



**NEXT NCCC MEETING
HOLIDAY BANQUET
DATE: Friday, December 4
Pleasanton Hotel
INFO & DIRECTIONS INSIDE**

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Contest Calendar

ARRL 160-Meter Contest Dec 4-6
ARRL 10-Meter Contest Dec 12-13

de K6AW

Sweepstakes this year was pretty tough on both weekends. We didn't have very good propagation on either day for CW, and there was a pretty noticeable flare on Sunday morning during SSB. Despite that, NCCC club members were out in force, competing for

the gavel. As this is being written we have slightly over 9 million points reported. I hope everyone who operated will send in his or her log, either by e-mail to contest@arrl.org or via regular mail. CW logs must be postmarked by December 9 and SSB by December 23. If anyone needs any help in getting logs prepared or submitted, send a note to any officer of the club or post it to the reflector -- we're here to help and we need every point.

It was exciting to read reports from members who were getting on again after long periods of inactivity, members who were operating their first contest or first time in a contest in a particular mode. A large portion of our turnout was the result of our successful phone trees. Thanks to everyone who manned a phone and contacted members for pledges. It was also gratifying to see the number of operators who were hosted at other stations. Many of these arrangements were made through the efforts of Tony Becker, AE0M. Thanks, Tony!

There were some terrific scores from club territory this year -- W6NL and W0YK went to town from their respective hilltops and made some very impressive numbers. K6XX had a great time operating from W6RN's new station. WC6H did his usual bang-up job. K5RC hosted a top op from W5-land, Eric, NM5M who scored very high in cw SS. Next time we need to get a club member up there, Tom. Either that or get Eric to move! You can see all the claimed scores that have been posted on 3830 or nccc on the club's website, www.nccc.cc -- look under the Scores button.

I hope everyone who operated this year will remember the fun they had and come back next year with even stronger commitments for a big NCCC score.

Now people are preparing for Thanksgiving and CQWW CW. The 6Y2A team has been down in Jamaica since SS SSB weekend, N5KO is readying

antennas at HC8N, NH7A, AI6V and others have gone to NH7A to break their old M/S record, K7BV is going to K6IDX's for a serious single-op effort. Even yours truly is going somewhere -- I'll be deep in PVRC territory at W3LPL, and will try to find out what their preliminary SS numbers look like. Propagation looks quite favorable for the weekend so it should be a great time for this "best of the best" contest.

The next big club event after CQWW is the Christmas Banquet. Unless you're N6RO, that is. The banquet conflicts with the ARRL 160M contest this year, so we won't have the pleasure of Ken's company at the banquet. Tom, N6BT and Bonnie will be in charge of the festivities once again. I hope to see a huge turnout for this event. And we're working very hard on not scheduling the banquet during a contest weekend next year.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy Thanksgiving holiday, and a huge score in CQWW CW.

73 de Steve K6AW

A Big Thank-You!

If you are on the Internet these days and are subscribed to the club's e-mail reflector, nccc@contesting.com, you know that Ed Muns, W0YK is a frequent contributor. If you visit the club's two web sites, www.nccc.cc and www.cqp.org, you probably know that Ed is the webmaster of both. Ed works hard to keep both sites current and interesting. He also administers the reflector mailing list.

I'm fortunate to have found a person who shares my interest in providing a dynamic means of communicating with the club's membership via the Internet. And at the moment, he's doing all this while commuting to and from Detroit each week. I guess it's a good thing there are data ports in the Admiral's Club.

When you see Ed at the Christmas Banquet, take a minute to thank him for all his hard work.

Speaking of thank-you's, please also take time next week to thank George Daughters, K6GT, for his fine work as JUG editor. George works tirelessly to get material, he browbeats the rest of us about deadlines and grammar ("Conan the Grammarian,") and he searches many sources to make the JUG worth reading each month.

We're indeed lucky to have both of these guys working for the NCCC. Thanks Ed and George!

de K6AW

SS Challenge Issued!

(This was received too late for the last JUG, but we think it shows the right spirit! ... ed)

Ok, this is for all of you dyed-in-the-wool code jockeys out there that are thinking about missing the phone weekend. The gauntlet is thrown.

N6BZA : Single Op, Low Power, SCV Section

114 x 48 = 10,944 claimed

If you were at the meeting at the Tied House a couple of months ago when I rejoined the club (after a 15+ year absence), you may remember that I filled out my form 100% phone, 0% cw. This was more than an idle boast, I don't think I had made more than a dozen cw qso's in my entire ham career - and zero in contests. I spent 30 minutes a day, every day last week, trying to get my code skills back into shape. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, I interfaced my computer to my radio, and was saved the embarrassment of my poor fist. The amp doesn't like semi-break-in, so it was a low power effort. The tower is still in the driveway, so the tri-bander is at 35', and the trap inverted V on 40 & 80 (tuned only for the phone bands, of course) peaks at 32 feet. Just to complicate matters, my wife and 9 month old daughter tend to be rather demanding on weekends.

But let's offer no excuses. The club is out to win, and every point counts.

So there I was, on 15 meters Saturday afternoon, calling CQ in the "slow speed" sub-band. An hour Saturday night of S&P on 80 bagged most of the West Coast multipliers. Sunday, 15 was completely closed in the morning, so it was S&P on 20 until 15 opened a bit close to noon.

When all was said and done, it took me 5 hours and 28 minutes of operating time to amass a QSO total that I would consider a mediocre hour on phone. But I have to admit it was fun. This code thing isn't so bad after all. Maybe next year, I can get my average rate over 25/hr and have some real fun!

So all you cw purists - I don't want to hear any excuses in two weeks. If I can practically relearn the code and slog through at 15 wpm from my pitiful home station to garner a measly 10k points, the least you can do is find a microphone and get on the air for an hour or two. Remember, the winners will only log 300k points or so. Every 10k counts! KB in SS!

73, Dan, N6BZA

DIRECTIONS TO THE DECEMBER MEETING

The unofficial program will be: "More Sweepstakes and CQWW lies and excuses" and the official program will be Santa's helper, N6BT, with a cunning new game and prizes for all who have been (or intend to become) good little boys and girls.

Date: Friday, 04 December 1998

Menu: Salmon filets or Pork Chops. Contact Al, AD6E A.S.A.P!

Location: The Pleasanton Hotel on Main Street in quaint "Old Town" Pleasanton. Go East on Bernal from 680, past the fairgrounds, and turn left on Main Street. Go through the old village, and the Pleasanton Hotel is the last building on the left side of Main Street before you cross a bridge and are suddenly surrounded by more modern architecture. See you there!

CQWW CW and antennas at N6IJ

This effort at the former MARS station of Ft. Ord, the Marina Amateur Radio Contest Station, was just a lark and an experiment. The lark to have some fun running the Asian stations and the experiment to check the performance of the Wilson tribander 48' above the top of the hill on my temporary aluminum tower (thanks Bruce, N6NT), vs the Hy-Gain LP1017 17 el log periodic 200 feet down the west slope of the hill on a 70' wooden tower.

Station meister Pat, AA6EG, has been extracting terrain profiles of the property with the topological software TOPO and analyzing them with Dean Straw, N6BV's terrain analysis program, YT. The terrain to the NW is a gentle ~15 degree slope from the hilltop out about 1000', then gradually leveling out to the Pacific ocean about 10000 feet away. This analysis so far has predicted that the two antennas would be about equal to the NW.

I started the run with the tribander and switched to the LP about twenty times. The on the air comparison gave a big edge to the smaller antenna at the top of the hill. The LP was never better than the tribander, even on 20m. The tribander's advantage was unexpectedly largest on 10m (up to several S-units!).

Pat plans to make some modifications to the ground system on the platform below the LP this week. According the Hy-Gain engineers, a 28 foot circumference horizontal loop three feet under the elements will detune the array significantly. Nothing that a bolt cutter can't fix, however.

We are considering putting together a Multi-Single effort in the ARRL 10m contest coming up December 12 and are hoping to have the KT34XA up by then. As you all may know, DXpeditions may be pooled for club scores in this one. Any interest?

CQ WW SUMMARY SHEET

Callsign Used : N6IJ

Operator : AE0M

Category : SOHP

Time : 2:00 hrs.

Power : 500W

BAND	QSOs	Points	Countries	Zones
20CW	20	57	7	7
15CW	107	318	9	7
10CW	54	159	5	4
Totals	181	534	21	18

Final Score = 20826 points.

Rates:

0101: 24 per 10 minutes (144/hr)

0148: 112 per hour

73, AE0M,

N6IJ SS SSB M/S Score

Callsign Used : N6IJ

Operators : N0BBS*, AE0M*, AA6EG*, AH6KL

*NCCC members

Category : M/S

Power : 500W

Hours : 20:00

BAND	QSOs	Points	Mults
80SSB	65	130	7
40SSB	125	250	4
20SSB	136	272	8
15SSB	363	726	60
Totals	689	1378	79

Final Score = 108862 points.

QXQ: We put together two multi-single efforts from the MARCS station, with N6DE, Dean et. al making the other entry. Rates were great the first few hours on 15m and as announced at the club meeting the previous Friday, Tony and Celia left at 11PM Saturday evening with 558 Qs and 75 mults in the log. Pat was busy at home much of Sunday, so Scott, AH6KL, kindly filled in to keep the station on the air as much as possible Sunday.

The N6DE score turned out to be (729 QSOs)*(2 points/QSO)*(75 multipliers) = 109,350 points, so the two station total was 218,212. We clearly have a long way to go before we can match the similar efforts at Radio Oakley. Next year will be a full time effort.

73, AE0M, Tony

Arachnids Alter Mobile Plans: A CQP story

For the past seven or so years, George (N6NKT) and I have been operating from Henry Coe Park in the southern part of Santa Clara County. This year, though, the park service decided to hold their first annual tarantula festival (really!) in the spot they had been allowing us to operate from.

Eviction notice in hand, we were despondent for a while. During one of our brainstorming sessions we hit upon the idea of trying to operate out of all 58 counties. George used some map planning program to figure out what we realistically could do in the available contest hours, assuming an average driving speed of 45 mph. The plan he came up with would take us through 31 counties in 30 hours. With a little dynamic remapping, breaking only for gas and burgers, we ended up in 34 counties in under 28 hours!

The motorhome we operated out of was stiffly sprung -- we felt every single bump of the 1200 miles we traveled. The ride was so rough, our radio spent about half the time airborne, the other half slammed down onto the table; our log sheets were nearly illegible as there were no steady surfaces to write on. You can see in one of the pictures how we tie-wrapped a laptop onto the radio in a vain attempt to keep things from flying around.

To help us precisely pinpoint our position relative to the county lines, we used a GPS linked to a mapping program loaded on our laptop. The program updated our position on a street map every 5 seconds. That is, until we discovered the cause of the unusually high noise level on the bands was due to the inverter needed to run the computer. Thereafter we only ran the program when we were near the county boundaries.

We lashed a multi-band mobile antenna to the back of the motorhome. Somewhere early into our escapade we must have hit a low branch. At one of the stops we made we discovered the antenna was bent over 45 degrees half-way up its length. We decided any attempt to bend it back would so fatigue the aluminum that it would snap, so we left it at half-mast. Our radiation pattern must have been either into the ground or out to the stars. I'm surprised we made any contacts at all. On the other hand, it might explain why most of our contacts were with stations in Massachusetts and Tennessee.

George and I were the radio operators. Rainer (KD6OZZ) did most of the driving, though George and I spelled him periodically. The biggest logistical problem was trying to figure out a sleep schedule that would still allow us to keep the radio going and the

motorhome moving. Rainer's father, Jim, DG5IAY, on a visit from Germany, enjoyed the road trip and his first contest.

Net-net: this trip was VY FB! Though we didn't get a whole bunch of points, it was gratifying to know that we gave at least 5 stations a clean sweep. There's a good bunch of hams out there who made the trip a lot of fun.

73, de Don

ISO 8601...?

Lately, I haven't been getting my copies of NCJ -- suspecting that I was dropped from their subscription roles due to low contest scores. I've had to compensate by reading alternate publications such as The AMSAT Journal. The July/August 1998 issue has several noteworthy articles such as "AMSAT Comments Filed on the Petition of the Land Mobile Communication Council", "Y2K: The Millennium Problem for Satellite Software" (by DJ1KM), and "A Common Date/Time Standard for Amateur Radio" (by G1SMD). The final is an in depth examination of ISO 8601 which is well worth reading in detail. The following is a precis of that article, without annotating quotations, to stress points of interest to radio contesting.

The full format for Gregorian Calendar Date, as defined in International Standard ISO8601, requires that dates are simply written using all four digits for the year, use the order Year-month-Day, and have a leading zero for month and day numbers between 01 and 09. The benefits of the new method will be best seen soon after '2001-01-01' which other systems will designate as '01/01/01'. The designation of time is in GMT unless explicitly designated, in the format 'Hours:Minutes:Seconds' using leading zeros, and with the 24 hours system. The standard defines that a combined date and time should be separated by the letter 'T', yet this applies mainly to computer protocols and data interchange formats which would also tend to drop the delimiters '-' and ':' (the use of '/' is no longer permitted). Every European country has now implemented the EN28601 standard which their version. Many Amateur Radio contest rules already call for entries to use Year-Month-Day format on any computer-generated logs. This format is also specified in two recent standards defining Amateur Radio data storage formats. These are the ADIF standard format written by WN4AZY and WF1B, and the REG1TEST format devised by OZ1FTU and OZ1FDJ. This proposal is intended to extend the usage of this method to computer screens and printouts, Web Pages, email messages, magazine articles and data, even hand-written like on QSL cards.

This proposal is purely a suggestion that we all write dates and times in a clear, simple and unambiguous manner. We can do this by adopting the same methods used by astronomers for the last 200 years and now contained in ISO 8601. Referring to the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Web Page at: <http://www.itu.int/> reveals that the ITU is already using the new format, as are many other European-based agencies and government bodies. Many US government departments are now starting to use it, especially NIST. A number of publications are in the process of adopting the new format. It is used in the official IARU DX Records Tables maintained by GM4ANB. It was used to good effect in QST in the 1998-May issue, on page 86. Most of the Year 2000 Diagnostic Programs are already using the ISO date and time format. To reduce the amount of programming required, some people have already decided to make it the only format their program uses.

The article concludes by addressing detailed instructions on how to implement ISO into computer operating systems, such as: DOS, Windows 3.1, 95, NT4, 98, etc. This and much of the material is presented and referenced indirectly through links at <http://www.batc.org.uk/batc-iso.htm/>.

73, N2ALE/6

WE GET LETTERS

Here is something members might find interesting. It is a photo from May 1952 QST, showing the winner (and new all-time record holder) of the 1951 Sweepstakes. He is 18 years old, and entered SS as a guest op from W6BJU in the LAX section.

The winning score: $1064 \times \text{sweep } (72) = 191,250$

This was a new record, and not a bad score by today's standards!



His callsign then was W6CUF. Today he is known as NCCC member and ARRL VIP, Jim, W6CF.

73 de Bob, K6XX

IMPORTANT INFO!

On your JUG label this month, please find a new password for accessing the "members only" files on the Members' Page on the NCCC website, <http://www.nccc.cc/members>. The current password will remain valid until 10 December, when this new one takes effect. If you have any questions, please contact W0YK who can always supply you with the current password via email. Mail to:

w0yk@email.msn.com

73, Ed, W0YK

CW SPRINT SCORES

N6IJ (AE0M)	SO	222	37	8436
AE6Y	SO	272	41	11152
N6PN	SO	203	37	7511
W6NL	SO	269	41	11029
W6RGG	SO	261	41	10701
N6IG	SO	292	45	13140
K6AW	SO	276	42	11592
AD6E	SO	222	40	8880
K7BV	SO	269	40	10760
N6XI	SO	267	41	10947
K6GV	SO	199	42	8358

73, Scott, W6CT

EARLY SS CLAIMED SCORES

As you can see from the table (following the "photo gallery") of partial results from the two Sweepstakes weekends, NCCers have done a good job and we have accounted for about 9 million points so far. It is extremely important that you get your logs submitted to ARRL with "NCCC" noted on the summary sheet as your club affiliation. The deadlines are 30 days after each contest weekend, no exceptions. Also, we'd appreciate it if you'd send your summary sheet info to W0YK:

(w0yk@email.msn.com)

for inclusion in this table which is updated regularly on the website (<http://www.nccc.cc/scores.html>). Our VP/CC, K7CO, can use this table for his records when he returns from 6Y. (Normally, all scores go to the VP/CC). I suspect we are going to need a lot more points to beat the east coast club(s)!

73, Ed - W0YK

NCCC Photo Gallery

Here are some examples of the quality company you can mingle with at an NCCC meeting. Will they be there at the next meeting? Come and find out for yourself. You'll also find other sympathetic ears for your stories about Sweepstakes and CQWW.



For those who are newbies, this handsome twosome is Mr. and Mrs. BIP!

<u>Call(s)</u>	<u>CW Qs</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>SSBQ</u>	<u>Mults</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grand Tot</u>	<u>KB</u>
				<u>S</u>				
N7TR	1235	79	195,130	2240	79	353,920	549,050	3475
W6NL	1148	79	181,384	1861	79	294,038	475,422	3009
WC6H	1100	78	171,600	1874	79	296,092	467,692	2974
N6RO (+K3EST SSB)	1116	79	176,328	1760	79	278,080	454,408	1996
W0YK	1082	78	168,792	1782	79	281,556	450,348	2864
K6AW (+KX7M SSB)	1036	79	163,688	1629	79	257,382	421,070	1851
AD6E (@K6ZM CW)	985	78	153,660	844	79	133,352	287,012	1829
AE6Y	750	78	117,000	1015	79	160,370	277,370	1765
K7BV (@K6IDX SSB)			-	1686	79	266,388	266,388	1686
K6DB (@WM6A w/K6KAY SSB)	522	78	81,432	1138	79	179,804	261,236	1091
W6BSY (@WA6AHF SSB)	612	79	96,696	941	78	146,796	243,492	1553
W6OAT	638	79	100,804	716	79	113,128	213,932	1354
K6GT	660	75	99,000	723	79	114,234	213,234	1383
W6RGG	561	79	88,638	725	79	114,550	203,188	1286
K6III	463	79	73,154	750	79	118,500	191,654	1213
K6UM	360	76	54,720	837	79	132,246	186,966	1197
N6TV (@K6KM CW)	1157	79	182,806			-	182,806	1157
K6XX	1145	78	178,620			-	178,620	1145
K6CTA	939	78	146,484	232	67	31,088	177,572	1171
W6EU	1055	78	164,580			-	164,580	1055
N6XI	1053	78	164,268			-	164,268	1053
K3EST (@K6IDX CW)	1050	78	163,800			-	163,800	1930
N6NZ (@N6XI SSB)	104	46	9,568	953	79	150,574	160,142	1057
K6XV	167	58	19,372	823	79	130,034	149,406	990
W6ISO	172	67	23,048	793	79	125,294	148,342	965
K6RIM			-	918	79	145,044	145,044	918
AA6W	501	77	77,154	427	71	60,634	137,788	928
WX6V	879	77	135,366			-	135,366	879
KD6WW	821	78	128,076			-	128,076	821
N6IJ (AE0M & AA6EG CW)	801	79	126,558			-	126,558	801
K5RC			-	780	78	121,680	121,680	780
K6SRZ (@W6CUS CW)	337	67	45,158	480	76	72,960	118,118	817
N6ZB	733	75	109,950			-	109,950	733
AA6EG (+AD6GY CW)	636	78	99,216			-	99,216	719
N6BZA	114	48	10,944	524	79	82,792	93,736	638
W6CT (@AK6L)	617	75	92,550			-	92,550	617
AF7Y	581	77	89,474			-	89,474	581
K6PUD	315	72	45,360	275	76	41,800	87,160	590
KA6W	536	79	84,688			-	84,688	536
K6RB	270	68	36,720	340	67	45,560	82,280	610
K6BZ			-	504	79	79,632	79,632	504
AJ6V	160	59	18,880	374	74	55,352	74,232	534
AK6L			-	410	79	64,780	64,780	410
N6VV			-	400	77	61,600	61,600	400
N6EE	307	75	46,050	135	42	11,340	57,390	442
N6KD	404	71	57,368			-	57,368	404
K6XN			-	372	77	57,288	57,288	372
W6PLJ	330	75	49,500			-	49,500	330
AC6BW	333	72	47,952			-	47,952	333
N6UUG			-	286	74	42,328	42,328	286
WB6DSV	243	68	33,048			-	33,048	243
AA6TY	172	60	20,640			-	20,640	172
N6IFW			-	81	38	6,156	6,156	81
K7CO	70	35	4,900			-	4,900	70
Total			4,334,124			4,836,354	9,170,478	

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