



The NCCC 75 meter net
meets on Thursdays at
9PM,
3830 approximately

NCCC Meeting

*Guests are always welcome at the NCCC!
Please join us.*

Program

CQP Expedition Double Header

K6SRZ County Expedition Video*and* Panel Discussion: Achieving CQP Expedition Success moderated by N6TV -- with a panel of experienced CQP county Expeditioners: N6DE, AD6E, W6ISO, N6NT, and K6SRZ

Monday, 9 September 2002

Mtn. View Tied House

954 Villa Street,
Mountain View, CA 94041 (650) 965-2739
6:00 schmooze 6:30 dinner
7:00 program

Meal choices:

- 1. Fish and Chips
- 2. Tied Burger with options: such as cheese, onion etc.
- 3. Chicken sausage.

Soft Drinks unlimited for High Power, limited for 100 watts or less.\$14.00 per person, inclusive of tax and Tip for meals only.

Rob, K6RB, will be taking reservations for the meeting via e-mail. Just tell him how many people and which meal choices you would like. He will be checking email until about 9 AM Monday morning, September 9. But hopes he won't have a pileup of emails, then. If you RSVP early Rob will be eternally grateful.

NCCC OFFICERS

President Dave Curtis, N6NZ n6nz@arrl.net
Vice President/CC Bill Haddon, N6ZFO n6zfo@arrl.net
Secretary/Treasurer Rob Brownstein, K6RB k6rb@arrl.net
WEBmaster Ed Muns, W0YK w0yk@arrl.net
Directors Rick Tavan, N6XI n6xi@arrl.net
John Fore, W6LD jfore@wsgr.com
Mike Shapiro, WA6O wa6o@qsl.net
Ken Anderson, K6TA k6ta@arrl.net
JUG Editor Mary Cherry, NA6E na6e@arrl.net

NEW MEMBERS

In the last issue and on the reflector, I put out a call for info on new members. This is great fun, especially for those of us that have trouble making it to the meetings....73 es KB, Mary—NA6e

Call: K6UFO **Name:** Mark Aaker
QTH: Cupertino, CA **Age:** 45
Former Calls: NT6G, KE6YZ, WB9NAI, WN9HLN
Experience: HF DX, KP4/NT6G(1989), FP/NT6G (1987)
Modes: HF CW and SSB
Profession: Patent Attorney for Apple Computer
Email: K6UFO@arrl.net

I've been licensed since 1971, but only started HF DXing in 1986. Reached DXCC Honor Roll in 2001, with a few more worked on CW than on phone. Home station is a FT-1000MP feeding a small Ten-nadyne log periodic at 40 ft. Wire loop and tuner for low bands. The gang at Stanford W6YX invited me to participate in the recent WPX contests, and I became interested in contesting. I've previously been in DX contests to work new countries, but I'm looking forward to my first Oreal¹ participation in each of the major contests. I've worked in RF engineering for Motorola, computer systems for NASA, and in patents for National Semiconductor and Apple Computer. I've also passed the exam to be a Certified Financial Planner - which could be handy in affording a Ocontesting¹ interest.

Mark K6UFO@arrl.net



Dave's Wave's



August Meeting Highlights

We had a great time at Harry's in August. Words can never do justice to the interesting array of "Contest Secret Weapons" on display. I'll mention just a few: Connectivity seemed to be a recurring theme – WJ6O showed a homebrewed travel kit of 1000MP cables that make his rig ready to plug and play, AE6Y showed some interesting USB options to get those newfangled computers to talk to our radios, and N6RO showed an interesting SO2R switch box. In addition, we solved N6NT's battery drain problem in his keyer, Bruce cleverly disguising his consultation request as a "show and tell" topic, hi! N6XI brought his K2-100 so that we could see this exciting new radio in the flesh (or silicon, or whatever...)

Apologies to those whose items I've left out, but I have to mention just one more: The award for "Most Literal Interpretation of the Phrase 'Secret Weapon'" goes to K6ENT – Kent showed us his wire antenna launcher, in the form of a six foot long, compressed air powered Spud Gun. This potato-hurling masterpiece is capable of launching an 80m dipole into the top of a redwood tree *and* simultaneously making julienne fries.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming two new members to the NCCC. Bryan Preas, AC6JT, is a 100% RTTY man from Palo Alto. Kaz Naguro JA1IST, WR6M, and until recently DJ2AA, has just transferred stateside. His favorite contest is "all of them"! KB! By the way Kaz is looking for operating opportunities as he is still antenna-less in the states.

September Meeting

Monday, September 9 at the Tied House in Mountain View the topic will be CQP, CQP and more CQP. Update us on your plans – N6TV is once again coordinating the effort to get every county on the air.

And in case you are not sure what it takes to do a CQP County Expedition, we have the answer! K6SRZ will show video of his exploits – last year he set a new Trinity county record. I've heard great things about this video and I'm much looking forward to seeing it. Part 2 of the program is a panel discussion on "Achieving CQP Expedition Success" moder-

ated by N6TV. The panelists are all seasoned CQP expedition ops: N6DE, AD6E, W6ISO, N6NT, and K6SRZ. Between them, these 5 panelists hold 10 county records.

Fall Contest Season

CQP, of course, is the official starting gun for the contest season. And we all know Sweepstakes follows hard on the heels of CQP.

In an important and historic vote at the August meeting, the NCCC in a nearly unanimous agreement made both the ARRL November Sweepstakes and ARRL 10M Contest full-throttle focus contests for the fall season. That certainly proves that the group is dedicated to contesting! It also sets out a packed agenda for the fall.

Let's talk Sweepstakes first. Yes, we've been knocked around by the SMC lately. But one thing is very clear – the NCCC will *not* take this lying down. True competitors, the NCCC vows to come back and give them a good chase. Members that have talked to me say things like: "Real champions don't just give up." and "Hey, this is the NCCC, our history means something beyond a single win or loss".

So yes, we are going to come back fighting. But the numbers speak for themselves – giving the SMC a good game and a good scare, or better yet – knocking them flat onto their smug kiesters – will require redoubled effort from the membership. N6ZFO will have more to say on how we are going to accomplish our goal, but everyone should start thinking about how they can contribute to the effort. For instance, even a part time effort in "that other mode" (whatever mode it is for you) will make a big difference in the club aggregate score.

Now let's turn our attention to 10 meters. Looking at last year's running, we see that the winning unlimited club score was turned in by... SMC! Well, at least we can concentrate our study on one competitor. The 10 meter contest is, of course, subject to the whims of propagation. But preliminary analysis shows that we have more than a good shot at winning this one. It's something a little new and different for the club, and this year of the sunspot cycle is our last, best chance for a while to make a good showing in this contest. This should be a lot of fun.

Free Beer!

No, not really, but now that I have your attention: Free NCCC Trial Membership! It is pretty clear that we are being out-recruited by the SMC. We wonder if their "We don't want your money, we want your scores" dues structure contributes to the phenomena. The board has been discussing various options at our disposal. The outcome: the board just voted in a one-time offer of free trial NCCC membership. Here is how a free trial membership works: Dues up until the end of the year (July) are waived. Instead, the member must contribute to the club score in either SS or 10 meters. Trial members are eligible for the electronic edition of the Jug only. In July, they need to become dues paying members to remain in the NCCC.

It's up to us, the current members, to show trial members the value of NCCC membership. If we can get a high conversion rate of trial members, we will have a stronger club in the long run. I believe that after attending a few meetings where they can meet our great members and experience the club's energy, and also when they see the great information that comes through the e-mail reflector, signing up as a full member will be an easy decision.

So now it is up to you. Who can you entice to visit us and try out membership in the NCCC? And let's make sure we go out of our way to make the new members feel welcome and excited about the benefits of NCCC membership. As they say on TV, this is a one-time offer, which might not be repeated!

73, Dave N6NZ

Contest Calendar for September - November 2002

Compiled by N6ZFO

Events that may be of particular NCCC interest in bold.

Note: The following **State QSO parties** take place in October:

TN Sept 15, 16; **WA Salmon Run** Sept 21,22; **LA&AL** Sept 28; **PA** Oct 12, 13; **IL** Oct 20,21

HF Contests - September

NCJ NA Sprint CW	0000Z	Sept 8	0400Z	Sept 8	www.ncjweb.com
Worked All Eu Contest, SSB	0000Z	Sept 14	2400Z	Sept 15	www.waedc.de
NCJ NA Sprint CW	0000Z	Sept 15	0400Z	Sept 15	www.ncjweb.com
CQ/RJ WW DX RTTY	0000Z	Sept 28	2400Z	Sept 29	www.cq-amateur-radio.com

HF Contests -- October

Contest	Start time	Date	End time	Date	Ref, www. . .
**** CQP CQP CQP ****	1600Z	Oct 5	2200Z	Oct 6	www.cqp.org
PA QSO Party (promote CQP)		Oct 12,13			
NCJ NA Sprint RTTY	0000Z	Oct 13	0400Z	Oct 13	www.ncjweb.com
CQ WWDX SSB	0000Z	Oct 26	2400Z	Oct 27	

HF Contests --November

ARRL SS CW	2100Z	Nov 2	0300Z	Nov 4	www.arrl.org
ARRL SS SSB	2100Z	Nov 16	0300Z	Nov 18	www.arrl.org

50 MHz and Above

ARRL VHF QSO Party	1800Z	Sept 14	0300Z	Sept 16	www.arrl.org
ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Con.	801 local	Sept 21	2001 local	Sept 22	Jeffrey Pawlen (nccc)
ARRL Int'l EME Contest	0000Z	Oct 26	2400Z	Oct 27	www.arrl.org

Log due Dates for , Sept

NAQP CW	Sept 4
NAQP SSB	Sept 17
Ohio QSO Party (to promote CQP!)	Sept 24

Sources: ARRL, WA7BNM (www.hornucopia.com/contestcal)

Calendar Links: SK3BG www.sk3bg.se/elinks3.htm#CONT

Rules Links: Good example: www.yccc.org/Links/Rules

A Call to Action: The NCCC Fall/Winter Contests

It's that time again

But before you read this fervent call to NCCC Contest action *please* go to you Calendar NOW (that means immediately) and mark these **four** vital contesting weekends:

October 5,6 CQP (Saturday at 0900 PDST to Sunday afternoon 1500)

November 2,3 ARRL SS, CW Saturday 1300 PST to Sunday 1900

November 16,17 ARRL SS, Phone Saturday 1300 to Sunday 1900

December 13-15 ARRL 10 Meter Friday evening through Sunday afternoon

Now as I write this column in the sweltering 100 Marin County degrees, I know it's really hard to imagine cool winter nights, more hours of darkness, liquid pouring in buckets from the sky, maybe even winds howling up from the southwest. But have no doubts, these things will happen, accompanied by, you guessed it, **RADIO CONTESTS**. You have probably noticed the stirrings already ... lots of reflector messages on something we call CQP, strange urgings from the Contest Chair to participate in the Ohio QSO party (what won't he think of next), and not least, the arrival of the first pair of NCJ Sprints. Do you feel those contests juices starting to flow? Well, maybe not yet for most of you, but remember you do belong to a contest club, the NCCC, and some of us think it's simply the best one in the land.

Granted, we faced an agonizing issue with our choice to continue to compete in the ARRL Sweepstakes this year. After two years of being more-or-less trounced by SMC in this classic of classics radiosport competition, some were beginning to lose a faith in NCCC's ability to compete at a top level. But were we trounced? Hardly. The numbers tell a different story:

1999 SS Victory for NCCC, 11,713,328 points (119 NCCC logs)

2000 SS A *very* near 1st place miss for NCCC, 14,152,580 points (123 logs)

2001 SS A Strong 2nd place finish for NCCC at 17,793,244 points (159 logs)

These achievements are the mark of a club continuing to reach for success, in total score and also importantly, in dedication, in equipment readiness and in operating proficiency. In this latter category, the average NCCC Sweepstakes log increased from just under 100,000 points per in 1999 to the astounding 116,000 points last year, with essentially the same group of testers. In fact, we have pretty well taken care of our former rival PVRC: our margin of victory over this also excellent bunch of competitors at PVRC was 102,000 points in '99 SS but a bone-crunching 2,120,000 points last year, despite a PVRC effort to pursue first place with vigor and determination of their own. Wow! And we did this with essentially no increase in membership. Interestingly, the Yankee Clipper Club, usually finishing in 3rd or 4th place, has maintained an almost constant score over the same period of time. So my conclusion is that NCCC members should be proud of this record and continue the pursuit. You can see that NCCC is a really special group. Many of you agree: the determination to pursue a SS victory was expressed strongly by many respondents to our earlier reflector survey on the choice of Fall/Winter contests. You'll find a call to action, elsewhere in the JUG, to get you started in SS preparation.

But that's not all to talk about in the Fall/Winter NCCC contest scene. We're doing something that NCCC probably should have done years ago, and that's wage an all-out competitive effort in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, which takes place in mid December. Frankly it's been disconcerting to see NCCC in the Medium Club competition for this event -- NCCC is a major radio contesting force in the Nation, and ARRL 10M is another way to show it. I'm most appreciative of Kenny, K2KW, for the suggestion this year to tackle ten meters, perhaps our last chance in a while to have fun in this mixed mode, mixed domestic/DX contest. With Marc, W6ZZZ's help we did an approximate modeling exercise to show that NCCC *can* make a serious West Coast effort in ARRL 10M. But what I'm most pleased with is that one of our biggest club fanatics and boosters Dave, KA6BIM has bravely offered to organize the effort. Dave's is a real NCCC success story, both for his performance in the 10M contest, which he has done religiously (well,

regularly anyway) for about 15 years and in another important way: some of you may recall that KA6BIM is a fairly new member NCCC. In fact after his first year of membership (2000?) Dave received the club's New Member of the Year award. Just the same, Dave will need support in this major undertaking. His effort, combined with the wisdom and knowledge of our several other NCCC 10M contest achievers (K6KLY, AI6V, K6XX, and others) should constitute a un-matched source of inspiration and education to all of us. But most importantly, both Dave and I need you, our esteemed members, to participate in these contests and put forth the most major KB effort possible. For additional 10M contest details, see KA6BIM's column elsewhere in this month's JUG.

And finally for the real fanatics who just can't bear to skip a contest weekend, the CQ WWDX SSB contest on the October 26/27 weekend is an excellent preparation for Sweepstakes. More importantly, the ARRL CW SS is excellent preparation for the CQ WWDX CW weekend, Nov 23/24.

And for a final-final note . . . I know some of you aren't big HF Contest fans, and of course these are HF contests. In the past months, I've tried to highlight the NCCC participation in different modes, RTTY in particular, and to some extent the VHF and above contests. We will continue to do so. But I'm asking in return, that those of you who aren't normally HF contest fanatics join us for these two important HF contests -- throw up some wires, borrow a rig, visit a station, whatever strikes your fancy, but please help us out. Remember also that a few hours operation near the beginning of both the CW and SSB weekends are the most efficient way to run up points: that's when even SS is an "exponential" contest i.e. both multipliers and QSO points are accumulating rapidly. Later, when the 80 multiplier limit is approached, the contest becomes essentially linear. The small station is therefore vitally important in our SS effort. So if you've not joined the club efforts previously, and can spend even a few hours, please, please do it. But beware, you may get hooked.

73 and KB, Bill N6ZFO VP/CC

For those of you not familiar with the work of "Steven Wright", he's the guy who once said: "I woke up one morning and all of my stuff had been stolen...and replaced by exact duplicates."- Here are more of his thoughts:

- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Borrow money from pessimists-they don't expect it back.
- Half the people you know are below average.
- 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- Early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.
- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.

- Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.
- Everyone has a photographic memory,some just don't have film.
- I intend to live forever - so far, so good.
- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 24 hours in a day ...24 beers in a case...coincidence?
- Boycott shampoo! Demand the REAL poo!
- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.
- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- The severity of the itch is proportional to the reach.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no life-guard.

Submitted by Jack, W6ISQ

CQ test, Calling CQ 10 Meter Contest de KA6BIM

Hi Club! Bill and the B.O.D. asked me to help with the organization of the 10 Meter Contest so consider this a call to arms so to speak. The contest is the second full weekend of December. This year will be Dec. 14&15th UTC. There is a lot of action in the contest and loaded with fun for everyone.

If you only like to work CW great, go for it single mode. Same for SSB, and if you can work mixed mode, your score will be even higher! It's possible to get all 50 states in the weekend, all Canadian provinces (well so far Nunavut seems to be none-of-it) and lots of DX. Personally, I try for 10 meter WAS & DXCC each year.

From here start Friday night and work all you can of Asia and the Pacific. Try to pick up the 7 land multipliers during and after the sun sets. They are actually some of the hardest with the propagation the way it is on 10. After the band closes on Japan, keep antennas pointed that way. You get some short windows into zone 17 & 18, and the Pacific may come back in for a while. When all the DX is gone, get a friend and get on a frequency and BS for a couple hours. Dave NT6K and I do this each year. You can relax then, but keep an ear out for locals who can give you a qso, and for short bursts of meteor scatter propagation into MT, WY, CO, ID. I have even had OH's (Finland not Ohio) call in at near midnight local.

One of the nice things about the contest is being able to get a few hours sleep. Normally I sleep midnight to 0600 local, and that gives you the 12 hours off time required. There is nothing on then anyway! In the morning, around sunrise, start listening for the Caribbean and South America. Hopefully Europe will come in soon afterwards. Work EU for all the mults you can get, and follow it up by all the good buddies you can stand in the afternoon.

I even picked up a 10-10 number just to give out in the contest. You never know, those few q's might put you over the top!!

I used to work SSB only and then expanded my horizons and started spending a little time picking up cw mults to increase the score. Now I go full bore mixed

mode. Packet can be a definite help if you are running multi op and it will help add to the club's score.

Contest times, scoring details and rules.

Times: 0000Z 12/14/02 (Friday, 1600, PST) to 2359Z 12/15/02 (Sunday, 1600 PST) -- 36 hrs max.

Exchange: for US & VE is signal report & state (59 CA or 599 CA). DX will send report & serial number.

QSO Value: SSB=2 pts CW = 4 pts & CW with novice or technician station signing /N or /T is 8 points.

Mults: States +DC, Provinces, ITU regions (/MM only) and Dx countries per mode.

Rules: The 2002 rules are not posted on the web yet but do not expect much change.

Meteor Bounce

As mentioned meteor scatter contacts are possible on 10 meters, and this mode may offer a route to multipliers in nearby states which are difficult to obtain otherwise. What's interesting this year is that the 10m contest coincides with the Geminids meteor shower. This shower actually peaks on Friday evening.

Recommendations for the clubs effort

Maritime Mobile, Anyone?? It would be nice to get someone in the club to be a maritime mobile multiplier, sitting at least 12 miles offshore but still within our 175 mile club radius. That would give an extra multiplier for us, and also a highly sought after station for the rest of the world. I estimate that this could add a couple of million points to the club total! One of you have the ability to be this rare multiplier for us? This would be a great contest for us to do some recruiting. The coded novices and technicians are bonus points for us. Lets get some to get on the air and get a taste of contesting. They can then be encouraged to upgrade and help us in SS and other contests,

For those of you who only like to work one mode or the other like in Sweepstakes, here is another weekend you can use that favorite mode. And if each of you spent another couple of hours picking up multipliers on "the other" mode, you can increase our club score tremendously! Packet spots of dx and club members will help us all! (Maybe we should make an award for spotted all NCCC hi)

Help Wanted!

We can use some help with specific propagation info for the weekend, any suggestions on antennas, etc. I have worked the contest with everything from an alligator clip on a chain link fence to 40 mtr dipole to stacked KT34XA's

Please email me and let me know who is going to participate and at what level and mode ie casual ssb, or full blown mixed. You can reach me at dtucker@inreach.com

See ya in the pile ups..... **Qsl , Qrz de KA6BIM**

The NCCC Newbie

I'd like to personally invite you to participate in the California QSO Party. Start your contest season with a bang in the California QSO Party. As always, this years California QSO Party promises to be a great bit of fun. Invite all of your friends to participate! All the California QSO Party rules and free logging software are available at <http://www.cqp.org/>.

California QSO Party (CQP)

I want your help to encourage each and every HF ham in California to "get on the air for CQP". For just this once each year the entire World is "looking for California". You might be a small peanut-whistle station like me but when you get on the bands and "call CQ" in this contest people from around the World will answer you!

We expect a record-setting year in USA/Canada/DX participation and QSOs due to the new "Top Club, Non-California" plaque that NCCC is offering for the very first time in 2002. We have emailed 250 non-California clubs and contest-gurus around the World about this new award. We have also notified 200 California radio clubs about the hundreds of awards available in CQP this year.

Advertising CQP

Here are some suggestions on how each and every NCCC member can help to promote the CQP.

If you belong to radio clubs other than NCCC then mention the CQP at your September club meetings. Invite them to participate as individuals or as a club for the "Top Club, California" award.

Put an invitation to CQP in your email "sig" line. That way every time you send an email or post to a reflector you send out our invitation. Something like:

Marc, W6ZZZ

*CU in the California QSO Party, Oct 5-6, <http://www.cqp.org/>
"Reserve Your County", <http://www.cqp.org/Counties-Plan-2002.html>*

CQP Awards and Records

Don't forget about all the awards available in CQP (see <http://www.cqp.org/Awards.html>):

- * 34 Plaques (wood and metal, not mere wallpaper!)
- * 40 Bottles of special vintage California wine (with commemorative CQP labels)
- * Certificates to the top S/O in each and every state, province, country, and CA county
- * Certificates to each and every ham who makes at least 100 QSOs in CQP

We even have CQP T-shirts available for purchase if you make at least 100 QSOs in the contest.

California county-by-county records (who will set a new county record in 2002?):

- * http://www.cqp.org/results/Records/rec_ca.htm

State-by-state records (who will set their new state record in 2002?):

- * http://www.cqp.org/results/Records/rec_nca.htm

Read all about the 2001 CQP contest results:

- * <http://www.cqp.org/Results-2001.html>
- * <http://www.cqp.org/results/2001/01cqp.pdf>

Reserve Your California County

Bob N6TV organizes the big effort to make sure that all of the 58 counties in California are "on the air for CQP".

See <http://www.cqp.org/Counties-Plan-2002.html> if you can help out by putting a "rare" California county "on the air" for the contest.

The CQP "Machine"

Organizing the CQP is a huge, huge effort. You should be impressed by the results of the NCCC CQP Committee. Al AD6E, Dean N6DE, Ed W0YK and Kent K6ENT (and others) put in a ton of effort to promote CQP, score the results and send out the awards.

- 73, Marc, W6ZZZ

A Sweepstakes Primer: What to Do and When to Do It.

- 1) Since you probably didn't follow my orders in the companion article "**A Call to Action: The NCCC Fall/Winter Contests**", this time please go to your calendar *immediately* and mark these dates:

October 5,6 CQP (Saturday at 0900 PDST to Sunday afternoon 1500)

November 2,3 ARRL SS, CW Saturday 1300 PST to Sunday 1900

November 16,17 ARRL SS, Phone Saturday 1300 to Sunday 1900

December 13-15 ARRL 10 Meter Friday evening through Sunday afternoon

- 2) In September, inform you XYL, OM, your friend, or your pet, and maybe your neighbors if you have RFI issues, that these weekends are reserved for radio contest activities. With the neighbors you may gain influence by noting that two of these weekends are the National Amateur Radio Championship event. We know there's no such thing, but they don't. Offer early to remediate RFI or other problems, and when appropriate ask them to use that beautiful tree for the anchor point of your new temporary 80 meter antenna. Changes in work schedules may be necessary as well. Think out your schedule in advance.

- 3) In late September or early October, well in advance of the contest weekends, do something nice for that understanding companion, XYL or OM by designing a special event - whether it be flowers and great dinner out, a trip to Bellagio or whatever, or all of these things and more. Remember you may be relying on this person to feed you during the grueling contest hours, and you do want them speaking to you for the coming year.

- 4) In September, otherwise known as Indian Summer in CA, consider your equipment issues carefully, especially antennas. Maybe 2002 is the year to treat yourself to one of those shiny new devices from the HRO emporium. Remember, there's an equation in the SS handbook, developed by N6ZFO, that allows you to calculate the percent increase in your ARRL Sweepstakes score from a designated dB gain, whether from new antenna or new amp, or both. You may want to consult this equation when buying equipment, assuring you are really getting the maximum increase in score per hard earned dollar. On the other hand, just spend -- it's good for the economy and the NCCC, a kind of two-for-one benefit.

- 5) Read, and maybe even re-read the excellent Sweepstakes Handbook. Bob K6XX, gets much of the credit for assembling the latest edition of this timely and relevant compendium of Sweepstakes guidance that I'm sure the competition would love to get a hold of (guard it with your most ardent ferocity). Remember it's accessible on the Member's only section of the NCCC website let us know if you have difficulties finding it. Since the SS handbook is always a work in progress, please let Bob or me know what needs adding, or maybe deleting. Although 2002 isn't an official update year for the handbook (XX did just too good a job last time), we'd still appreciate your comments for the future.

- 6) In September, ask yourself this question: is my contest logging program helping me or driving me to frustration? Maybe you need to change this year . . . if so do it early and practice in one of the prior contests.

- 7) Make a score pledge, separately for CW and SSB. (Do this for the 10M contest also). Ed will tell us shortly how to get this information onto the web page. For now, give your score

some serious thought . . and remember ... increased hours are always welcome. The object here isn't to just pick a number, but rather to set a goal for yourself. That having been said, what we *really* need is your increase from zero hours last year!

- 8) Did you remember to mark that calendar (if not, you are ordered back to 1 to start over).
- 9) In September and October, volunteer to help prior to SS. Here's a partial list of activities, and I'm encouraging those who haven't helped before to consider joining a volunteer effort. I'll be asking some of our seasoned pro's to do some of these tasks, but realizing that we also need to build new leadership and participation within the Club. Please e-mail n6zfo@arrl.net with your offers of help in the following areas, and suggestions for other activities:
 - a) Telephone, e-mail trees (by Area Code).
 - b) Liaison to other clubs for recruiting (River City Contesters and REDXA covered, help needed for NCDXC, and any other clubs you know of or belong to [note to k6gt . . george, my xyl has just saved me from another embarrassing French word spelling error].
 - c) Matching unused stations with available operators.
 - d) Propagation issues
 - e) Articles to the JUG, addenda to SS handbook material, informational notes to the reflector etc etc.

10) Attend the Sweepstake edition of the NCCC Monthly Club meeting on October 14 (Columbus Day).

11) **RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!!!**

Most of you know by now that we have a special zero dues option to entice new members into the club. The recruiting process is an incredibly easy one . . .At the last REDXA meeting, I approached Doug WW6D asking him about potential new members. Ten minutes later I had my first convert -- you will be hearing about him shortly. And a few minutes later, a second prospect. Together, I think these two potential new members represent 400,000 SS points. Now YOU can do this too. If just ten other members can do what I did in one evening, we are home free. It's fun, it's easy, and it will reward NCCC with a great winter contest season. Please watch the reflector for further details. Marc, W6ZZZ, and I are working on a "hot list", and we'll be asking you shortly for help.

12) **ABSOLUTELY MOST IMPORTANT: Get on the air and KB in the ARRL November Sweepstakes,** thereby helping the club to achieve an astonishing NCCC victory, or at least making it even more difficult for next year's VP/CC or SS Chair to top the effort.

73 and KB, Bill N6ZFO VP/CC

12 Store Buying Power!



HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



ICOM IC-756PRO II
HF + 6M HF TCVR
Price : \$2969.95



ICOM IC-746PRO
*HF/6M/2M DSP TRANSCEIVER
Price : \$1899.95

YAESU FT-1000MPMKVFIELD
100W TCVR AC/DC W BUILTIN PS
Price : \$2399.95
Coupon/special : \$200.00
Your Final Cost : \$2199.95



ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland)
833 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 534-7373
(800) 854-6846
Janet, KJ2MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

2452 W. Victory Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6846
Eric, KA6HT, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Beena Vista
1 mi. west I-5
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6846
Mark, W7YV, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(619) 560-4900
(800) 854-6846
Tom, K6BK, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Cleared Mesa
sandiago@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6846
Ken, K1ZKM, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NCCC
44 Toyon Terrace
Danville, CA 94526

check us at:
<http://www.cqp.org>
<http://www.nccc.cc>
repeaters:
W6RGG/R 147.24+
and 444.2 (PL107.2)

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS