



JUG

Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club

NCCC



#609 – April 2023

NCCC – 52 years of contesting excellence

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NCCC MEETING

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

Saturday 15 April 2023
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Cattlemens Restaurant
2882 Kitty Hawk Rd
Livermore CA

**Annual NCCC
Awards/Elections Meeting**

President's Report

David, WD6T

Dit-dit-dit-dah-dit-dah - So Long and Thanks for All the Qs



April marks my last column as NCCC President. I took on the role three years ago, just as Covid hit. We all remember the empty shelves at the stores and the big scores in the contests, as hams everywhere realized they could still have adventures while sheltering safely at home. In-person meetings were suspended and we moved to Zoom. While the loss was significant, one silver lining was the ability to present speakers from far and wide, with such far flung luminaries as K1ZM, K5ZD, K9LA, and many more. Since that time, we've had only one in-person gathering: the 2023 NCCC Picnic at N6RO. Many remarked that it was a great relief to finally meet in person. The food was also great, as was the station tour and the music (does that count as self-spotting?)

Now, finally, the health situation has evolved to the degree that we can resume indoors in-person meetings. The first such meeting will be the annual Awards Meeting at Cattlemen's in Livermore. I can say that I am looking forward to it with relish (or whatever condiment goes best with their great food.) At the same time, we will continue to make our meetings available live on Zoom for those members who cannot travel for whatever reason.

At the Awards Meeting, Dean N6DE will do a presentation on the



California QSO Party and present plaques to the winners. Chris N6WM will present the RTTY RU "KB level" Plaques and certificates. Gary NA6O will present the "KB contest" awards, as well as such traditions as the "Iron Butt" and the "Maximum Smoke" awards. Finally, I will announce the results of the voting for the NCCC awards such as Rookie of the Year, Contester of the Year, Elmer of the Year, etc., and present the plaques for those so-honored.

Of course, the other essential part of the April meeting is the election of new club officers. Although there was some brinkmanship involved, we now have an excellent slate of dedicated contesters ready to lead the club into the peak of Cycle 25. It features a great mix of seasoned veterans, who bring wisdom and experience, and newer members with fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

The proposed slate for the NCCC 2023-2024 year is as follows:

- President: David, KO6M (ex-W6DMW)**
- Vice President/Contest Chair: Chris, N6WM**
- Secretary: Greg, KK6PXT (continuing)**
- Treasurer: Nian, WU6P**
- Board Member: Bob, K3EST (continuing)**
- Board Member: John K6MM**
- Board Member: Ed, AJ6V (continuing)**
- Past President: Dave, WD6T**

Of course, if you are interested in nominating someone (including yourself) for any of the officer positions, it is still not too late to throw a hat in the ring. If you are nominating such a dark horse, please let me know ASAP. (I can hear my English teacher's voice now... "Horses don't wear hats!")

Finally, thank you for trusting me with the helm of NCCC for the last three years. It's been an honor serving with great officers and directors, and I look forward to continuing in my role as Past President. Please keep in mind that the Board can only be as effective as the membership's commitment to contesting and the club. Let's all improve our stations, get on the air, support the club contesting efforts, come out to meetings, participate on the reflector, and enjoy these amazing conditions of the solar maximum. With Covid in the rear view mirror and sunspots coming at us, it's full steam ahead for NCCC and damn the geomagnetic storms!

73,

Dave, WD6T dit-dit



About NCCC

Officers and Directors, 2022-2023 Contest Season

President: David Jaffe, [WD6T](#)
Vice-President/Contest Chairman: Andy Faber, [AE6Y](#)
Secretary: Greg Alameda, [KK6PXT](#)
Treasurer: David West, [KO6M](#)
Past President: Jack Brindle, [W6FB](#)
Director: Bob Cox, [K3EST](#)
Director: Chris Tate, [N6WM](#)
Director: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

Volunteers

Charter Member: Rusty Epps, [W6OAT](#)
Awards Chair: Gary Johnson, [NA6Q](#)
California QSO Party Chair: Dean Wood, [N6DE](#)
QSL Mgr [[K6ZM](#)]: vacant
QSL Mgr [[K6CQP/N6CQP/W6CQP](#)]: Ed Muns [WOYX](#)
NAQP Teams: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)
NA CW Sprint Teams: Bob Vallio, [W6RGG](#)
NCCC Email Reflector Admin: Phil Verinsky, [W6PK](#)
Worked All CA Counties Award: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)

NCCC Thursday Night Contesting

NCCC Sprint: Tom Hutton, [N3ZZ](#)
NS CW Ladder: Bill Haddon, [N6ZFO](#)
NS RTTY Sprint/Ladder: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

Communications

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)
Webinars: Bill Fehring, [W9KKN](#)
Membership: Gary Johnson, [NA6Q](#)/Ian Parker, [W6TCP](#)

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VPCC Report

Andy, AE6Y
(NCCC Poet Laureate)

CQ WPX SSB

As I write, the CQ WPX SSB contest was last weekend, and what a blast it was! In 8 hours of casual participation I got a chance to enjoy the conditions and revive memories of what fun this contest can be when the high bands are open. 21 years ago in 2002, on the first contest expedition I ever attempted, I operated CQ WPC SSB as ZF2AF from the Little Cayman QTH of then-club member Bruce, N6NT. He had spent a few years single-handedly building a lovely house right on the beach, and creating a super contest site. Only one 60-foot tower but overlooking the ocean and with a rare prefix to boot. Anyway, last weekend brought a smile to my face recalling that in that contest under similar conditions to this weekend, I was able to make over 5,000 QSOs, including just under 3,000 on 10.

It is always fun to try to work friends on expeditions, this weekend including John, W6LD, at our P40L/P49Y station, Tom, W2SC at 8P5A, Rich, N6KT, at PJ4K, and John, KK9A, at PJ4R. All four were easily workable on 40-10. Possibly on 80, but none of them spent much time there due to high noise levels and the fact that the rates were so good on the other bands.

Worldwide, there were some phenomenal scores posted, even as participants grouched that recent solar activity wiped out Friday night for many. CN3A, for example,

had a staggering M/M score of 106 Megapoints, approaching the record score from a few years ago at CN2AA.

There were many FB Club efforts from NCCC home territory as well. One of the neat things about WPX is that you never run out of mults, unlike most contests such as Sweepstakes, CQP, and many others. This means that the score grows exponentially, so that a hard-charging multi-operator effort will normally score more points than the same group of operators each working from their home stations (which is decidedly not the case with SS or CQP). In this contest, fine efforts were turned in locally in M/2 by the groups at WC6H (K6ST NC6R NR6Q NU6S WC6H WK6I) and at W6YX using the call WD6T (KE6YLH KM6WCC KN6MYI N7MH WD6T); M/M from NR6O (@N6RO) (N6RO, K3EST K6AW K8TR KE8FT KK6PXT KO6M N6WM WX5S) – totalling about 38M claimed points. And there were many serious individual efforts from our home turf, as West Coasters



enjoyed the fun of working EU on 10 and 15, and having 20 open well into the wee hours.

Finally, congratulations to our two traveling Dutch West Indies stalwarts: Rich at PJ4K managed 29M point in SOHP (2nd place claimed WW, just behind D4Z), while John at P40L won the world handily as SOLP with 15M points. Great results all around! Let's hope we get similar conditions and effort in WPX CW in two months. I'll be at P49Y myself, probably in the 24-hour classic category, though that remains to be seen.

Final thoughts as a Departing Officer

This will be my last VP/CC column in the JUG after my two-years as VP/CC come to a close. This is my third VP/CC tour, and I think in some respects the most difficult – and more difficult than my one term as President many years ago. I blame the pandemic. It really put a crimp on overall enthusiasm for contesting and even for normal fellowship. Attending meetings by zoom just isn't the same as have in-person meetings that allow casual conversations and moving around a room to chat with old and new friends. It also, of course, put a serious crimp into contest expeditioning, and without that aspect of major contests it's harder to stoke the competitive fires for a major club effort in one of the bigger contests.

It's interesting that the effect on actual contest participation has been mixed. For example, in CW and SSB WPX, participation shot up in 2020 and 2021, but declined significantly in 2022. That seems odd, since one would think that increasing sunspots and better high-band conditions would encourage participation, but again I think it was a collective ennui caused by continuing restrictions in 2022. Of course some countries were locked down and prohibited almost all travel (e.g., BY), while others, like P4, allowed travel but imposed restrictions and testing requirements that certainly discouraged many travelers.

I think it's been a difficult two years for all the officers. I want to congratulate Dave, WD6T, on holding the Club together, working hard to make meetings interesting and fun and to keep us all going, aided by a Board of Directors that was always willing to pitch in and back up the officers. The Club has actually done very well in many contests including Sprints, NAQPs, CQP, various RTTY events, and now in WPX. However, it hasn't always been easy to round up participants in a state of what I call "social distancing malaise."

In any event, the Club has a long and storied tradition, and I'm hoping that with restrictions on in-person meetings waning and travel returning to some semblance of normalcy, we will return to being the enthusiastic and gung-ho group of testers that we were before COVID changed everything.

Fortunately, Chris, N6WM, has volunteered to take on the mantle of VP/CC moving forward. Chris has been very active in the Club and in various aspects of contesting. I give him my best wishes and offer whatever support I can to help make the new officers successful in rekindling our old contest enthusiasm. So let's all back up our new officers and directors and pitch in when asked to volunteer for Club duties, and continue to support their efforts. Here's a pome about that:

The Passing of the Torch

*We welcome ChrisTate now as he
Becomes our new VP-CC.
With sunspots returning,
Let's help him by earning
Top scores for the N-Triple-C!*



Meet (some of) The Candidates



President: David West, KO6M -- David received his first license in 2020 and his Extra in 2022. He caught the contesting bug early on and enters many, his favorite is probably CQP since it's nice to be the hunted one for a change.

David's background is in Technical Theater ... particularly Lighting and Rigging ... and is employed by Wunder Lighting and Controls. He has designed control systems for everything from small theatrical systems to convention centers, opera houses, and even theme parks. Ham radio is a natural for him as he enjoys building things, tinkering, and figuring out what makes them work.



Board Member: Ed Radlo, AJ6V – Ed is a returning candidate for member of the NCCC Board of Directors. Ed is a Certified NCCC Old-Timer of over 40 years, having been an NCCC member since 1979. Ed served as NCCC President in 1984-1985, as well as on the Board in 2022-2023. He is currently the manager of the Thursday night RTTY NS (NCCC Sprint) contests and has operated in all of the NCCC KB contests for the last 2+ years.

WA7BNM's 3830 website shows that Ed's "contestography" record is prolific and includes a large variety of contests in multiple modes year after year, often posting 6 and 7 digit scores. The NCCC Team flogger for NAQP's counts on him for a winning score in all modes



Treasurer: Nianfeng ("Nian") Li – Nian was first licensed in 2018, Extra in one day! He holds an EE and was attracted to ham radio while working on another hobby project [SDR's]. Starting with FT8, he became intrigued with CW. With the help and mentoring from Ken, N6RO and his crew joined NCCC about two years ago to find out what this contesting stuff was all about. Nian is a VE, serves as an advisor for the CW Academy, and is a member of the Board of the Foothill ARS.

Everyone has a story, one of Nian's is sort of cool for a Ham ... "Nianfeng" in Chinese translates to "20th Peak" and Nian was born at the peak of Sunspot Cycle 20.



NCCC Sprint Ladder XXXV – Results

Bill, N6ZFO, and Tim, N3QE

As we near the surprising 20th anniversary of the NCCC Sprint, the Thursday night madness remains competitive, exciting and vigorous. The 35th running of the NS Ladder part of the NCCC Sprint provided the usual close competition, with top scores in the five geographic divisions being competitive: Atlantic, Lar, K7SV with 9,807 total points; East Central, W9RE with 11,180 points; NCCC in CA/NV, our club president Dave, WD6T with 9,607 points; West, N5ZO, Marko, with 10,377; and West Central, Art, KZ5D with 9,029. Four out of six weeks of ladder scores counted toward final totals.

We now have a super-QRP competitor in the NS, namely John, N6HI from Arizona with 0.5 watts and indoor wire antennas! Keep at it, John, it's always exciting to make a QSO with you. John's score is highlighted in **Red** below, and the other QRP entrants are in **Green**. DanWa's (K7SS) QRP score of 7595 is notable, and must be attributed to his continued use of a #2 pencil for logging. Some years ago, during development of the contest, I asked for logs to be submitted. These of course came via email, but a few days later Danny's log arrived in the postal mail. Under informal log checking it was a perfect log, recorded with the same shortcuts that we all use in our logging programs, i.e. not re-entering, or in DanWa's case re-writing, the already received exchange except the serial number. And Danny somehow manages all this while running the family's Giant Shoe Museum in Pike Place in Seattle. Quoting from

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/world-famous-giant-shoe-museum>

“The so-called museum is based on the giant shoe collection of one Danny Eskenazi. Eskenazi became fascinated with collecting colossal shoes after discovering that his grandfather had once owned a shoe that had belonged to the World's Tallest Man, Robert Wadlow. “

As usual, we thank the NS/NSLadder advisory group W9RE, N4AF, W4NZ, N3BB, W9RE, W0BH, VE3YT and K6UFO (NN7SS).

73,

Bill, N6ZFO (NCCC, SCCC and PVRC)

Tim, N3QE (PVRC)



Results

East Central

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Avg	High 4
W9RE	LP		2542	3234	2552	2166	2852	2669	11180
KW8N	LP	1900	1610	2184	2928	2475	2736	2305	10323
NA8V	LP	1376	2050	1911	3213	2016	3000	2261	10279
W8WTS	LP	1862	1496	2120	2784		2052	2062	8818
N8EA	LP		1665	2184	2173	2322	2132	2095	8811
K9BGL	LP	1617		1739	1386	1472	2080	1658	6908
VE3YT	LP	1632	1394	2040		1575	1564	1641	6811
W1NN	LP	986	775	1428	1840	1804	1702	1422	6774
K1GU	LP	1419	1452		1850		1435	1539	6156
W4NZ	LP		1302	1102	1505	1178	1364	1290	5349
N4DW	LP	1102	988		1280	1080	1476	1185	4938
N9TTK	LP	750		858	1692		1364	1166	4664
KY0Q	LP		304	638	648	598		547	2188
K0EJ	LP	1628						1628	1628
K4FN	LP			1178				1178	1178
K9DX	LP				800			800	800
N9LQ	LP	500						500	500
AA9RK	LP			99				99	99
AF8A	LP	4						4	4

NCCC in CA/NV

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Avg	High 4
WD6T	LP	2451	1764	2376	2200	2132	2580	2250	9607
N3ZZ	LP	1260		1692	1665	1911	1800	1665	7068
N6ZFO	LP	1530	1568	1764	1426	1824	1728	1640	6884
AJ6V	LP	1204	988	1748	1092	1702		1346	5746
N6TTV	LP	551	736	672	384	480	675	583	2634
N6TV	LP	1519						1519	1519
K6NV/7	LP	494		624	280			466	1398
K6NV	LP						748	748	748
W6SX	LP	110						110	110
W1RH	LP		90					90	90



West

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Avg	High 4
N5ZO	LP	2552	2200	2009	2394	2736	2655	2424	10337
K7SS	QRP		2028	2255	1610	1702	1610	1841	7595
WJ9B	LP	1305	1800			1938	1240	1570	6283
K4XU	LP	2184				1950		2067	4134
NN7SS	QRP	600	800	660	986	713	1209	828	3708
KI7Y	LP	338	759		1053	972		780	3122
K7SS	LP	1836						1836	1836
AA7V	LP	792						792	792
N7VS	LP		210	360				285	570
KA6BIM	LP		280					280	280
N6HI	QRP	6		28			66	33	100

West Central

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Avg	High 4
KZ5D	LP	2145	2484		2200	2200	1886	2183	9029
W0BH	LP		1505	2142	1764	2132		1885	7543
N0AT	LP	1350	1353	2009	1116	1755	1026	1434	6467
A16O	LP	527	464	918	1254	945	720	804	3837
K0VBU	LP	950	1240	1470				1220	3660
N0AC	LP		594	957	759	810	837	791	3363
K0TG	LP	736		891	693	780	609	741	3100
KG5U	LP	1066			936			1001	2002
K9DX	LP			364		638		501	1002
NW0M	LP		837					837	837
K0UK	LP			391				391	391



Atlantic

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Average	High 4
K7SV	LP	2268	2296	2891	2223	1584	2352	2269	9807
N4AF	LP	2419	1950	2080	2537	1610	1890	2081	8986
N3QE	LP	1961	1739	1938	2394	2080	2352	2077	8787
W1FJ	LP		1102	1271	2279	1862	1800	1662	7212
K8MR	LP	1064		1665	1394	1280	1419	1364	5758
K8CN	LP	744		621	775	667	864	734	3050
AJ1DM	LP	638	240	570	837	667	759	618	2901
W1UJ	LP				1015	780	780	858	2575
W1WEF	LP	1075	527	860				820	2462
K3MM	LP					988	1419	1203	2407
K4BAI	LP			980	168	1209		785	2357
NK4O	LP	644				550	588	594	1782
KY4ID	LP	374	342					358	716
NK4O	QRP				210			210	210



Tube Of The Month

Norm Wilson N6JV

Visit the Tube Museum at n6jv.com

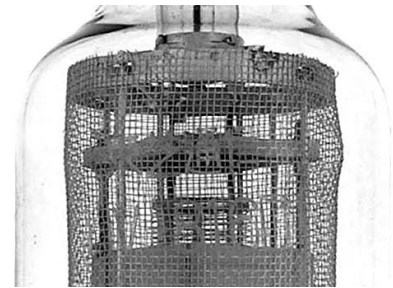


One of the more interesting WWII tubes I have from Japan is the UV-816D. Its construction is different than any other transmitting tube I have seen. The basic tube is a 60-watt tetrode with a standard “50 watt” base. The filament requires 10 volts at 2.5 amps and the plate is rated at a maximum of 1200 volts DC. It could operate up to 15 MHz at full power. The unusual feature is that there is a fine mesh cylinder that is spot welded around all the internal structure and is connected to the screen grid. It’s obviously a shield, but why it is needed is a mystery. Were they trying to keep something in or keep something out?



A good way to understand why something looks the way it does is to find out where it was used but there are few reference works that will give us details on the equipment used by the Japanese military. For example, there are few surviving military aircraft as many near the end of WWII, were used in kamikaze attacks which gave them a poor record of survival. In 1944, the War Department printed a TM that described all the captured equipment the armed forces had found after a battle. This document is far from complete and has many omissions and errors, but it was a good effort for that time. The TM indicates some of the transmitters that used the UV-816D and the field equipment or aircraft where they were installed.

From other sources I have identified more instances of where the tube was used. The pattern I see is that all the equipment that used the UV-816D was in Japanese Navy aircraft. Two of the transmitters were the Type 97 Mark 3 that used three tubes and the Type 96 Mark 3 that used a single. The Type 96 (first made 1936) was



installed in the Aichi D3A (“Val”) dive bomber, the Nakajima B5N (“Kate”) torpedo bomber and the Mitsubishi G4M (“Betty”) medium bomber. The girl’s names are allied nicknames used for easier identification. One common feature of these aircraft, is that antenna is a wire running from a post above the canopy to the top of the tail. At 100 watts, the RF field must be very high so close to the current end of that antenna. Is the shield an attempt to minimize the feedback into the transmitter to avoid oscillation?



In the April 2016 issue of QST, AH6CY gives us some background on the Type 96 Mark 3 transmitter and has allowed me to use his photo of it. On December 7th, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by “Kate” torpedo bombers, “Kate” high altitude bombers and “Val” dive bombers. The transmitters were all CW only, so in the movie, the Japanese commander yelling “tora, tora, tora” into the microphone, is all Hollywood. The commands were all in Japanese CW code.



WRTC Chronicles

Reflections on WRTC 2018 – Germany

Andy Faber, AE6Y

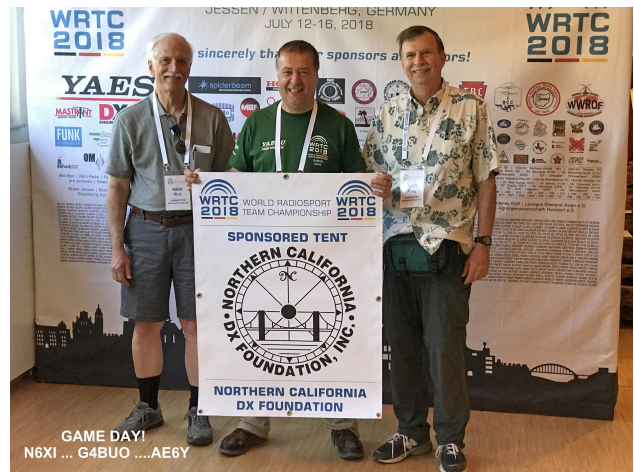
Part 2 – “The Competition”

This is the continuation of my journal about WRTC 2018. It starts with the day of the competition and ends as we leave the site to spend a week traveling in Denmark. If anyone is contemplating a similar trip, let me know and I'll send over those trip notes. In deciding where we would spend that second week, I must say that I got a greater appreciation of how centrally Germany is located in Europe, and how correspondingly easy it was for them to invade their neighbors in WW II. There was a seamless border crossing, and southern Denmark looked just like northern Germany.

Saturday, July 14, 2018: I slept pretty well, then after breakfast we drove out to the site, arriving at about 10:30. There was some more set-up to do, and more problems of one kind or another developed and had to be dealt with. At one point my communication with the rig failed, but rebooting solved it. Right before the contest, I concluded the spectrum window on the Airspy was not really seeing the proper signals. After some frantic fumbling around, Rick found that I had set the offset to 8215 kHz (a relic from trying it out earlier on the K3 IF output line, instead of taking its input as normal from the RX in/out). Setting that to zero solved the problem. Whew!

Fifteen minutes before the start, Dave opened the envelope and gave us our Y82L callsign, which we programmed into N1MM and the K3's voice messages. However, I screwed up and didn't change the N1MM exchange to 28 (since I had just been sending RSTs before), so for the first few minutes of the contest I was frantically reprogramming. Not a good start.

The Contest: These are just a few recollections. We had started out with a plan to keep one station on 20 most of the time, moving the other one around to 10, 15, and 40 during the day, with the 20m station moving to 80 at night. We started out switching the 20m station every two hours, but as Admiral Scott, K0DQ, always says: the first casualty of war is the plan, and we ended up essentially





operating as two stations moving bands without much coordination, except for seeing where the other guy was. Overall, we spent not enough time on phone, particularly 40 phone, which turned out to be heavily populated with German stations during the day. Phone generally seemed to be harder to get runs going on, though I did have a nice one on 20 Saturday, and on 80 in the evening. For the latter, I remember working about 80 stations, almost all of the DLs, at a very good clip.

Our team brought in some food, once barbecued sandwiches, and once some pieces of cake, also coffee a few times. Dave, the referee, was inconspicuous. He chatted a bit with Rick, but as my back was to him, he and I had very little interaction. In the early morning, I got up to pee outside, and when I came back into the tent, I was shivering. I didn't want to put the legs of my shorts on, and though I was wearing two shirts and my red fleece, I just couldn't get warm, though eventually I felt better, and, of course, as the sun came up the extra clothes came back off.



The equipment all worked just fine, and we were both impressed with the antennas. There was no inter-station interference, except for the expected direct second harmonics, which were narrow. The 40m antenna continued to work without an antenna tuner all the way from 7000 to 7200 kHz, and the 80 also worked from 3500 to 3700 when set for CW with the extra few feet added with the jumpers. We did seem to be getting 20m SWR of two to one or even a bit higher in the phone band, but the K3s handled it easily, and it didn't require us to reduce power below 95 watts or so.

What we did well:

We had worked out all equipment and interfacing in advance, so that we had no equipment failures. We did have many spares, including a power supply and my TS-590 radio, but fortunately didn't have to use any. Note that on the way back, I packed the TS-590 in a suitcase and it arrived back in CA needing about \$500 in repairs due to rough handling en route. Our practice contests showed the need, for example, to take apart the SixPak relay box to clean all the relays; during the contest all antenna switching worked fine (to simplify antenna selection, we didn't bring decoders, just using the SixPak control box manually). The dynamics of operating Y8xx were totally different than our rather difficult practice run in the 2017 IARU operating remotely from a German station – in WRTC, the same contest except for our status, we had moderate pileups almost all the time and were able to run, even on SSB.

Basic equipment was great. K3s and the Airspy SDRs (in place of P3s) were excellent. N1MM+ worked well for us with no hiccups.

We had brought appropriate cables, tools, etc., so with Frank's monitors nothing additional was needed.

Basic operating and pileup management was fine.

What we did wrong (a longer list):



In talking to various referees after the contest, I've concluded that Rick and I used a sub-optimal operating strategy, acting basically as two independent stations, instead of as a team trying to maximize our collective score. The top stations very actively moved multipliers between the two stations. They also looked for odd openings late at night on 10 and 15, and worked a lot more 40 phone in the day. So basically, we didn't have a very good strategy for working as a team.

We made over 1000 QSOs on 40 CW and about 300 on phone, with Rick having a great run there in the last hour or so of the contest. Clearly, we should have been on 40 phone more, and probably more on phone generally. It seems that 40 was a very good daytime band in this contest, but we failed to exploit it fully.

On the other hand, if we hadn't lost about 40 minutes Sunday morning due to generator failure, we would have moved up six to eight spots in the standings, as there were many teams clustered just a bit above our score ... and I was in the middle of a good 80m run at the time.

We also should have rotated the beam more looking for multipliers, and finally, we should have had a list of common EU HQ stations to make sure we didn't, for example, miss DARC and VERON on 80 (as we did).

Although we were the third-oldest team at the competition, I can't believe that had anything to do with it....

Sunday, July 15, 2018: After the contest ended at 2 p.m., the guys were worried about my ability to drive after being up for so long. I felt ok even after we broke down all the equipment and packed it up, but after drinking a beer with the group, I felt sleepy and agreed. So Aro drove us back, we unloaded, and I parked the car on the street. After a nap, I walked down to meet Robin and Steve at their Best Western hotel about a half mile away near the train station at the east end of town. A very quiet place. They arrived from Dresden (having taken the train there from Prague a few days before) a little after 8 p.m. and were tired, so we walked a little ways down the street and ate outside at a small Middle Eastern restaurant with falafels, etc. Fred, K1VR, was there along with an East German, DM4EE, who talked to us about living in the DDR while we waited.

Monday, July 16, 2018: I was going to get up early and go running, but didn't set an alarm. I did wake up at six, but promptly went back to sleep, finally waking at 8:30. Then it seemed clear that I needed a cuppa joe more than exercise, so I went down to breakfast, sitting at a table with Rusty, W6OAT, and Bill. Then off for a guided walking tour of the city, leaving from our hotel at ten. Robin and Steve and Rick came along too, and it was quite educational: much about Martin Luther and his sidekick Philip Melancthon, and also a famous painter of that era, Cranach the Elder.

After the tour ended at noon, we made our way to an Asian restaurant, sitting outside in perfect weather (sushi for me, pho for Rick, and various noodle dishes for Robin and Steve), and Rick and I finished the meal off with some gelato from another local shop. Then back to the hotel for a while. I repacked all my radio gear in the large suitcase and the computer bag, thinking that I will then only need to carry the small suitcase with clothes and the backpack with my K3 for safekeeping into hotels, and can





leave the large suitcase and the computer bag (with the computer removed to the backpack) in the car under the privacy shade. Rick did something similar, and it greatly simplified getting in and out of hotels for the rest of the trip.

At a little after five I put on my WRTC polo shirt for the closing ceremony. On the way to Ed (W0YK)'s and Mary's room for a little wine tasting, I passed an open door which turned out to be Bill and Rusty's room containing Ed, Bill and Rusty, and John, K4BAI, sitting around and drinking. They promptly offered me a glass of bourbon, which I enjoyed. I told them it was my first such in over 50 years, as I stopped drinking bourbon after one of the only two or three hangovers I have ever had, that one from a bourbon-fueled hayride in college. Then on to Ed and Mary's room where Ed's OM team (one of whom owns OM amplifiers) were also there. I had two glasses of rose and some cheese and grapes, all of which they had picked up on their recent wine tasting travels in Hungary and southern Germany.



We met Robin and Steve in the lobby at 6:45, and we all walked over to the closing ceremonies. This was held in the same large hall where we had the opening ceremony. Speeches and lots of applause and the various winners were announced. Then back to the Stadthaus for another buffet dinner. OK food, but better desserts, and good beer as always here. Robin, Steve and I left at about 10:15; I walked them back to their hotel, then came back to mine.

Tuesday, July 17, 2018: A last breakfast today at the hotel with many fewer people than the past few days. Had a nice chat with Rick, DK0IP, the maker of the Spiderbeams we used, and Scott, W4PA, who runs Vibroplex and will be selling the Spiderbeams in the US. Scott said that putting one together for the first time takes about 15 hours, but his company will offer them partially pre-assembled and charge only \$150 for that service. Some guys had taken the 4 a.m. shuttle to the airport in Berlin, though K1DG told me that his 8 a.m. shuttle was delayed till noon due to heavy northbound traffic. I retrieved the car from its street parking place at the end of the block, then Rick and I piled our luggage into it and drove to pick up Robin and Steve at 10:15. We then enjoyed about a six-hour drive to get to the Holiday Inn at Lubeck. This is much nicer than the hotel in Wittenberg and featured air-conditioned rooms – the only hotel on our whole trip with air-conditioned rooms, as the Danes apparently don't believe in such creature comforts. Robin had to guide me to dodge the pillars in the garage, and Rick and I left our radio gear under the privacy cover and hoped that would be ok. [End of Part 2; Part 3 discusses our week in Denmark, and is available on demand.]

(Ed Note: NCCC has a long history with WRTC and has fielded many teams ... we'd like to hear about your experiences ... including NCCC hosting an early one. Andy found a couple of additional photos with easily recognizable faces here are two, those on the right have escaped to the right-coast)



The WRTC Wine Challenge

Ed, W0YK

(Wine! It just keeps getting better!)

In the past two WRTCs (2014 Boston and 2018 Germany), I sponsored a Muns Vineyard wine award for any NCCC member who worked “my” team to which I was assigned as referee. I will do the same for WRTC2022 in July 2023 coming up.

The exciting part of this little side competition is that my team’s call sign will not be known until AFTER the contest! So, you have to work as many of the 60+ WRTC stations as you can, and all of them to guarantee the wine.

Note, also, that NCCC members actually on-site and competing or refereeing in WRTC2022 are also eligible! There were 8 of them in 2018. (There is a special, and secret, competition rule for any NCCC member who is a judge since they will know the team call signs during the contest.)

I’ve chosen our 2012 Pinot Noir vintage which is silky smooth after a decade of aging. Just email me the QSO line(s) from your Cabrillo log after the event when you know my team’s call sign. I’ll try to post it to the NCCC reflector if it’s not immediately up on the WRTC2022 website after 12z Sunday.

This could be challenging in July for west coast stations. For example compare the 52 winners in 2014 to the 11 in 2018 on the next page from those two WRTCs. Although, propagation will be very different than 2018, so who knows?



K1L Wine Challenge 2018 – Boston

- AD6E (KH6RR)
- AG6V
- AJ6V
- K1TW
- K3EST
- K4VU
- K6AAB
- K6JEB
- K6MM
- K6MMM
- K6MR
- K6SRZ
- K6TD
- K6UM
- K6XX
- K9YC
- KA6W
- KB8VAO
- KM6I
- KX7M (VP9HQ)
- N3ZZ
- N5KO
- N6DE
- N6DQ
- N6EE
- N6JV

- N6ML
- N6NF
- N6NU
- N6RD
- N5RK
- N6TU
- N6XG
- N7MH (W6YX)
- N7NG
- N7TR
- ND2T
- ND6S
- NF1R (W6YX)
- NW6P
- W1RH
- W1SRD
- W2SC (K1S)
- W6CYX
- W6JZH
- W6KH
- W6NV (VP9HQ)
- W6SX
- W6SZN
- W7SW
- WB6JJJ
- WX6V

Y84Z Wine Challenge Muns Vineyard 2009 Pinot Noir



- Y87O (N2NL/W2SC) 1212z (6)
- Y81A (W6OAT) 1213z (5)
- Y84X (K6XX/WA6O) 1220z (6)
- Y82L (N6XI/AE6Y) 1225z (4)
- Y87G (K7GK) 1313z (5)
- K6KR 1423z
- DG1CMZ 1426z (6)
- K9YC 1653z
- W7RN (N6TV) 1705z
- K6MI 1736z
- N6EE/NJ 1743z (2)
- K7XC 2049z
- W1SRD 2205z
- R7KZ (K6WG) 0233z (2)
- K6MR 0525z
- K6BL 0537z





Editor Notes



Thanks to our contributors this month, and to our outgoing officers and directors. This issue ends the 2022-2023 contest season. The JUG is always looking for publication fodder and still will be in 2023-2024. We're heading into summer, SOTA/POTA will likely form a significant part of contest-like outdoor activities, one-off articles are also very welcome. I know mobile/rover operation is quite different, and I know that some members have done that – frequently – how do you do it? How do you win? We can offer editorial help if needed, and we'll take care of all the formatting. All we need from you are words, graphics and photos.

We Were Made By Eldico!

As AM was just beginning to slowly yield to SSB in the early 50's, there appeared a low power TX/exciter, “The SSB Jr” from Eldico. Their next, the SSB-100 in the mid 50's was good for 100 W.

Collins offered the KWM-2 transceiver in 1959 with a unique architecture for the time ... a transceiver that tuned a 200 kHz range at 3 MHz coupled with a crystal controlled converter with switchable crystals to get you to most anywhere in the HF spectrum. The KWM-2A, used primarily by the military because of it's ability to operate on essentially any HF frequency, added a second deck of crystals.. Our maintenance crews in the Philippines left the stock ham band crystals in the lower deck, fortuitous for me one time in Thailand. The “S-Line” split the KWM-2 architecture into a receiver and a transmitter, providing both transceive and separate transmit/receive. Seriously pricey but with unmatched quality and all were wildly successful. So much so that the DoD sought to establish a 2nd source. Eldico won a contract with their “S-119-Line.” We had two pair at Galena AFS AK as well as a Collins S line.



Both RX and TX bear a visual similarity to the Collins 75Sx/32Sx series, the architecture was the same, and both copied the permeability-tuned oscillator [PTO] and the ganged tuning rack from the S-line. Eldico also offered the speaker/power supply/control modules similar to the Collins 312B series. Cheaper than Collins and with lesser but acceptable quality, they found their way into many ham shacks in the 60's/70's.



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 everything in California north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon state line, and part of northwestern Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles north of Auburn on Highway 49).

Life Memberships

Life memberships are \$250.00 Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com. Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been an NCCC member for 20 or more years are eligible for Honorary Life Membership (“80/20 Rule”). 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 plain, unformatted ASCII text, MS Word (.doc/.docx) are acceptable. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos/diagrams separately. Pictures should be as high a resolution as available. Please do not spend time formatting your submittal, the publication templates will re-format. Send your material to k6dgwnv@gmail.com indicating “JUG Submittal” in the subject.

Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines

The NCCC email reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting. Topics include contests, station building, dxpeditions, 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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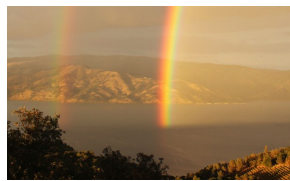
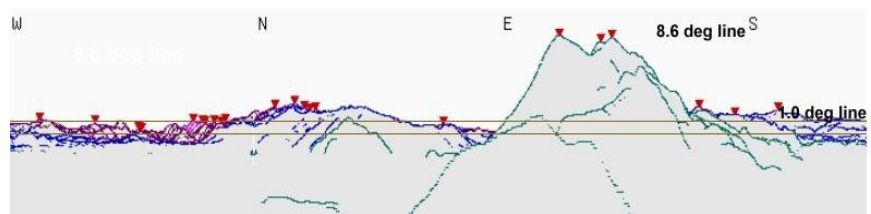
Twitter: “NCCCCKB”




N6ZFO—Lake County Residence For Sale -(pre-list)

N6ZFO and XYL are relocating to Virginia to be near family, including grandchildren. Thus our Lake County property is available for sale — one of the best ham radio locations in CA. Notable features include:

- Atop a USGS peak—Mt. Dali-Dona — possibly the only USGS peak in CA in private ownership.
- 4-bedroom 3-level Tuscan style house with spectacular views. All masonry construction, resulting in below average insurance rates. 1.3 miles off Soda Bay Road through a locked gate. Road maintained jointly by 3 property owners. Solar supplies 10KWH/day on sunny days. No HOA.
- 2500 gallons of high quality water on site. Well is 450 feet below the house, >100 feet deep;
- Town of Kelseyville (population ~3500) has regular events include a traditional Christmas parade, Olive Festival, street dances in the summer, a bacon festival. Lake County has a major quilt show on the CQP weekend. Traffic is minimal — only one traffic light in the city. Has the 2nd largest astronomical observatory north of Bay Area (Taylor Observatory) and exceptionally dark skies.
- 26 acre property borders an almost inaccessible portion of the Clear Lake State Park. There is just one other resident in the adjacent 140 acre area and just 3 land-owners, all “ham-radio friendly.”
- The tower and two Innov antennas (13-el multi-monobander, 10, 15, 20, and 5-el 6m beam) were installed by Kurt, K7NV with full county permits. Lake is a ‘ham friendly’ county.
- The radio horizon is <2 degrees over 320 degrees, rising to 9 deg in the direction of Rio de Janeiro. (4 deg points are between N. Brazil and Buenos Aires — see “hey what’s that” profile below)
- Includes a licensed, bonded small winery, the Talleyrand Winery, with 1.6 acres of Petite Sirah and Sirah grapes, plus small amounts of Viognier and Marsanne. See blogspot.talleyrandwinery.com.
- **Please contact Bill, N6ZFO directly at 415 209-3084 or our agent, Mara Eichelmann of Engel and Volk, at 707 485-2922. Price is 1.425M. Movie and photos shortly on commercial sites.**






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<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



Northern California Contest Club

[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.

<https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/> or from the NCCC website: <http://nccc.ccc/members/lestore.html>
Thanks to W6TCP for helping to set this up. Instructions for purchases from Lands' End NCCC Store

1. Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>
2. Click on Men's or Women's link, then choose item(s)
3. Pick color, inter 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 for logo (left side, ride side, back, etc)
6. Click Apply Logo.
7. Optionally, click Add Personalization to add your name or call sign (\$8.00, 10 character limit)
8. Click Add to Bag and Continue Shopping or.
9. Start Secure Check out. Account creation and credit card required.



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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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IC-718 | HF Transceiver

- 160-10M** • 100W • 12V operation • Simple to use • CW Keyer Built-in • One touch band switching • Direct frequency input • VOX Built-in • Band stacking register • IF shift • 101 memories



IC-V3500 | 144MHz FM Mobile

- 65W of Power for Long Range Communications • 4.5 Watts Loud & Clear Audio • Modern White Display & Simple Operation • Weather Channel Receive & Alert Function



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- 1.2kHz "Optimum" roofing filter • New local oscillator design • Improved phase noise • Improved spectrum scope • Dual scope function • Enhanced mouse operation for spectrum scope



IC-705 | HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver

- RF Direct Sampling • Real-Time Spectrum Scope and Waterfall Display • Large Color Touch Screen • Supports QRP/DRP • Bluetooth® and Wireless LAN Built-in



IC-2300H | VHF FM Transceiver

- 65W RF Output Power • 4.5W Audio Output • MIL-STD 810 G Specifications • 207 alphanumeric Memory Channels • Built-in CTCSS/DTCS Encode/Decode • DMS



IC-7300 | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- RF Direct Sampling System • New "IP+" Function • Class Leading RMDR and Phase Noise Characteristics • 15 Discrete Band-Pass Filters • Built-In Automatic Antenna Tuner



IC-7100 | All Mode Transceiver

- HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions

IC-V86 | VHF 7W HT

- 7W Output Power Plus New Antenna Provides 1.5 Times More Coverage • More Audio, 1500 mW Audio Output • IP54 & MIL-STD 810G-Rugged Design Against Dust & Water • 19 Hours of Long Lasting Battery Life • 200 Memory Channels, 1 Call Channel & 6 Scan Edges



IC-7610 | HF/50 MHz All Mode Transceiver

- Large 7-inch color display with high resolution real-time spectrum scope and waterfall • Independent direct sampling receivers capable of receiving two bands/two modes simultaneously



IC-2730A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- VHF/VHF, UHF/UHF simultaneous receive • 50 watts of output on VHF and UHF • Optional VS-3 Bluetooth® headset • Easy-to-See large white backlight LCD • Controller attachment to the main Unit

NEW



IC-T10 | Rugged 144/430 MHz Dual Band

- Disaster Ready - Excellent Fit for Your Emergency Bag • Loud Audio - New Speaker Design • Long Battery Life - Up to 11 Hours • FM Broadcast & Weather Channels



IC-R8600 | Wideband SDR Receiver

- 10 kHz to 3 GHz Super Wideband Coverage • Real-time Spectrum Scope w/Waterfall Function • Remote Control Function through IP Network or USB Cable • Decodes Digital Incl P25, NXDN™, D-STAR • SD Card Slot for Receiver Recorder



ID-5100A Deluxe VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

- Analog FM/D-Star DV Modes • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch

ID-52A | VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

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- Hybrid SDR Configuration
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- PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range
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FT-710 Aess | HF/50MHz 100W SDR Transceiver

- Unmatched SDR Receiving Performance
- Band Pass Filters Dedicated for the Amateur Bands
- High Res 4.3-inch TFT Color Touch Display
- AESS: Acoustic Enhanced Speaker System with SP-40 For High-Fidelity Audio
- Built-in High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner



FTM-400XD | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray
- GPS/APRS
- Packet 1200/9600 bd ready
- Spectrum scope
- Bluetooth
- MicroSD slot
- 500 memory per band



FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver

- Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR
- Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor
- 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream
- High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner
- Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer
- Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)



FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

- Stable 100 Watt Output
- 32-Bit IF DSP
- Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope
- USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable
- CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control



FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible
- Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output
- Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly
- Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity
- External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 50W Output Power
- Real Dual Band Operation
- Full Color TFT Display
- Band Scope
- Built-in Bluetooth
- WIRES-X Portable Digital Node/Fixed Node with HRI-200

FT-5DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display
- Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-in Bluetooth® Unit
- Built-in High Precision GPS Antenna
- 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications
- Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital
- Micro SD Card Slot

FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

- Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control
- Multi-color waterfall display
- State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System
- 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance
- 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable
- Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner
- High Accuracy TCXO



FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

- 80 watts of RF power
- Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility
- 200 memory channels for serious users

FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design
- Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio
- 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body
- 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included
- Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver

- Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR
- Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics
- Unparalleled - 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune
- 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters
- New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



FTM-200DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 1200/9600bps APRS® Data Communications
- 2" High-Res Full-Color TFT Display
- High-Speed Band Scope
- Advanced C4FM Digital Mode
- Voice Recording Function for TX/RX

FTM-6000R | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

- All New User Operating Interface-E20-III (Easy to Operate-III)
- Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio
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- Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset



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