for hosting us at this great location. To get us all prepared for the upcoming contest, we had a great multi-speaker program on all manner of 10M contest topics. I learned a few tricks myself.

We also had the pleasure of voting in 5 new members: Bob KC6AWX, Jim K6JAT, Ira K2RD, Dorothy KD6OTC, and Chris KD6IXG. Please join me in welcoming them to the group!

### Holiday Party

The December meeting is, of course, the annual Holiday Party. This year it will once again be at Chef Wang's in Los Altos. Tom N6BT will be Master of Ceremonies for the proceedings. If you haven't RSVP'ed by now, then call Rob right away to see if you can still squeak in. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

### January Meeting

In January we will be looking forward to the WPX contest. The NCCC has historically done well in this contest. We'd like to continue that tradition. To

that end, Andy AE6Y, is putting together a program titled "WPX -- The Easiest Contest for Mega-Points-- and the Most Fun." Andy led the charge on WPX last year both through organizational effort and through example, so this should be a great program.

### Jug Editorship

The NCCC is still in need of a permanent Jug editor. Please contact me if you are interested. Or, if you have a friend that you think would be great but is too shy to come forward, please share your ideas with me.

That's it for this month. See you at Chef Wang's!

73, Dave N6NZ

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## **First ever OSCAR WACC!**

The Northern California Contest Club sponsors the Worked All California Counties (WACC) award. The award is endorsable for special achievements.

On 18 November 2002 John Lee, K6YK, submitted QSL card proof of contacts with all 58 counties via OSCAR. The award is endorsed All OSCAR and 1st OSCAR.

Here are photos of John and his antennas. Congratulations, John! (de K6TA.)



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