



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



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JUG Interim Editor: Roberto Sadkowski K6KM

NCCC - 51 years of Contesting Excellence

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President's Report: WD6T

Hello Darkness, My Old Friend

David A Jaffe - WD6T

While the conventional calendar divides the year at the winter solstice, contesters consider the summer as the dividing point, and the winter as the "contest season." In ancient times, people viewed the shortening days with trepidation, fearing the sun might never return. But we contesters know better, that the diminuendo of light is the harbinger of quieter conditions and propagation across a larger swath of our beloved electromagnetic spectrum. As we plunge headlong into December, we have only a brief pause to break out the straight key before RTTY Roundup is upon us.

But in the rush from contest weekend to contest weekend, let's pause for a moment and reflect on what a great club this is. Our membership includes folks from all over the country and the world, from all walks of life, from new hams to Contest Hall of Famers, with a remarkable collective wealth of experience and knowledge.

In this holiday season, I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you for all your effort and skill in our focus contests, for your lively participation in our on-line meetings, for joining in the discussions on the reflector, for your financial support of the club, for sharing your infectious enthusiasm for radiosport, and finally, for your friendship.

Although this was another tough year for the world, we contesters again had the privilege of traveling the world from the safety of our homes, making new friends and staying in touch with old ones. This is a great time to be radio-active.

Four out of five doctors recommend winter contesting as a cure for seasonal affective disorder. So, like a note in a bottle, send that RF out into the ether. You never know who might respond.

NCCC December ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021
6:00 - 8:30 PM Local Time

RTTY Roundup roundtable
with our team of experts
including N6WM, WK6I,
and W9KKN

For Details see:

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



Officers:

President David Jaffe WD6T

Vice President /Contest Chair Andy Faber AE6Y

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Director: Bob Cox K3EST

Director: Rich Smith N6KT

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K6ZM QSL Manager George Daughters K6GT

K6CQP,N6CQP,W6CQP QSL Mgr Ed Muns W0YK

NCCC Email reflector Admin Phil Verinsky W6PK

Webmaster John Miller K6MM

Webinars Bill Fehring W9KKN

JUG Editor Bill Haddon N6ZFO

Thursday Night Sprint:

The Northern California Contest Club sponsors a Thursday Night Contesting session of thirty minutes duration.

Often, on Fridays prior to a major contest weekend, a special practice session is held.

Generally, on Thursday evenings, a special format is followed, called NS or "NCCC Sprint". The NS began in the summer of 2004 as a snappy, concise contest occurring most Thursday nights, North American time. The power limit is

100 watts. Occasionally multi-week ladder competitions are held. See www.ncccsprint.com for details.

Thursday Night Contesting Director and Founder Bill, N6ZFO

NCCC CW Sprint Tom, N3ZZ (initially, Ken N6RO)

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ken, K6MR

NCCC Sprint Ladder Bill, N6ZFO

Sprint Web master www.ncccsprint.com John, K6MM

Ladder Scores Manager Tim N3QE

Thursday night Contesting Advisory Group: N6ZFO, Bill (Chair)

Mark K6UFO, (with W4NZ, N4AF, W9RE, K4BAI, N3BB, VE3YT and W0BH).

The Thursday night NCCC Net Ken, N6RO



December 2021 VP/CC Report Andy Faber, AE6Y/P49Y

CQWW

I was very sorry to miss the CQWW CW, particularly since conditions were reported by everyone worldwide to have been quite good, as they were for the SSB version last month. I had been planning to go to Aruba to operate (probably in the SOABHP Classic category as I have enjoyed before) from our P40L-P49Y station. The plan had been to take our two daughters, husbands, and grandkids (ages 8, and 10) for a family vacation for the week. We did that in 2018, renting a VRBO condo in a complex with a pool for the kids, and had been looking forward to doing so again this year. But a few months ago, the uncertainties with Covid, airlines cancelling flights, governments continually changing the rules on entry and re-entry – all combined to suggest to us that this was the epitome of non-essential travel. So we scrapped our plans and instead rented a house on the Oregon coast, and had thanksgiving dinner at our daughter's house in Seaside, OR. What a beautiful area with a miserable climate! It makes the weather in Portland (80 miles to the east) actually seem benign. As my wife remarked on a gloomy, gray morning – but temporarily without rain: “I can't believe I now think that this is nice weather!”

Anyway, in our absence, and with John, W6LD, not wanting to travel either, our station was capably crewed by John, W2GD, using the call P44W. He made some 12M points in SO (A) category and has the top claimed score in that category on both modes. It's a real shame not to be using the station, after we put in weeks of effort (culminating just when the pandemic closed us all down in March 2020) in changing out all towers and antennas.

Although definitely not a West Coast contest, many good scores were posted to 3830 by Club members. The most remarkable result, however, are the three top score in SOABHP, Unassisted:

Call	QSO	Z	C	Hr	Score
TI7W (N6MJ)	11555	152	449	48	16,974,043
N5DX(@N2QV)	6102	152	451	47.5	10,693,602
VY2TT(K6LA)	6457	115	403	44.5	8,888,880

Dan at TI7W basically used the SB2SIQ technique for the entire contest. He had 16 hours with a rate exceeding 300, his best clock hour was 398, and he had a non-clock 60-minute total of 453!

By contrast, my best CW hour from P49Y is about 235. Dan had one hour with that rate on 15 – but in the same hour he also had 163 more contacts on 10! That is absolutely incredible operating talent, and my hat is off to him, and his compatriots like KL9A, AA3B, and N4YDU, who can sustain those kind of rates, particularly for a grueling 48-hour contest.



SSB SS

Back to contests with more normal rates, Sweepstakes SSB has come and gone. I had promised a full effort to PL259. In the last few years, while the large club category has been dominated by PVRC, both MLDXCC in the medium club category (50 logs) and PL259 in the small club category (10 logs) have been victorious in their respective categories. So, while I actually prefer CW SS to Phone SS, I promised a full effort on phone on the theory that for the same number of hours, the score should be a bit higher, as in generally there is more activity on phone. The downside, of course is that 20 in the day and 40 at night become wall to wall screaming stations that can easily drive one batty. This year at least the situation was partly ameliorated by the fact that 15 was open for a number of hours in the afternoon on both modes.

Although operating assisted is obviously a way to increase your score, I prefer not to, as the main challenge for me in SS is trying to get all 84 mults without assistance. Often some of them are quite rare. This year I thought I might be off to a good start as my very first Canadian mult, who called in on 15 in the first hour of the contest, was Scott, VY1CO in NT. As we all know, that mult is sometimes missed and always welcome, so it was very comforting to get it logged early. Later in the contest, J, VY1JA, himself called on 20, and gave me number 3. Part of me wanted to tell him to shut off the radio and not work anyone else – but of course my better angels prevailed on me to say hello, thank him for being on, and encourage him to keep going.

When I turned off the radio at 0647Z Saturday night, having just worked UT for my last US mult, only two mults were missing: MAR and NL. I expected to work MAR the next day, but knew that NL could be dicey. PE had not been a problem, with both Jeff at VY2ZM and Ken at VY2TT putting in major efforts, but I hadn't heard even a whisper of a VE1/VE9 or VO station in spite of lots of tuning around on the second radio. Fortunately, VA1XH and VE1BSD both called on 15 in Sunday morning and VO1KVT saved the day by calling in on 20 in the afternoon. He was one of four mults for which I only managed one QSO – surprisingly, the other three were all in CA: SB, SDG, and our own SF! Reading 3830 reports reveals other serious contesters who somehow missed a CA mult as well.

Speaking of SS, the early Club statistics show the two local clubs mentioned above were both again victorious: PL259 in the small club category, and MLDXCC in the medium club category. Congratulations to both clubs. Of those results, what surprises me is the significant margins of victory. You would think there would be a serious challenger, particularly in the small club category, but there hasn't been much serious competition for the past few years.

Is 10m Back?

There has certainly been a spurt in 10 meter activity this fall. I note that a number of stations in CQWW reported significant 10m scores. For example, N6RO in CQWW CW worked 22 zones and 39 countries, but no EU. K3LR probably maximized the US possibilities with 68 countries, but meanwhile 3B8M worked 101. He's pretty far from anywhere, but probably had very good north-south propagation.



Many Club members were active last weekend in the ARRL 10m contest. I had other commitments, but did turn on the radio briefly Saturday morning and was struck by numerous strong signals on CW from the Midwest and East Coast. On Sunday morning I made a few dozen contacts on both CW and phone, and almost all were with the Midwest, though FL and GA were also pounding in, and FY5KE had a nice signal on CW. Judging from comments on 3830, Brazil was probably the best place to be for this one. But all in all, it was delightful to see some real activity with easily copiable signals on the band.

A Reminiscence of K6GT [Bill delete this if you are running it elsewhere]

I think the whole club was shocked to see the obituary in the San Jose Mercury this week that reported that a beloved member, George Daughters, K6GT, had become a Silent Key. As the obituary notes, George was a devoted member of this Club, and his participation in ham radio and club activities was listed as one of his pleasures in retirement. It is an unfortunate sign of the pandemic times that with our current emphasis on communication via reflector and Zoom meetings, most of us were unaware that he had actually passed away in October.

George was a very supportive club member. He was a fixture at meetings, and frequently he would bring some odd or end from his junk box that would either be given out for free or would be auctioned off (proceeds to the Club treasury). He would challenge us sometimes to identify just what this item was – and some of them were truly odd and virtually unknown to most of us. When he spoke up at meetings, you had to listen carefully both because there was always real content to his remarks and also because that content was sometimes obscured by the droll, witty style of its expression.

He was also the JUG editor for a number of years, back when the JUG was mailed to members, and its mailing was a major expense item for the Club. George had strict rules for written decorum and styled himself as “Conan the Grammarian” with absolute editorial power. He disobeyed Adlai Stevenson’s definition of an editor (“An editor is someone who separates the wheat from the chaff and then prints the chaff”), by always pushing us contributors to write better and more meaningfully. I can recall some editorial pushback on articles; in the end he would prevail, and the result was always improved by his efforts and passion.

We are all the better for having known George and having been the beneficiaries of his many contributions to the hobby and the Club.

Upcoming contests

Dec. 31- Jan. 1 SKN (not really a contest, but a chance to limber up the old J-38 or Vibroplex Original and try to send by hand like in the old days).

Jan. 8-9 ARRL RTTY Roundup [A focus contest]

Jan. 15-16 NAQP CW

Jan. 15-17 ARRL January VHF

Jan. 22-23 NAQP SSB



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 the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).

Life Memberships. – \$250.00 Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com. The 80/20 Rule:

Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been a NCCC Member for 20 years are eligible for Honorary life membership. 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 MS Word (.doc or .docx), Arial 11 point. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos separately. Pictures should be full resolution. Avoid PDF files and email text. Please contact us if that's your only format.

Send material to Roberto, K6KM at rsadkowski@gmail.com

Northern California Contest Club Reflector – Guidelines

The NCCC reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting.

Topics include, for example, contests, station building, dx-peditions, 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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Twitter: “NCCCKB”



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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

'The performance of their products is only eclipsed by their service and support. Truly amazing!' Joe - W1GO

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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.

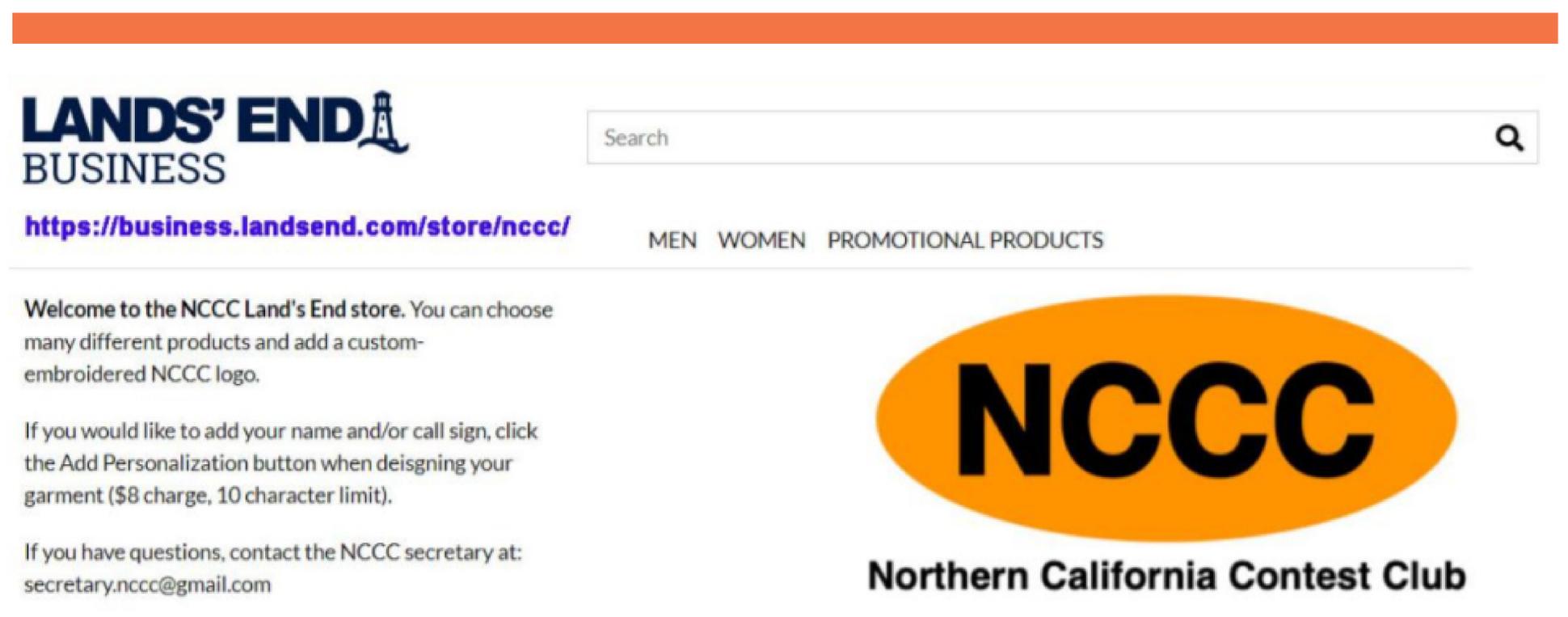
And, you can personalize your item by adding your name and/or call sign. The store is open 24/7 and items are shipped directly to you. No more waiting for everyone else to make up their minds on a group purchase.

Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>

It's easy to use.

From nccc.cc: <http://nccc.cc/members/lestore.html>

Thanks to W6TCP for helping to set this up.



LANDS' END
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Search

MEN WOMEN PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

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

NCCC

Northern California Contest Club

Instructions for purchases from the Lands' End NCCC Store:

1. Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>
2. Click on the Men's or Women's link, and then choose an item.
3. Pick a color, then enter the 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. On shirts, for instance, you can place the logo in one of several locations.
6. Click Apply Logo.
7. Optionally, click Add Personalization to add your name and/or callsign (\$8 charge, 10 character limit)
8. Click Add to Bag. Keep shopping, if you like.
9. Click Start Secure Checkout. Account creation and credit card required.