



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club

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NCCC - 50 years of Contesting Excellence

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NCCC June ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

1230-1500

"Islands on the Air—IOTA"

Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC

Short presentations:

K3EST — July 25 IOTA Contest

[/www.rsgbcc.org/hf/iota.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/iota.shtml)

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

Future:

Sun., Aug 15, CQP, Dean, N6DE

Sun, Sept 19, Family Picnic at N6RO

President's Report - WD6T

Of "Amateurs" and "Hobbies"

Amateur radio is often referred to as a "hobby." This conjures up images of a low-key relaxed pursuit... not exactly what many of us think of as contesting. In fact, "hobbies" can be just as intense as "work," and just as important to us personally. So what does it mean to call ham radio a "hobby," and to call us "amateurs?"

It says nothing about our degree of passion or level of expertise. It may mean that we have more flexibility as to when and how much time and energy to devote to the pursuit (uh... except for those of us who are compelled by forces beyond our control to contest!) But the most common interpretation of the terms "amateur" and "hobby" is the fact that we are not paid.

Where this leads to confusion is when that is assumed to mean we are less "serious" than "professionals," a misinterpretation that stems from equating market demand with value. By that logic, if there is no "buyer," then the activity is worthless. Yet, there are numerous enterprises for which we receive little or no remuneration, but are clearly of value, including charity work, parenting, etc.

What would be a better metric for value? A religious person—or even a devout atheist—might suggest the extent to which an activity is in the service of the divine, a "calling." An existentialist might deny the existence of any intrinsic value at all, asserting it is the responsibility of each individual to invest activities with value. Both would probably agree that, to the degree that we can lose ourselves in our passions, and the sense of separateness between them and us fades away, such pursuits serve as paths to something greater than ourselves.

The psychologist would then jump into the conversation and call this "flow," defining it as a person performing



Officers:

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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



some activity while fully immersed in a feeling of energized focus, full involvement, and enjoyment in the process. "Flow" is characterized by the complete absorption in what one does, and a resulting transformation in one's sense of time. Sounds a bit like contesting, doesn't it? And that is without adding sleep deprivation to the equation!

Of course, there is a minimum level of sustenance below which one has no choice but to become narrowly focused on survival, and "hobbies" become a luxury that cannot be afforded. Luckily, most of us are not in that predicament, though it's important to keep in mind how fortunate we are in that regard. Conversely, some of us have been blessed to have our professions and our passions completely converge, such that the two are one and the same. The majority of us are probably somewhere between these two extremes.

Our human dilemma is the finite allocation of time we are given on Earth. With that allotment, we do the best we can to balance activities and responsibilities, though it is common to be surrounded by dropped balls. To put it succinctly, alternatives exclude.



Speaking personally, I have juggled multiple careers and passions. This summer, I will be taking a break from my "day job" as a music/audio software engineer to compose a new work of contemporary classical music, for the unusual combination of thirteen violas. If this causes my contesting output to suffer to some extent, fear not, my "B" will be back "IC" in time for the fall contest season!

And the next time someone says, "relax, it's only a hobby," tell them "relax, it's only money!"

73 Dave, WD6T



July 2021 VP/CC Report — Andy Faber, AE6Y/P40Y

Field Day notes

A major contest (if it is indeed a contest) in June, of course, was Field Day. I fondly remember my Ham Radio Explorer Troop going out into the field as a kid, and making a few hundred contacts with our primitive contesting skills. While I had a DX100B/SX99 in those days, one of our group (just a high school kid) actually owned an S-line and would bring it with him to set up in a tent. We were usually in the 2A category, with limited wire antennas. But propagation was great, though we took it for granted at the time, as it was near the peak of Cycle 19 in the early 60s – the best one ever.

Anyway, in recent years like many of us, I tend to dabble in the contest from home. In 2020, the ARRL adopted a temporary Covid rule allowing home stations (category 1D) to work other 1D stations. That rule was extended for 2021 and seemed to lead to a noticeable increase in overall activity. I'd like to see it made permanent to stimulate activity, though it still doesn't seem quite right to enjoy the comforts of home during this event, which is designed to demonstrate emergency preparedness.

Here's a pome about that:

"A 1D FD"

**Is Field Day a contest, or no?
 Lots of CW, but slow.
 Going 1D from home
 While others do roam
 Just doesn't seem kosher, I know!**

Contest or not, a number of Club members did take it seriously and made very creditable scores. As reported to 3830, these include:

1D HP W6DMW(@N6RO)	482
1D LP N6WM NG6O(K6GHA)	695 450
1E LP N6TV	1,080
1E QRP - Solar N6ZFO (a spectacular score!)	2,050
2D LP KF6NCX (+KE6YLH)	1,794
3A LP K6NV (K6NV K6ST KB6VTU KH2TJ KI6TRK N6XI NZ6G W6EU W6RKP W8TJE WB6CZG)	1,823

Although not reported to 3830, John, W6LD, says that at the Stanford Station, W6YX, they are claiming some 19 kilopoints in category 4F (a new category record), with the interesting finding that many of the college student ops at the GOTA station were particularly enthusiastic about operating FT4/8. Thirty-two operators and visitors participated, including Club members AA6XV, K6TJ, K7GK, N6DB, N7MH, WD6T, W6LD, and W6RK.

During the contest, I was the surprised beneficiary of an unusual multiplier experience that ended up triggering a fit of nostalgia: I was running on 20 CW Saturday afternoon, and at 0013Z heard a faint "BIM." Thinking it was probably Club member KA6BIM, I turned the beam north to be able to hear him and sent the exchange. It was indeed Dave, and his signal came up quite a few dB. I left the antenna pointing north for a bit to see what would happen. One minute later, at 0014Z, a KL7 called for the AK mult (not that mults actually matter, but still, it was nice to hear him). Then, very surprisingly, five Qs later at 0016Z, VY1DX in NT called. Now that was a shocker.

I was thinking, wow, how nice it would be if that would happen in CQP. There have been years when many of us in CA have missed AK in CQP, or NT, or both. I know that VY1DX is actually a club call of the Yukon ARA, in Whitehorse, because I have actually operated from their club station using that very call.

The QSO brought back fond memories of our DX-pedition to the Yukon for CQP in 1999 by my law partner Bob, AA6VB, and myself. We put the VY1DX callsign and its NT mult on the map for CA stations. This was important, as J Allen, VY1JA, was temporarily off the air at that time and couldn't provide the NT mult in CQP as he usually did.

Bob and I decided on a lark to fly to Whitehorse, encouraged by J Allen, VY1JA, and the club trustee, Ron. I brought my trusty TS-570D, which we set up in the club trailer graced with a short tower and a tribander. We also used their TR7 in a primitive form of M/S operation. There was an amp that we couldn't get working, but J very kindly lent us an 80A to give our signal some umph. It was definitely needed, as many CA stations, resolutely beaming east, had trouble hearing us. But we ended up with 90k points and a county sweep when all was said and done.

We couldn't work many people on 40 (only 52 Qs out of 675 total), and none on 80 due to intense RF noise from the aurora borealis. Bob and I went outside at night and probably spent an hour gazing skyward, transfixed by a beautiful display of northern lights, with their ever-shifting, evanescent illumination of shimmering, diaphanous green and purple curtains. We thought that this incredible display was a worthy tradeoff for the poor low band conditions. Later J said it was just an "ordinary" aurora!

The Yukon is a rather amazing part of Canada. At the time, the population was about 30k inhabitants (2/3 of whom lived in Whitehorse), in a land area larger than California. Imagine CA with only 30,000 inhabitants, most of whom live in San Diego!

This is an example of the liberties we have taken with Canadian geography in determining the CQP multipliers. CQP recognizes only eight Canadian mults (presumably so that the total mults for US and Canada will be the same, at 58, as the number of CA counties), though Canada actually contains 10 provinces and three territories. CQP lumps the three territories into one mult called NT, comprising the Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut Territories. Adding all three together, the NT mult has a land area eight times larger than CA, with 1/400th the population (just over 100k people) – no wonder we often miss NT in CQP!

Whitehorse itself seemed just like any American town of 20,000 people that is also a major regional center – for a very large and very sparsely populated region. Ron, the club trustee, was the proprietor of the local Radio Shack store. J and his wife were extremely hospitable to Bob and me, for example, insisting that we use his car for the week, even though I had reserved a rental to pick up at the airport. They also had us over for dinner one night. One of J's prized possessions was an NCCC mousepad that had been awarded to him for meritorious service in CQP. As you can see, being called by VY1DX brought back a flood of memories.

All-Asian CW

Spurred on by K3EST, the Club has established a series of awards for participation in Asian and Oceanic contests this year. These contests are much more winnable from the West Coast than the worldwide DX contests, and promise a lot of fun operating times to those who participate. The details of the award will be appearing

elsewhere in this issue of the JUG. Here's a summary from Bob, K3EST, to whet your appetite:

Asia-Oceania Challenge (AOC): Here on the West Coast we all are aware of the difficulty of doing well in major events such as the CQ WWs or ARRL DX contests. However, there are major contests where you don't have to point your beam thru the East Coast aluminum wall or come close to the North Pole. The AOC outlines a series of symmetrical contests (SSB and CW versions) that allow a California station to avoid the aurora zone, the eastern US and do really well. The JIDX, AA and Oceania contests provide such an opportunity. If you recall, a lot of the calls that end up in our logs are Japanese. They constitute the biggest contributor to our score and are the biggest activators in 4 of the 6 AOC tests. In addition, by working YBs/VKs in the Oceania contest you might encourage them to become more active in other events. By entering the AO Challenge, you not only have a good time but you also help their contests as they have helped your scores over the years. We are a contest club. Taking a little time to make contacts in the AO Challenge will reaffirm our club's raison d'etre. The next event will be the All Asian SSB during the first week of September. Put it on your calendar and give it a try.

The CW running of the All Asian DX contest came last month hard upon the Club's announcement, so there was barely time to get motivated for it. I spent a few hours, mainly getting up in the early predawn hours to run Asians on 40, which is very gratifying from here, and then getting on for a few minutes here and there.

Everywhere I tuned, there was RF evidence of two major Club efforts: K3EST in a multi-multi at N6RO (ops were K3EST, K6AW, KN8U, N6RO, N6WM, WA6O, and WX5S), and N6TV as a single op. The other West Coast stations that seemed to be ubiquitous were VE7CC (also a single op) and N7AT (a M/S effort). TV-Bob beat the latter two for the high West Coast single-op score (in fact, as reported on 3830, the high non-Asian score). Big congratulations to him for that outstanding effort, and also to the gang at K3EST for milking the bands dry. And WD6T, submitting as a 20m SB entry (@K6MTU), has the highest U.S. score in that category.

Of course, AA is an unusual contest in that the exchange is your age. That's how I realized that I hadn't entered an AA CW in a long time. I used to do it routinely; in fact, that is one of the dozen contests covered specifically in my logging program that I still use, though written over 20 years ago, CQPWIN (now in ver. 13.1). What I noticed was that the exchange from the contest stored in the program gave my age as 65, which is now 10 years out of date. And my exchange was not unusual.

Out of 156 QSOs, only 11 reported ages in the 40s and the youngest person worked in the whole contest was 44. Here's a pome about that:

"The Graying of AA"

**Lots of 60s and 80s today
Received from our friends in JA.
AA shows our trouble:
An aging, male bubble.
We need newbies eager to play.**

Canada Day Contest

Continuing the Canadian theme, the RAC Canada Day Contest can be a good opportunity to thank our Canadian friends for helping out in CQP. Canada Day is July 1 of each year and is akin to our July 4th Holiday. Here's what Wikipedia says about it: *"A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867, with the passing of the British North America Act, 1867 where the four separate colonies of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were united into a single Dominion within the British Empire called Canada. Canada Day celebrations take place throughout the country, as well as in various locations around the world attended by Canadians living abroad."*

One of those celebrations is the RAC one-day Canada Day Contest, in which the aim, naturally, is to work Canadians. Although it unfortunately fell on a weekday this year, a number of NCCC members reported major efforts to 3830. These include:

M/S
K6KM (@ W6SRR) 139,380

SOABHP
AJ6V (top reported West Coast score) 151,008
N6ZFO 111,136
W6SX 34,916

160 HP
N6RO 1,456

20 HP
WX5S (@N6RO) 50,610
W1RH 16,288

80 HP
WD6T (@N6RO) 8,580

Upcoming Contests

We're entering the contest summer doldrums, but check WA7BNM's contest calendar for a list of contests occurring every weekend of the year. Here are a few of interest:

July-August-Sept Contests of Special NCCC Interest

IARU DX Contest July 10-11 **KB Qualifying Contest**
NAQP RTTY July 17-18 **KB Qualifying Contest**

RSGB IOTA Contest July 24-25

NAQP CW Aug 7-8 **KB Qualifying Contest**
NAQP SSB Aug 21-22 **KB Qualifying Contest**
AA DX SSB Sept 4-5 **Asia-Oceania Qualifying Contest**

Field Day 2021

2021 Field Day at KH6RS, Maui ARC

Alan, AD6E

Maui ARC has done Field Day from the same QTH for over 50 years. It's so well established that the CC&Rs now have a clause in it that says we (Maui ARC) have the right to take over the property one weekend a year. So far as I know, it's the only ham friendly CC&R in existence. The QTH is a beautiful spot on the north shore of Haleakela noted for big wave surfing and turtles. The site is used as a cow pasture so the lease holder had to remove all the cattle and we tried to avoid all the cow pies.

Long before my time, the club did an annual 1A event with four 50ft masts that held up a very large Rhombic. I still hear some of the OTs talk about it, including NCCC past president K6GSS. Seven years ago when I arrived, the club was doing a competitive 3A operation with three QRO stations. The attitude was along the lines of "Points? Who cares? We want QSOs". So the power multiplier was ignored and we went for generating pileups. :-)

The typical antenna arrangement then was:

5 element yagi on 10; 4 element yagi plus a 4 element vertical array on 15; 3 element yagi plus a 2 element vertical array on 20; a single vertical plus a vertical Moxon on 40a; and a low dipole for 80

Last year was highly restricted due to COVID but we still did a simple 1A at the site just to maintain our half century of doing FD every year.

This year we decided to get back to normal as much as possible. We only allowed members to participate if they were vaccinated and it was closed to the public. We scaled back to a 2A operation with limited antennas, but still had the 4 element 15 on a 40ft crank-up, and the 40 vertical. We decided that one station would run 15 and 40 exclusively and the other station run 20 and 80 plus watch out for a possible opening on 10 with a 2 element SteppIR. We've always been supported by the local community. We had a 25kW generator donated by a local rental company, and even a porta-potty donated.

One of the interesting things about this particular QTH is the old blockhouse. In WWII it was a Navy transmitting site. It's a small room about 8 x 12 feet inside and covered every inch inside and out with graffiti. Every year, when we do our FD, we add another layer of paint to commemorate our weekend stay with something about ham radio. The walls are probably much thicker now than original due to the many layers of paint. Our artwork may last a few days before someone else comes along and covers it up with their own art. This year we covered the main outside wall with white paint and then added the ARRL symbol. Every year it's different.

By tradition, we had one station operating inside the blockhouse. Having drawn the short straw, that was my station: K3, P3, KPA1500 plus my set of NQN filters and using Writelog. The other station operated in a rented U-Haul van (nice!) with a Flex 6600 and an SPE 1K (small) amp, and using N1MM. Alan, AD6E



Field Day – N6ZFO 1E, Solar

With REDXA/MARS (Marin Amateur Radio Society) asking for points under the pandemic-altered rule set it was very tempting to undertake a QRP contest operation, thus making use of the X5 multiplier for QRP and alternative power. Each CW QSO provided 10 FD points.

A five watt power output from the FT-1000MP Mk V was easily achieved, . The KPA-1500, in stand-by mode, indicated a power of exactly 5 watts, key down.

In three hours thirty minutes on the air, 205 QSO's, all CW and mostly 20m, gave a final score of 2,300 points. The overall qso rate, largely from S&P on 20m, was about one QSO per minute, equivalent to a 1D rate of 300/hour. Any doubts about QRP were quickly dispelled as station after station responded, usually on the first call. Some short runs were successful on both 20m and 15. W6FA kindly QSY'd to 10 meters; supplemented by one local QSO.

From QSO'S:	2050 pts
Bulletin copy	100 (Thanks, K9JM, for transmitting the FD ARRL Bulletin)
Solar power	100
Web submit	50

Total claimed pts: 2,300

QSO Breakdown: 40m, 7; 20m 159; 15m 37; 10m 2.

We had one distraction . . . Saturday afternoon a major multi-house fire broke out in downtown Kelseyville. . . extinguished within an hour by our excellent fire department.

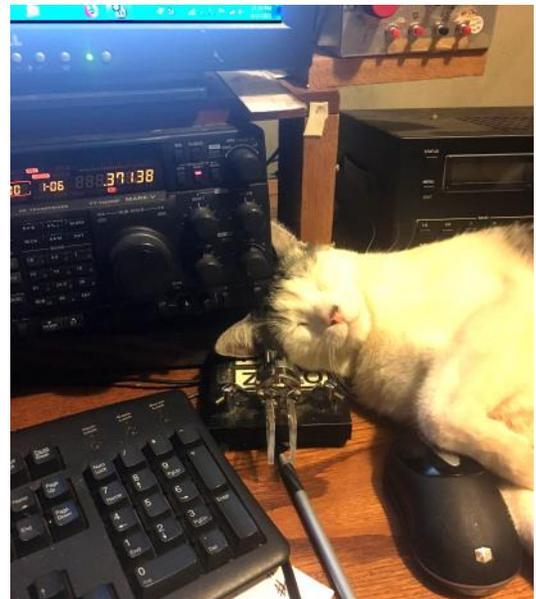
Naturally, the importance of an appropriate FD beverage can't be over-emphasized, and what could be more appropriate than "Field Day Vinegar" . . . Well actually, beer — it was over 90 degrees in the shack.



For additional Field Day food items see www.fielddayproducts.com



Field Day Fire in Kelseyville CA, photographed from the N6ZFO mountain top.



Posey the cat takes a nap during N6ZFO Field Day, but keeps a paw on the mouse.

Announcing . . . The NCCC Asia-Oceanic Challenge Competition

The famous early American newspaper editor, orator and politician Horace Greeley proclaimed the widely-adopted slogan “Go West, Young Man”. Now, a mere 175 years later, NCCC Board Member Bob, K3EST announces a new slogan “Beam West, NCCC,” thus launching an exciting and challenging new NCCC internal competition that encompasses the Asia-Oceania radio contests. Well, actually it’s beam West, South-West, North-West and occasionally due North. to include the wide, but, from the perspective of NCCC Territory, largely Western regions of the earth. [N6ZFO, Ed]



“Go West Young Man” . . .

Horace Greeley, American Statesman, founder/editor of the New York Tribune and 1872 Presidential Contender.

“Beam West, NCCC”

Bob, K3EST, NCCC- BOD member, WPX and IOTA guru, and con-
tester extraordinaire.



AOC—The Asia-Oceanic Challenge Bob, K3EST

Asia-Oceania Challenge (AOC): Here on the west coast we all are aware of the difficulty of doing well in major events such as the CQ WWs or ARRL DX contests. However, there are major contests where you don’t have to point your beam thru the east coast aluminum wall or come close to the North Pole. The AOC outlines a series of symmetrical contests (SSB and CW versions) that allow a California station to avoid the aurora zone, the eastern US and do really well. The JIDX, AA and Oceania contests provide such an opportunity. If you recall, a lot of the calls that end up in our logs are Japanese. They constitute the biggest contributor to our score and are the biggest activators in 4 of the 6 AOC tests. In addition by working YBs/VKs in the Oceania contest you might encourage them to become more active in other events. By entering the AO Challenge, you not only have a good time but you also help their contests as they have helped your scores over the years. We are a contest club. Taking a little time to make contacts in the AO Challenge will reaffirm our club’s raison d’etre. The next event will be the All Asian SSB during the first week of September. Put it on your calendar and give it a try.

Details of the AOC, including prizes and ranking information, are at <http://nccc.cc/pdf/COAO.pdf>

Certificates and Starbuck’s Gift Cards are among the prizes within three different categories for entering 3, 4 and 5 or 6 contests,

Qualifying Contests for the AOC:

APRIL: CW Japan International DX Contest. Second week. The world works Japanese stations. 30 hours (0700z Sat – 1300z Sun; DX exchange: CQ zone; JA exchange; prefecture #; Multipliers = Prefectures #s/band. *NOTE: Not included in the 2021/22 AOC.*

JUNE: CW All Asian Contest. Third weekend. 48 hours. The world works Asian stations. DX exchange: age; Asian exchange: age; Multipliers = Asian prefixes *NOTE: 1st qualifying contest for 2021/22.*

SEPTEMBER: SSB All Asian Contest. First weekend. 48 hours. The world works Asian stations. DX exchange: age; Asian exchange: age; Multipliers = Asian prefixes

OCTOBER: SSB Oceania Contest. First weekend. 24 hours. 0800z – 0800z. The world works Oceania. Exchange: RS + serial #

OCTOBER: **CW Oceania Contest**. Second weekend. 24 hours. 0800z – 0800z. The world works Oceania. Exchange: RST + serial #

NOVEMBER: **SSB Japan International DX Contest**. Second weekend. 30 hours. 0700z Sat– 1300z Sun. The world works Japanese stations. 30 hours (0700z Sat – 1300z Sun; DX exchange: CQ zone; JA exchange; prefecture #; Multipliers = Prefectures #s/band. In the AA and JIDX contests, the great majority of QSOs are with Japan. The two Oceania contests bring out lots of YB stations, especially on 40 SSB. All of the six contests have multiple categories

Asia-Oceania Contest countries.



The green areas are officially Asia and Oceania; yellow are optionally included in Asia from a geo-political sense, and the grey area, more or less, are the expanded ham radio designation for Asia.

All-Asia Prefix List.

3W,XV	Spratly Is.	EY	Tajikistan
4J,4K	Vietnam	EZ	Turkmenistan
4L	Azerbaijan	HL,6K,6N	South Korea
4S	Georgia	HS,E2	Thailand
4X,4Z	Sri Lanka	HZ	Saudi Arabia
5B,C4,P3	Israel	JA-JS,7J-7N	Japan
7O	Cyprus	JD1	Ogasawara Is.
8Q	Yemen	JT-JV	Mongolia
9K	Maldives(*)	JY	Jordan
9M2,4	Kuwait	OD	Lebanon
9N	West Malaysia	P5	North Korea
9V	Nepal	S2	Bangladesh
A4	Singapore	TA-TC	Turkey (Eastern)
A5	Oman	UA-UI8,9,0 RA-RZ	Asiatic Russia
A6	Bhutan	UJ-UM	Uzbekistan
A7	U.A.E.	UN-UQ	Kazakhstan
A9	Qatar	VR	Hong Kong
AP	Bahrain	VU	India
B57	Pakistan	VU4	Andaman and Nicobar Is.
BV	Scarborough Reef	VU7	Lakshadweep
BV9P	Taiwan	XU	Cambodia
B	Pratas Is	XW	Laos
E4	China	XX9	Macao
EK	Palestine	XY-XZ	Myanmar
EP-EQ	Armenia	YA	Afghanistan
EX	Iran	YI	Iraq
	Kyrgyzstan	YK	Syria
		ZC4	UK Sov.Base Area on Cyprus

Notwithstanding the NCCC Starbuck prizes and NCCC certificates for placing well in the AOC, the sponsoring organization may reward you with a handsome certificate of plaque. This certificate from JARL rewarded N6ZFO for a 2nd-place zone 3 finish in the 2017 All Asian CW DX contest.



Non-Colliding Hobbies -Wood Crafting and Ham Radio

Gary, NA6O

Where does a woodworker store his Morse key collection? In a display case, of course. I've wanted to do this kind of cabinet for 30 years. This is a rescaling of one of Jim Krenov's designs and it is my very finest work to date. Jim K. is one of the world's most famous cabinetmakers and has been my mentor via his writings; unfortunately I never got the chance to attend his school. This cabinet is made from a single plank of 8/4 rift-sawn oak, with all the grain carefully selected within the limits of the available material, and fit to perfection. I even made the knife hinges. All final surfaces were planed, not sanded, and finish is shellac. ~200 hours. Perhaps if I was a first-year student at the school, I'd get a passing grade. *[And an employment offer?? Ed.]*

Note: Often, our hobbies are on a collision course. . For example if you enjoy bowling competitions and ham radio contesting, there are likely to be collisions. Not so with Gary's passion for woodworking. . And you thought 36 hour bic for a WPX contest was a lot. . How about the 200 hours for this work of art? *[Bill, N6ZFO Ed]*



Point Generator Profile

David West, W6DMW

Interviewed by W1RH

When I started this column several years ago, my goal was to feature some of the lesser known members who generate points for this great contest club. Take Carl, N6TVN, for example. Carl participated in an amazing 96 contests in 2021! Most were the NCCC Sprints and CWOps, and Carl was in the hunt week after week after week. It isn't only the weekly tests, however. You'll find Carl supporting NCCC's efforts whenever he can and, most recently, that meant 300+ Q's on CQ WPX CW.

Now, if you've been reading this column for a while, you have probably noticed that I try to feature all of our members and not just the big guns and long-time KB'ers. I also like to seek out the new contesters and our KB'ers in the hinterlands who you rarely see at a meeting. With that said, this month I decided to look for call signs in the KB Competition bracket rankings that I didn't recognize.

It didn't take long to see the call, W6DMW, jump out at me!

With a current total of 38,915,912, and placing first in the Silver Bracket, W6DMW's call did, indeed get my attention. I really did do a double-take, when I saw that score. I scrolled up to the Platinum Bracket to see where David would place had he been in that bracket and he would currently be in 12th place!

Seeing these large numbers coming from David, I then went to 3830 to take a look at just what this guy's been up to. It seems that David has been hanging around N6RO's QTH lately. Not a bad place for a new contester to hang, eh? Learn from the best and generate points for the KB Club!

What I have so respected about the N6RO team, is that they always leave a seat open for the new guy. In the recent ARRL VHF contest, the "new guy" was David, W6DMW. How can you NOT learn when you're sitting alongside the likes of N6RO, WD6T, N6WN?

David does have his own station and it has, indeed, been active. So far, in 2021 and with his own station, David has participated in several NCCC Sprints, the WPX contests (all modes), RTTY Roundup, NEQP, NA Sprint, FIQP, ARRL DX SSB, 7QP, and two of the winter NAQP's.

David was also one of the N6RO team members in the 2021 CQ WPX SSB Contest and the CQ WPX RTTY contest. Ken, N6RO, along with his super-station, has been responsible for many of our KB'ers getting their start in contesting and it looks like W6DMW has been added to that list.

When I asked David if he would be willing to be featured in contesting's premier club newsletter, the reply was an exuberant YES! With that said, let's hear from David:

Name/Call Sign: David West, W6DMW

Past calls: . KN6IOB

Location: Brentwood, CA

How much property do you have? It's so small it's measured in feet as opposed to acres. 6000 sq/ft.

Describe your antenna system:

Current: I have a 20/40M inverted V Dipole System. That's my main antenna. Chris (N6WM) helped me make that decision. It's mounted about 16-18' in a tree and slopes down to about 10' at each leg of the antenna. This antenna system, as weak sounding as it is, has allowed me to contact all 7 continents. I also have a 6m Yagi that N6WM handed down. That usually ends up on a crank up tower from work that gets it about 20' high but right now it's on a tetherball pole. Lastly, I have a GAP Titan DX that the N6RO team handed down from Greg (N6GD). Since the wind has gotten so bad here that antenna only goes up every now and then. I love it though because it's an all-

band antenna.

Future: Oddly enough, I was just thinking about an end-fed 10-40 or 80 from MFJ. I love the idea of an all-band antenna being up all the time. An end fed is going to be the easiest way to get that done in the most unobtrusive way. (I think but I'm open to options). In the distant future I want something on the roof, like an Urban Beam. This roof idea is going to be a tough sell for the wife...

What's in your shack? I'm new, as you all know so I'm going to start with the first HF rig. It was an Icom 7100. The shack in a box. I bought it off eBay from an operator in San Jose oddly enough. I loved it. For about \$800 and a tuned antenna system, I was on all bands. Not competition grade, but I was on the air. It was connected to an old computer running RCForb for the times I was away or a friend wanted to check into 2m nets. However, it quickly was outpaced by my desire to have a more robust radio. After being thrown into the mix at N6RO and using the Flex radios there I realized I absolutely had to have a Flex Radio. Away the 7100 went and in came a Flex 6400. So, while I lost my 2m/70cm, I gained so much more.

Which means currently, it's a Flex and a laptop. Which I love. I don't mean to sound like a Flex fan to you but I love how easy it is to operate, how easy it is to pick out a distant station and with enough patience and chutzpah work said station. I love how easy it is to integrate with other software. I could go on....

No Amp. No Tuner. Just laptop connected to a radio connected to some antennas. Shoot I don't even have a chair when I'm operating in the garage. Luckily, I can be in the office upstairs or even at the kitchen table. Which is nice because I can be on the radio and still in the house with the family. It's allowed me to easily grab one of the kids and say "here put these headphones on and see if you can get this guy for me".

What are your previous QTH's? As far as the hobby is concerned, this is it, Brentwood. I've lived in San Ramon, Los Angeles, Madison, and grew up in Walnut Creek. (Fun fact: I was adopted from Colombia when I was one. Which is why I always try to work the Colombian stations when I hear them).

If you're working, what is your career? If not, what was your career? I am a Manufacturer's Representative for theatrical and architectural lighting manufacturers. We are a very small and specialized firm. Think convention centers, ball rooms, restaurants, movie sets, TV stations, and theaters. I've been with this company for 14 years and working as a manufacturer or the representative since 2002. I've been involved in theatre and production work since I was in 7th grade.

Married? Kids? Grandkids Married, yes. 16 years. 2 kids (14 and 10 both boys). Definitely no grandchildren based on those ages :)

How many DXCC entities have you worked? Well, LOTW shows 76. ClubLog shows 88. Somewhere in-between and of course that doesn't equal all confirmed since.... people vary with their confirmation programs. .

What's your favorite contest? That's a tough one. I really enjoy any contest that I'm part of the N6RO team however 7QP was a blast. They support CQP and I think we should support them just as much. I'm looking forward to CQP this year (as long as I'm not on vacation that weekend due to our fall break at school). I missed that last year because I was so green and had no idea what was going on. This year could be really fun!

Any tips for testers? As I've been told numerous times: BIC. Butt in Chair. Set goals that meet the levels of your station and your expertise. While so many of my KB points are from time at N6RO so much has been gained in my own chair setting my own pace and learning the ins and outs of my station and mind. The last year has been a year of discovery and setting goals for the future. Gary (NA6O) has a great article about setting goals as a peashooter station. You can find it in the NCCC site in the Contesting section. I read that and it spoke volumes to me. Two of the big takeaways were "be a happy casual tester while you learn your station's true capabilities" and "Set reasonable goals." One last item on my list is participate in everything and in all modes. Don't just pick CW or SSB try the other modes and random small contests/events. You never know when you find a niche that interests you. Shoot, it was a blast trying to get all 13 Colonies over the 4th of July Weekend.

What would you like to see changed in NCCC? I don't think I know yet. It hasn't even been a year. I've learned so much from you all and still have so much to learn and see. Ask me again in 5 years. :)

Any other hobbies besides ham radio? Crabbing, BBQing and Off-Roading. Crabbing is just plain sitting out-

side and fish time. BBQing keeps me in a shape (round). Off-Roading gets me out of the house and in the woods. My little one loves it too so we get some great one on one time without the electronics to distract him. It was also the catalyst to getting my license in the first place. Who knew it would be a gateway to the contesting and DX world.



The W6DMW Urban Antenna Farm



David's favorite ratio—A Flex, a laptop and the antennas, all configured for maximum contest fun.



W6DMW. . Operating the 7100 during an NCCC meeting.



Rookie Round-up in2021 from N6RO



Station 1 at N6RO During VHF Contest June 2021

Tube Of The Month

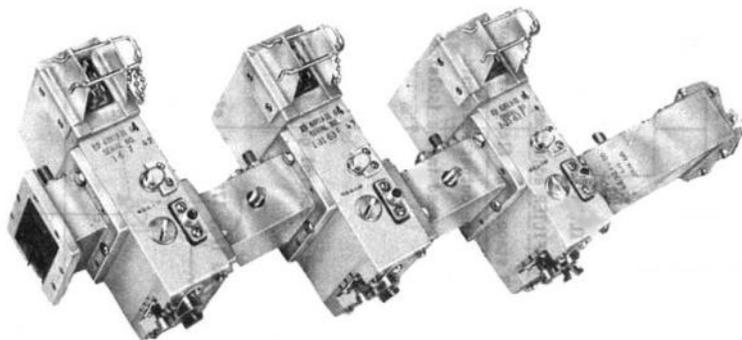
WE 416 Triode

Norm, N6JV

Microwave techniques developed during the war years led to significant improvements in the performance of the telephone system starting in the 1950s. Western Electric designed and manufactured a new microwave telephone relay system employing the WE 416 triode tube. This tube has a μ of 200 and could deliver useable broadband power at 4 GHz. The backbone of the new system was the TD2 microwave relay equipment. In the output of the TD2, three of the WE 416 tubes were cascaded to produce 23 dB of gain over a bandwidth of 30 MHz. The amplifier assembly photo was taken from the WE TD2 manual. When the first WE 416A tubes were used, the system could handle 2400 circuits and by the time the more powerful WE 416D tube was in use, the circuit count went up to 19,800. These relay stations were for the long-haul traffic and were often from one mountain top to another. We have all seen the big horn antennas that look like a giant ear. These ears have a gain of about 40 dB. Branch links into the cities and towns was often done on 10 GHz.

The WE 416 tubes are only 1 inch in diameter. The high gain is achieved because of the design of the grid. The grid wires are wound with a pitch of 1000 turns per inch. The grid wires are .0003-inch in diameter which is 61 AWG. The tungsten grid wire was first drawn to .0005 and then further reduced with an electrochemical etch. The depth of the etch was monitored in real time by measuring the wire's resistance as the grid was being wound. The last of the approximately 100,000 tubes that were used were replaced by 1982 with solid state GaAs devices. The "C" and "D" tubes were capable of higher gain than the earlier devices with an output of 1 watt. These tubes were also used in test equipment, converters and even low noise receiving pre-amplifiers. Much of this information came from Bernard Magers' book on WE tube manufacturing.

EIMAC wanted to try and make these tubes so they acquired some surplus equipment from Canada including the giant grid winder. They made 100 tubes of which 50% passed testing. They couldn't find a buyer so abandoned the project. They gave me #66 some years later. Note that the white insulator is BeO (beryllia).



The WE 416 Triode and Amplifier Assembly

*Visit the museum at
<http://n6jv.com>*



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 and have 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 Bill, N6ZFO at n6zfo@arrl.net 415 209-3084

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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KENWOOD



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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 KP1500 and KP1500 amplifiers

'The performance of their products is only eclipsed by their service and support. Truly amazing!' Joe - W1G0

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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.

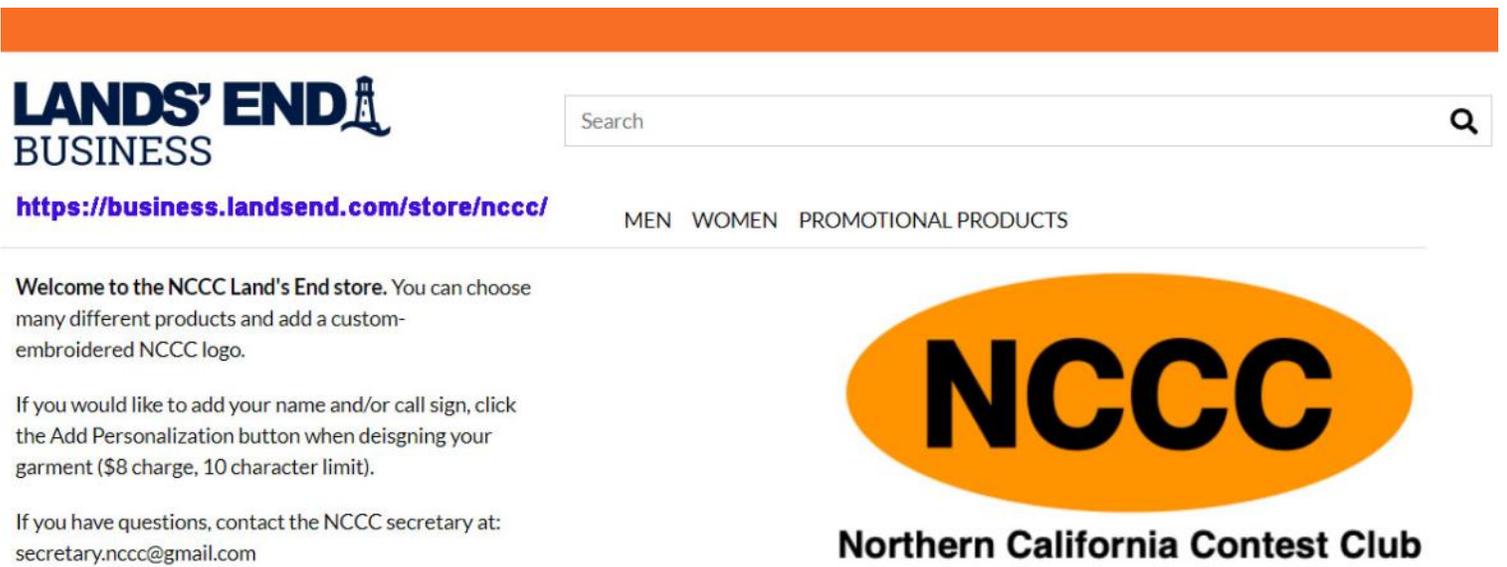
And, you can personalize your item by adding your name and/or call sign. The store is open 24/7 and items are shipped directly to you. No more waiting for everyone else to make up their minds on a group purchase.

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 BUSINESS

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

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.