



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



November
2007
Issue 426

NCCC Net
Thursday 8 PM
3610+/-

Our Next Meeting

SS CW Review

SS Phone Preview

K3 from a User's Perspective

Date: Monday, 12 November 2007

Time: 6:00 pm schmooze, 6:30 pm dinner,
7:00pm program

Location: TIBCO, Building 2, 3301 Hillview
Avenue, Palo Alto, CA

Pizza, salad and soft drinks for \$10 each

RSVP: Friday, Nov. 9, to K6MM,
webaron@gmail.com

Directions:

Go to www.nccc.cc, and select "meetings."

NCCC Officers

President: Bob Tellefsen, N6WG, n6wg@comcast.net
Vice-President and Contest Chairman: Alan Eshleman,
K6SRZ, doctore@well.com
Secretary/Treasurer: John Miller, K6MM,
webaron@gmail.com

Directors

Past President: Dean Straw, N6BV
Director: Jeff Stai, WK6I
Director: Fred Jensen, K6DGW
Director: Jack Brindle, W6FB
Director: Jim Brown, K9YC
Honorary Director: Rusty Epps, W6OAT

Presidential Musings

By: Bob Tellefsen, N6WG

It's SWEEPSTAKES time again. Warm up your chair, mike and key, and let's go do it.

WK6I had a great quote a while back, "The opportunity for score improvement for little guns is much greater than for a big gun." We have lots of little-gun stations and operators who only operate casually.

Given that there are far more of us "little guns", if we all find a way to improve our scores by even a few percent, that can have a big impact on the club total score.

As an example, all my antennas are wire, and some are used on several bands with tuned feeders. Each antenna is now matched as well as I can on each band. This should reduce tuning time when I jump from one band to another, and hopefully maybe squeeze another dB of loss out of my antenna system.

Tree, N6TR, the father of TR-LOG, sent me a combined rate sheet for all the logs turned in for SS last year. Usually we are interested in what band to be on and when. I took a different look at the table, and sorted the best hours by the largest number of QSOs being made.

The top 9 hours in order of QSOs made were Saturday afternoon and evening: 21, 22, 01, 23, 00, 02, 03, 04, and 05. The rest of the top 12 hours were Sunday at 15, 21, and 16. So, if you can't operate the full

allotted hours for SS, you could focus on these hours as the ones having had the most activity in 2006. Matching these hours up with Dean's propagation presentations would give you an idea of which bands are most likely to be productive.

Good luck to us all. See you in the contest.
73, Bob N6WG

VP/CC Report

By: Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ

We are now in the thick of contest season. During the next five months there are major contests every week or two. The first and third weekends of November feature the ARRL Sweepstakes CW and Phone. Sweepstakes is NCCC's best chance to win the Unlimited Club Championship. This year we go for five in a row.

Between Sweepstakes weekends—the weekend of November 10-11—we have WAE RTTY, JIDX phone, the Kentucky QSO Party, and a Spartan Sprint, to name but a few.

Following SS phone—on the weekend of November 24—CQ WW CW takes center stage. And, the weekend after that we have ARRL 160. The first weekend of December features ARRL 10 M.

Sweepstakes Fatigue

By the time you read this, the time to Sweepstakes will be measured in hours. I am by nature not cut out to be a cheerleader, but I and other NCCC members have been doing what we can to convince you to get on the air for Sweepstakes.

There is, of course, a hardcore of NCCC members for whom no prodding is necessary, but the hard core alone will not win the club championship. It will take a concerted effort by every eligible member within our 175-mile circle.

Last year we won the Unlimited Club championship with fewer than 40% of our members actually participating and submitting logs. This year PVRC—stung by having to forfeit last year's championship—is going for the gavel in a big way.

I am keenly aware of the conflicts involved in getting on the air for a full weekend of contesting. We all need to balance the demands of work, friends, family, and other hobbies or forms of recreation besides ham radio. I also realize that Sweepstakes—especially Sweepstakes phone—is not everybody's favorite contest. It can be really hard to carve out an entire weekend to be left alone in front of a radio with headphones shutting out the rest of the household and a pile of finger food on the table. In fact, much of the non-ham world would consider this behavior bizarre (that's one reason to have a contest club—it's our support group and a place to let our hair down).

In my role as physician I see a lot of people who could improve their health by getting more exercise. "But, doctor," they say, "I just don't have the time." My advice to them is to pencil it in—to give their commitment to exercise the same weight as a business appointment.

And that's my advice to any NCCC members who are wavering in their commitment to Sweepstakes. Figure out how much time you can give to the effort and pencil it in.

If you can, start your contesting at the start of the contest and let the adrenaline carry you as far as it can. Next, if possible, try to get on for the NCCC Rallies. And if you can only do one day, make it Sunday. You'll be "fresh meat" on Sunday and should be able to get a pretty good rate.

Any points you generate will help, and there's a good chance you'll be part of a winning effort. Do it!

Excerpts from the SS Handbook

Why Sweepstakes?

Half of them [Californians—i.e., **Northern Californians**] can Kick Butt in SS whenever they want to bad Enough, and get themselves organized—**K4OJ (SK)**

The ARRL November Sweepstakes are special to the Northern California Contest Club. Participating in SS was the reason for NCCC's founding.

When I polled some of the membership for their opinions regarding our participation, the same reasons kept coming up: Sweepstakes is winnable from the West Coast, unlike the DX contests.

The SS Club Competition is a great club activity because it cannot be won by the Herculean efforts of a half-dozen super stations. Winning the Unlimited Club Competition takes lots of individual entries.

The entire membership can feel that they contributed to the overall success of the club in Sweepstakes. "Medium Gun" stations can compete effectively. Since SS is a domestic contest, huge antenna arrays are not essential.

Even "Little Guns" can CQ and run stations in the Sweepstakes. Regardless of the size and quality of a member's station, he can participate and make a valuable contribution to the aggregate club score. Entries from modest stations *win* or *lose* the Club Competition for NCCC.

The 24-hour format allows sleep and a token amount of family interaction (hey, these are good things!).

Conclusion

The club needs everyone's score
Both modes, or I'll be quite sore
So turn on the amp
And we'll be the champ
In the big dogs' class once more!
—AE6Y

This Handbook was written to inspire you to operate in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and help the Northern California Contest Club win the Unlimited Club competition again. It presented some Sweepstakes strategy and several suggestions for operator and station improvement. Although most of us have room for improvement in both categories, take these hints in a constructive manner—come November, put whatever you have on the air!

To be upset over what you don't have is to waste what you do have—Ken S. Keyes, Jr.

The unlimited club competition is won by the club with the most entries. Sweepstakes is one of the most democratic of contests; the 100W and wires class station will be beaten by the big gun, but not by an order of magnitude like in the DX contests.

We need every entry possible to fend off the increased competition expected this year. The success of the NCCC is in your hands. We will win the Sweepstakes championship again this year if that's what you decide you want. The club with the most entries wins—it's that simple.

Your fellow NCCC members are counting on you; it's your move. I hope you have found this handbook informative and helpful. Please share your comments with the rest of us!

That's All, Folks!

I look forward to working you during the Sweepstakes.

**Seventy three, and Kick Butt!
de K6XX.**

If you're going to operate "U" class and use spotting; make sure you set it up and try it before next Saturday! Let's have no surprises – Editor

