

# The JUG

CLUB REPEATERS W6RGG/R  
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## Presidential Pen de AA6KX

### HALF TIME!



**CW SS was hot!** Based on the returns that are starting to come in, I'd guess we did a bang-up job on the CW SS. We had a big NCCC turnout for the contest and it's looking like we had a lot of solid scores. In last year's CW 'test, just 804 QSO's would have put you into the NCCC "top 10". But this year it's not clear that even 1100 Q's will to be

good enough for that honor.

We'll know more when VPCC Bob gets his intelligence report together (more on that later), but for now the flash notice on CW SS is that we had both breadth and depth in the first half of this game. And that's what it takes to win the gavel.

### IDLE MUSINGS: WHY DO WE DO IT???

Have you ever tried to explain the attraction of this contesting game to a non-ham? Unless you had a truly atypical listener, your explanation was probably met with a vacant stare. I have tried and tried to explain the attraction, but somehow my verbal description of the challenge, the excitement, and the camaraderie among the participants just doesn't seem to register anything with the audience. Interestingly enough, I don't think I've ever heard of a person becoming a contester because he heard about the game from someone else. It has to be experienced to be understood, and even then it's a bug that seems to bite people in stages. But if it's so difficult to explain, then it does become a meaningful question for us to consider ourselves.

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## Upcoming Contests de N6IP

All from QST unless otherwise noted

### November

19-21 Sweepstakes Phone	Oct. p.125
26-27 CQWW CW	Sep. p.126
26-27 ARRL EME	Sep. p.128

### December

2-4 ARRL 160m	Nov. p.131
10-11 ARRL 10m	Nov. p.130
31- RAC Canada Winter	
31- Straight Key Night	Nov. p.132

## Next Meeting

### Sweepstakes Half-Time Report

Friday, November 18  
Vic's All Star Kitchen  
Pleasanton (see directions, p2)  
Bar opens at 6:00  
Dinner at 6:30  
Meeting at 7:30

Program: N6IP & N6TV with a sweepstakes half-time report, and a special lesson on "Advanced Begging Techniques"

Bruce found this great restaurant in Pleasanton that will host our meeting. One word of caution: If you want to order the Chicken Marsala you gotta RSVP with Bruce ASAP! This enticing entree is limited to those who call Bruce. All others will have to settle for the Pasta Primavera.

This is the usual third Friday of the month. We promise not to hold you too long or make you stay up too late on this eve before SS-PH.

**NCCC SS SKED SATURDAY:  
3865 kHz at 0700Z (11PM local)**

"Two for us, None for Them" - N6TU

## Editors Note

Here it is! I wasn't so sure it would ever actually see the inside of a mail bag, but this JUG is now in your hands. Guess that means miracles can happen... I may even make 1000Qs next weekend (a real miracle!)

Why is your JUG editor so flippant? It all started when your Prez, AA6KX called me late one evening a couple of weeks ago. Our normal JUG editor, W6ISQ and our efficient publisher, KC6NFE both left town in a hurry (No, the NCCC treasurers' safe) and wouldn't be able to do the JUG this month. Since I'm supposedly "retired" and have nothing better to do these days, Bruce thought that I might do it in my "spare" time.

Right!

You realize this was the week before SSCW! Spare time? Ya gotta be kidding! I succumbed after realizing SSCW really requires my arm in good working order,

(Editors Note can't page 7)



## Directions:

## Next Meeting

Just to keep from falling into any patterns, we'll be back in the East Bay for our November meeting. We found an interesting little restaurant in downtown Pleasanton that we'll have all to ourselves. If you can find the Pleasanton Hotel, you surely can find Vic's All Star Kitchen, located at the opposite end of Main Street from the hotel.

Take your choice of entrees: Chicken Marsala, for \$16, or Pasta Primavera, for \$13.50 (tax and tip included). If you want the chicken, please RSVP to AA6KX by Wednesday, November 16. The cook needs time to prepare this one.

Date: Friday, November 18

Time: The bar opens at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30,  
Meeting at 7:30.

Place: Vic's All Star Kitchen,  
201A Main St., Pleasanton

We'll start the meeting with a "SS Half-Time Analysis" of the first half of the big SS game. Who did how well? How well is the Club doing? We hope to find out! VPCC Bob will have an intelligence report on SCCC vs. NCCC through the CW portion.

Then we're going to talk about "Advanced Phone Begging Techniques" to get you ready for the last half of the game.

We're in a good position as we head into the third quarter—come join us for a last-minute boost so we can go over the top in style.

Directions to the Meeting: Take 680 to the Bernal Rd. exit, and go east on Bernal Rd. After about 1 mi., watch for a sign indicating a left turn onto Main St. Turn left onto Main, and Vic's is on the left side of the street within the first 1/2 block.

### **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB**

**President:** Bruce Sawyer AA6KX

**Vice-President/Contest Chr:** Bob Wolbert, N6IP

**Sec/Treas:** Dick Dievendorff, AA6MC

**Directors:** Al Maenchen, AD6E

Dave Leeson, W6QHS

Steve Thomas, N6ST

Bob Wilson, N6TV

**JUG Editor:** Al Maenchen, AD6E

**3330 Farthing Way, San Jose, CA 95132**

The JUG is the official journal of the NCCC, published monthly. Copies are mailed to members whose dues are up-to date. Material submitted for publication must be received no later than the last Monday of each month.

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Perhaps one of the best clues I've had to understanding my own reasons has come from the experience of "casual" contesting. I've found that if I join a contest already in progress with the intent of just working a few, then it's difficult to become excited about the contest. With no goal to force me to push myself, the game quickly becomes repetitious and boring. Oh, I can make it more interesting by trying to see who can hear my QRP signal or challenging myself to break the biggest pile-up's with the fewest number of calls, but I eventually lose interest and wander off into other pursuits. That factor which is so conspicuously missing is challenge. It is, after all, a game—a competitive game. And games give us the most enjoyment when we have to stretch ourselves to reach the goal. Without being challenged, we're just going through the motions.

What about you? Is your reaction so very different than my own? You might think about this as we come to the second half of the big Sweepstakes game. Don't sit down just to make a few contacts or it won't be any fun for you. You need to be challenged to give the game meaning. Set a goal for yourself—to make 100Kpoints, to get a full sweep, or even to get a spot in the QST "top 10" box. And if enough of us are willing to stretch ourselves, we're sure to win that gavel! Let's put it another way. If we don't, somebody else will. And that somebody else could likely be SCCC. Now think ahead to April and all the gloating we'd have to tolerate at Visalia if we don't win it.

### Idle Musings, Part II:

Moving on beyond the original question—"Why do we do it?"—I'm confronted with an even more difficult riddle: "Why do THEY do it?" In the context of this riddle, "it" is all of the time and effort some of our members put into making this club such a success. Have you received your copy of the "Sweepstakes Handbook" yet? There's quite a story behind how that work came into being. CQP entails a lot of behind-the-scenes effort by some really unsung heroes. Consider, for another example, the work of putting together the "Jug", month after month. First comes the chore of dragging the raw copy out of each of the contributors and trying to get it from them in time to meet the publications deadline. There's rarely enough good copy, so our Jug editors are forced to tap their own creative resources time after time to keep the Jug interesting and informative. Then comes the tedious task of layout. And reproduction. Putting on stamps and mailing labels... Think about it. Why do they do it? Putting out the "Jug" has to be the hardest job in the Club, and this issue is the first Jug that Jack and Maggie have not been able to do for us in 4-1/2 years. I can't answer the question of why they do it, but I'm sure glad they do! We all owe them a giant round of thanks for all the hard work they put into holding us together with absolutely the best local club newsletter in publication. Let's be careful not to take their work for granted.



de Bob Wolbert, N6IP

## WOLBERT'S WORDS

SS - It 's half over...but our job remains incomplete. We have lots of big SS CW scores, but the phone weekend decides the contest. No time to relax now: we are 24 hours away from another gavel—if you want it. *You must play if you want us to win.*

CW conditions were good, especially on 15m. If this decent propagation continues favoring us, we will have a big advantage on phone. Even 10m openings (mostly sporadic-E) should occur, letting us work the huge novice/tech pool.

Here is how we did as of 8 November (two days after the end of SSCW).

Station	QSOs	Sec	Score	Class	Time
KI3V/7	1308	77	201,432	SO	
W6QHS	1276	77	196,504	SO	
(W6CF - op)					
N6RO	1202	77	185,108	SO	
W1FEA	1183	77	182,182	SO	
WC6H	1170	77	180,180	SO	
AA6MC	1150	77	177,100	SO	
K6KM	1139	77	175,406	SO	
(N4TQO - op)					
N6TV	1136	77	174,944	SO	
N6EK	1133	77	174,482	SO	
N6IP	1118	77	172,172	SO	24 hrs
WA6AUE	1117	77	172,018	SO	
AA6KX	1100	77	169,400	SO	
K2MM	1101	76	153,672	SO	
AD6E	903	77	139,062	SO	
AE6Y	782	76	118,864	SO	15
W6RGG	750	77	115,500	SO	18
N6PN	716	74	105,968	SO	
K6ANP	672	77	103,488	SO	
N6RA	667	77	102,410	SO	
KA6W	645	75	96,750	SO	21
W6BSY	547	77	84,238	SO	
WB6DSV	410	72	59,040	SO	10
AB6YL	366	71	51,972	SO	
WA6SDM	357	72	51,408	PKT	
K6MA	348	72	50,112	Low Pwr	
K6LRN	350	70	49,000	SO	
N6EE	278	74	41,144	PKT	
WA6TKV	278	69	38,364	SO	
KM6OH	266	67	35,644	SO	
KV6S	297	60	35,640	SO	
KZ4H/7	159	71	22,578	Apt dweller	
WA8LLY	155	61	18,910	Low Pwr	
WE6F	1	1	2	SO	

**Green Stickers?** Many of you received a pair of green "Northern California Contest Club" stickers. This was a last minute idea and they were distributed without explanation. Must we tell you where to stick 'em? OK, they are for your SS

Summary sheet so the ARRL log checkers cannot possibly miss-score your entry. Thanks to WA6SDM for printing these eye-catchers.

**SS Calling Tree** - My thanks to our area coordinators: AA6MC, N6TV, AC6DQ, W6BSY, N4TQO, K2MM, WA6SDM, WA6AUE, AE6Y, K6ANP, and WM2C. These folks tried to contact every member and urge them to join the gavel-quest. Over 4 million points were committed for CW, and nearly 6 million are promised for phone. This puts us a bit shy of our 10 million point goal, but most of us beat our committed scores. It looks like we are right on target, overall. Endeavor to beat your commitment, and we will win.

**The Jughead Award - What is it?** The prestigious Jughead award, issued by our beloved JUG editor, goes to the NCCCer contacting the most number of other members. Apply by sending me a dupe sheet (or two) with members circled, and I'll forward it on to Jack for his final judgment. The Jughead is presented at our Spring award banquet.

**CQWW** - While we aren't gunning for CQWW this year, we will make a club submission. Not very many have been received so far. The HC8 Contestpedition added millions to NCCC's total, and a Syrian expedition by N6TV, W6OAT, K6ANP, and others will add millions more. So get your scores in. We will have a respectable entry.

Contest Scores:

**CQWW Phone:**

AB6YL	209	60	82	72,846
W6BSY	206	21	61	45,346 15m
AA6MC (+AD6E, AA6KX, AE0M, N0BBS, KD6WKX, NG0X, NU6S)	1198	103	249	1,031,712

**PA QSO Party:**

WA6SDM 41 27 1,269

**NA Sprint, Phone:**

WA8LLY/6 114 36 4,104

**JARTS WW RTTY:**

WA6SDM 420 77 35 113,456

**SS Phone:** 1:00 PM Saturday, 19 November, to 7:00 PM Sunday, 20 November. NCCC Schedule: 0700Z on 3865kHz "Two for us, None for them" Remember, if we persevere, only 24 hours separate us from Gavel #10. I'll look for you at 0700Z (11PM Saturday night) on 3865kHz.

Vy 73 & KB! N6IP

P.S.: Send those cards and letters (and packet messages, etc.) with your SS results to:

N6IP via DXPSN

Bob Wolbert 10028 Bon Vista Ct. San Jose, CA 95127

Phone/Fax (408) 258-1015

Internet n6ip@TheTech.com



# Re-Cap of the Doin's Last Meeting

Last meeting? Yes, we had one!

Actually Jack, W6ISQ, usually takes very good notes at meetings and reports dilligently. Unfortunately, due to his temporary absence, I'm left scratching my head trying to remember what all happened. That's made more difficult as my ears are still ringing from SSCW! It was a good meeting, as usual: Wall to wall BSing.

Seriously, the meeting was at the HP, Cupertino cafe' and was catered by W6OAT with terrific floppy disks from Give Pizza Chance. If you've been missing meetings and havn't tried out Rustys' pizza, what can I say? You've been missing a real treat.

Trey, WN4KKN gave a very good talk about Sweepstakes strategy. His basic premis is to call CQ. Multipliers, he says, answer CQs. I've discovered



WN4KKN: The Teach

recently that this is true. Trey also gave a lot of other good SS strategy hints which I can't divulge here due to the highly secret nature of the material. (Ya' gotta show up for these meetings!)

Dick, AA6MC, gave a detailed treasurers' report (yes, we have money!) All but a couple members have renewed and the club membership is now 197.

Dave, NG0X, applied for membership. After due considerations, report from the committies, and a detailed background investigation, Dave was voted into membership. Welcome Dave! -AD6E

# Notable Notes Trosteroster

We have several accolades to run up the flag pole this month.

N6IP gets the first nod for his '94 edition of the SS Handbook. He re-assembled the one originally prepared by Bill Zachary and added current, cogent material, bringing together all aspects of SS, including special SS antennas. A truly meaningful thing for the club, a definitive work. And free! Bob distributed them at two meetings and via JUG coupon in the mail to members within the 175 mile boundary for just the price of the brown envelope and mailing—two bucks. AE6Y sends forth, and we quote: "Mega congrats to N6IP for the SS Handbook. It's great and must have been a terrific amount of work. If it doesn't get the membership fired up, nothing will."

Only about half our members took advantage of this production! That's a lot of savy for \$2.00! Thanks again, Bob, for great job.

We, ed and pub of the JUG, salute Al, AD6E for taking over publication this month while we are out of town. Had to go on short notice and hate it that it happened just before SS. I was all set to make 1000Qs this time. Al does a notable amount of work for the club—tabulating and issuing the 5 Meg award, labeling/stamping of all the CQP publicity just past. All the while unflappable. Wish we were the same! We're highly indebted to him for taking over.

Our worthy Division Director, Brad Wyatt, K6WR, appointed TV-Bob, N6TV, to the post of PacDiv representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. We expect Bob will keep things on the narrow and straight and think up a few more contests, especially ones that contain multipliers for 6s. NCCC congratulates Bob. He'll do an outstanding job. Ahhhh, Bob, please submit your monthly JUG CAC copy about the first of the month. About 150 words would be FB.

Congratulations to our worthy president Bruce, who, using the call ZF8BS, won

the 100 watt category in the ARRL DX Contest. The amazing thing was that he was also number 4 in the world which included the Big Guns! He will be up and away again from ZF8 in the November CQWW. He says a phone contest is not worth the travel expense. Rah.

-W6ISQ

## K6ZM Memorial Station

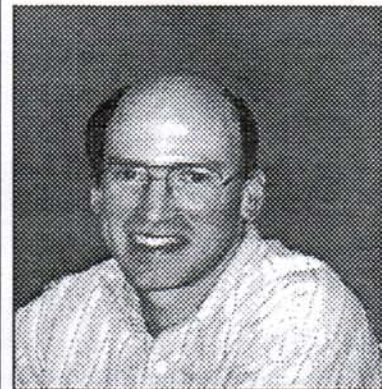
In my first SS, back in 1963, I remember making a whole 62 QSOs. I had just upgraded to General from Novice. The station consisted of a Heath AT-1 with external VFO, an S-38E receiver, and a 40 meter dipole 10' above the roof.

Ever since then I've wanted to operate from a BIG station. This last weekend I got my chance when Peggy Frazier allowed me to use the K6ZM station in Danville. Peggy is a wonderful hostess and is delighted to have NCCers use the station. The hilltop QTH is really great!

Unfortunately, the station is falling into dis-repair in the antenna department. The station has two towers. The 6 element 10 and 15 meter yagis are in good condition on a 55 ft tower. However, on the 80 ft tower, the big 6 element 20 meter beam has been reduced to only 3 elements and the 4 element 40 is now just a rotatable dipole. To make matters worse, the 40/20 rotator is stuck!

I'd like to get the station back into primo condition, but I can't do it myself. If you'd like to help out (tower climbers needed) please call me or Carlos, NP4IW.

-AD6E



Our new CAC rep - N6TV



*Northern California Contest Club*

*Holiday Banquet*

*Sunday, December 11, 1994*

**Menlo Room  
Stanford Park Hotel  
100 El Camino Real  
Menlo Park  
(North of Stanford Shopping Center,  
east side of El Camino Real)**

**Reception at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm**

**Menu: choice of**

Filet of Salmon with Cider, Ginger and Pink Peppercorn Sauce

Fresh Chicken Breast roasted with Herbs and Lemon Rosemary Beurre Blanc

together with

Hearts of Romaine Caesar Salad

Wehani Rice Cake

Seasonal Vegetable

Rolls & Butter

Chocolate Layer Cake with Raspberry Sauce

Coffee or Tea

Cocktails and Wine available from no-host bar

Price: \$30 per person, inclusive of tax and service charge

**Send check payable to NCCC to:  
Dick Dievendorff, 1211 Janis Way, San Jose, CA 95125**

**Please indicate number of each menu choice**

Do not write above this line.



# ARRL November Sweepstakes

### License Class

- Novice
- Technician
- Other

CALL USED \_\_\_\_\_ CW  ARRL SECTION (P. 8 QST) \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE

Note: Separate logs must be submitted, with separate summaries, for each mode.

SCORING: \_\_\_\_\_ QSO points x \_\_\_\_\_ sections = \_\_\_\_\_ claimed score.

Count 2 points per complete QSO. [Cross out sections worked on the list below.]

Claimed Score	QSOs	Sections	Power Output	Hrs of Op
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- Single Operator Station (operator's call if different from call used) \_\_\_\_\_
- Multioperator Station (shows call of **ALL** operators, loggers) \_\_\_\_\_

Club participation? Yes XXX No \_\_\_\_\_  
 If yes, print the name of your ARRL Affiliated Club: Northern California Contest Club

### Equipment Description:

Rigs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Antennas \_\_\_\_\_

"I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations established for amateur radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee."

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Note your soapbox and other comments. Enclose your photos, as well as your SS logs and check sheets and mail promptly to: ARRL Contests, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST										
(Cross off each new section as worked.)										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	VE
CT	ENY	DE	AL	AR	EB	AZ	MI	IL	CO	MAR
EMA	NLI	EPA	GA	LA	LAX	EWA	OH	IN	IA	PO
ME	NNJ	MDC	KY	MS	ORG	ID	WV	WI	KS	ON
NH	SNJ	WPA	NC	NM	SB	MT			MN	MB
RI	WNY		NFL	NTX	SCV	NV			MO	SK
VT			SC	OK	SDG	OR			NE	AB
WMA			SFL	STX	SF	UT			ND	BC
			TN	WTX	SJV	WWA			SD	YU/NWT
			VA		SV	WY				
			PR		PAC	AK				
			VI							

Print or type:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1. Check log for duplicate QSOs.
2. Copy ALL QSO info carefully. A penalty is assessed for incorrectly copied QSO info.
3. Observe mailing deadline
4. Dupe/check sheet must accompany all entries of 200 or more QSOs



## ISQ Bulletin Board

NCCC welcomed former member Dean Straw, N6BV, to the October 21th club meeting. Dean, who is a senior member of the ARRL Technical Staff, was here to conduct a seminar on designing antennas during the Pacific Division assembly. He stated the NCCC had the same old fire that he remembered when he was a member. You'll all work him in SS for sure. If you can hold out, wait until you hear him on 80 meters! He said he had just put up a rotatable 2 element quad which seemed to work "fairly well", no doubt the understatement of the evening! Would like to get a report on that baby. Dean also gave us a few winning tips, including the suggestion that "no one ever answers an apologetic CQ". So, sound enthusiastic when you shout, "Seek You!"

We write this a few days before the CQWW phone contest. It should be an interesting battle this year with the sunspots scraping bottom and reducing 10 meters to below par. We can hope that we get a little spark in that band. But some of the huge 80 meter arrays now booming forth should be fun to listen to.

We heard the story on the band a few days ago that our heroes on HC8 found they did not have the right kind of filter for the receiver. They told Tall Jim, ZD8Z, over on Ascension about their need and Jim said he would send him an extra one that he had on hand. Will be interesting to learn if the filter arrived at Quito in time to be picked up by someone who apparently has to fly from HC8 to the mainland. FLASH! We just heard on the Cats Net that the filter had arrived. We await details.

We dined royally at the last meeting on special flat, circular cuisine catered by Mr. R. Epps, chief counsel and pan washer at "Take a Chance" Pizzeria Emporium, Redwood City's newest and finest establishment of it's kind. Ahhhh, "Take a Chance" doesn't look just right. Maybe that was "Give Pizza Chance" pizzeria. Anyway, there were at least

eight flying saucer size pizzas with everything anybody ever wanted piled high on them—except—except, and I'm sorry to report this—except anchovies. After my disappointed complaint, Mr. R. Epps explained that the anchovies had been snatched off the pizzas by wild, feral pigeons which pursued and attacked his high speed delivery van enroute our Hewlett Packard meeting place. Next time, Mr. Epps, try mounting twin 40s on the van for delivery.

Carlos Naicemiento, NP4IW, announced that he and Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, would lead a DXpedition to Salas Y Gomes Island, south of Easter Island. It will not count as a new one, but will be a new IOTA. There will be a scientific crew along to investigate the island which is quite unknown to the world. If you would like to be a team member, call Carlos.

Your scribe had an interesting three hours at the Pacific Division convention. Lotsa people. N6BT was an exhibitor and also gave a talk, which I had to miss. But I did catch a very interesting demonstration at his booth showing how toroids eliminate RF on a feed line. Maybe he'll bring it to a future meeting.

Trey, WN4KKN, talking to the Club, admonished his contesters listeners to follow a good, proper diet during any contest. Eat all the right things. But don't be misled. Remember the reward program I once suggested. Award yourself one oreo cookie for every 10 QSOs. Alternately, give yourself a fig newton. Every 50 Qs you get a piece of apple pie or a large slice of chocolate devils food cake with thick chocolate frosting. Boy, I wish I was going to be home for the contest! Hope you all have fun and make it all the way to the top in the CQWW and SS.

**Limerick time again:**

**Trey's secret is never to stop,  
CQ and CQ until you drop.**

**To join in the fun**

**Keep pressing F1**

**And help N Triple C to the top.**

**by Andy, AE6Y**

(Editors Note con't from page 1)

and I really wanted to do a "best ever" performance in this contest. (Bruce, 'ya owe me a beer!).

Well, as my old boss will testify, I've never learned to say no. Thats got me into more trouble than I care to think about. I also thought this would be an opportunity to learn how to use real publishing software.

Now, I think I'm pretty computer literate. I know how to use all the great Microsoft programs like Word, Excel, Project, PowerPoint, and Solitare. I've written my own logging software for CQP which is in some ways superior to CT (and some ways not). So what could be so hard about publishing?

Well, I don't have any "publishing software" for starters. I picked up a copy of "Express Publisher" for \$15 at the local stationary store. When I got it home and installed it, I found out why it was only \$15: A little problem with file conversion and compatibility.

Bob, N6IP, came to the rescue with a copy of PageMaker. Unfortunately, Bob (an expert) didn't have any time to teach me how it works. No problem. Jack (W6ISQ) gave me a disk with the JUG already formatted, and several columns of text already to go in PageMaker format. Gee, this'll be easy.

One of the short-comings of pilfered software is the lack of manuals. Also I didn't know that Jack and Maggie use a funny Scottish computer which uses an odd disk format. I think Margarita said it was a MacIntosh? I'm dead!

N6IP, once again, came to the rescue. He converted the wierd disk into standard PC format. Jack's file came right up and PageMaker seems to work fine now. Dick, AA6MC sent me his treasurers' report via Internet, Bruce sent his Presidential message via modem, and IP Bob gave me a disk with all the SS scores and stuff on it, including the great story by Jim, KV6S (on page 8). All I had to do was assemble it. The result is in your hands. I hope you enjoy it.

My sincere appreciation to the contributors! 73, AD6E



## SS Startup by KV6S

(In the true spirit of NCCC cooperation, Bob - N6IP gave up his station so that KV6S would have a place to operate SS CW. Bob then found himself a QTH at N6ST who was going to be QRT for the CW weekend. A real win-win situation for the club. Jim had a ball in the SS and wrote this article for the JUG - ed)

Sweepstakes CW 1994 was my first real contest and I had a blast!

Can you copy a sloppy fist — at 40 wpm — under twelve other signals — all zero-beat — some (but not all) of them calling you? No way? If you can, then you probably made more than 1000 Q's, a clean sweep, and scored an astronomical number of points in this year's Sweepstakes — and the rest of this article is not for you.

If your CW skills are a bit rusty (like mine) and you are intimidated by even a two-signal pileup, then I want to share with you what I experienced last weekend.

When Trey, WN4KKN, talked to us at the club meeting and insisted that we should operate SS by calling CQ for 24 hours, I imagined a pileup exactly like the one above — and I was intimidated more than a little bit. But Trey was so convincing that I decided to give it a try. The bottom line is that he is right — it works great!

Many good things came together to make SSCW a success for me:

1) Bob, N6IP, graciously lent me his station. Everything works in his shack. The computer is running the latest version of CT and it properly keys the transceiver which properly drives the amplifier which puts a nice fat signal into any of several well-matched antennas which can be selected by the click of a switch from the comfortable operating position from which you can reach anything you need to make things happen. The previous sentence is run-on to emphasize the importance of the thought and effort and resources Bob has put into his station — it works!

2) The latest version of CT can run much slower CW than the older versions. This is important.

3) My bride let me go play with the radios all weekend.

When the contest started at 1 p.m. on Saturday, I tuned around the bands for several minutes. This gave me a chance to get the flavor of the bedlam on the bottom end of 20m and 15m. I almost went home right then! But Trey says ...

So I found a blank spot above most of the chaos on 15m. Trey said the less-adept operators are to be found higher up on the

band and I figured that described me. I set CT to key at 18 wpm. I handled a lot of traffic at 18 wpm, so I am fairly solid there even after years of inactivity.

Then I pressed F1 and CT sent “CQ SS KV6S KV6S” — thank goodness CT did it — my hands were so sweaty I would have slipped right off a paddle.

Nobody answered. So I did it again — and again — and ...

Eventually, someone called and I copied his call and CT sent my exchange and I copied his exchange and it worked, much to my surprise.

So I kept going until 11 p.m. Saturday. By then I was making really dumb mistakes, so I went home to recover. By 11 a.m. on Sunday I was back on the air. I continued to call CQ until 7 p.m.

Why did it work? I think the slow CQ acts as a filter. If someone answers a slow call, he/she must be prepared to make the exchange at a slower speed. If not, I had a message on the memory keyer that asked “PSE QRS”. The really good ops who called me were never sent that message — they were already at about 18 wpm. The exchange with those stations was absolutely minimum time for both of us (not that it mattered to me very much, but they were in a hurry). They got my exchange the first time (of course) and I got theirs the first time — no repeats — no fills.

Who called me? Trey was right — everyone answers CQ's. I worked lot of multipliers — Puerto Rico, Alaska, and Yukon were the most memorable. I worked many QRP stations. I figure that is only fair. Even though it takes a long time to work one QRP station (to fill blanks lost in the noise), it does not hurt my rate much (if any) and their weak signal is not likely to break the pileups on the big gun stations. Big guns called me — several NCCC members. Boy, were those easy to work! One station in LA wanted to rag-chew, so I took a while to politely tell him I was in a contest, sign 73's, and get back to calling CQ SS. At least he did not bother any NCCC high-speed ops. Another station called me from STX on 80m to comment on my signal there — 10 over S9 (congratulations to N6IP).

What was hard? Finding and holding a clear spot was hard. Some of the fast ops would think I had vacated the frequency when I had only paused between CQ's. They were so excited that they did not even send “QRL?” first. Ah well — there is some more band higher up for me to use. But eventually, I found the little sliver where the RTTY stations hang out — that is not good. I think one RTTY station decided to teach me a lesson — and he did. I found a blank spot between RTTY

(SS Startup con't page 9)



(SS Startup con't from p8)

signals and sent "QRL?" No response. So I called CQ. When a station called me, I sent my exchange. When I finished my exchange and started listening for his, all I could hear was RTTY. This happened several times at successively higher frequencies until I was above the band staked out by that RTTY station. I think I need to have the band plan in front of me for the next contest.

How well did it work? I worked almost 300 stations and had some real rushes along the way. Now 300 is not many Q's for a big gun, but that's OK, I'm not a big gun. In Trey's talk he dwelt for a while on how to stay motivated when the rate falls below 30 Q/hr. Let me say this about that — for me 30 is running fast. At first I tried to average one Q every five minutes — a rate of 12 Q/hr. That was about enough to keep me loaded for a few hours. I gradually worked up to 15 then 20. There were bursts (runs?) that pushed the "LAST 10" steam gauge all the way to 30 and even one brief peak at 40. Those were the rushes. The "LAST 100" gauge never exceeded 20, but I can see why you can get hooked on this.

Obviously, I am a long way from being a competent contest operator, but, having experienced SSCW94, I am motivated to try again and maybe I can accumulate the know-how and the skills that will open the doors to even more fun in contests to come.

Jim Moyer, KV6S

N6TV has been moaning about line noise at his QTH for some time now. Since he beat me handily, I figure it really isn't too serious. However Bob disagrees and put his frustration to poem: -AD6E

**There once was a man named  
Jim Maxwell  
He sat on his key, they do tell  
He went for SS  
He was a success  
Now at PG&E TV must yell  
- N6TV**

## Treasury Notes de AA6MC



We welcome our new member Dave, NG0X, who joined us this month.

The Christmas Banquet is Sunday, December 11, 1994 (not December 10 as I reported last month) at the Stanford Park Hotel.

We have room for 60. Please send your check for \$30 (made out to NCCC) and your meal selection to me at 1211 Janis Way, San Jose CA, 95125. We must give a final count to the hotel a few days before the event, so please don't wait until the last minute.

We must have payment in advance. If you must cancel your reservation we'll refund your entire payment, provided you cancel before we give the final count to the banquet manager. Once the final count is given, the meal must be paid for whether or not someone comes to eat it.

If you think you MIGHT want to go, it would be a good idea to reserve a place by sending me your check and meal choices. We cannot seat more than 60, nor will we be able to add people after we've given the final count to the banquet manager.

The "self funding events" category includes \$575 in deposits we have made for two banquets and the November meeting.

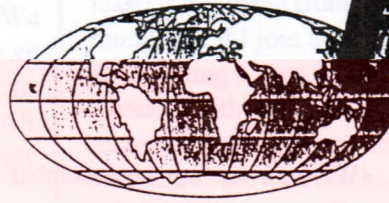
	1994-95 Plan	YTD Actual
Membership dues	\$3780	\$4170
Advertisements	\$ 300	\$ 300
General fund contributions	\$ 100	\$ 404
CQP contributions	\$ 0	\$ 30
Non-member JUG subscriptions	\$ 0	\$ 16.50
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$4180</b>	<b>\$4920.50</b>
JUG publishing & special mailings	(\$2600)	(\$ 812.72)
NCCC share of CQP expenses	(\$ 500)	(\$ 292.73)
Awards	(\$ 650)	(\$ 127.70)
Visalia Hospitality	(\$ 200)	
Contingency	(\$ 230)	
Self-funding events (Banquets, badges)	(\$ 0)	(\$ 530.95)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(\$4180)</b>	<b>(\$1764.10)</b>
Balance at start of Fiscal Year 94-95		\$2501.02
Activity credited to Fiscal Year 94-95		\$3156.40
Activity credited to Fiscal Year 95-96		\$ 48.00
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$5705.42</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Dievendorff, AA6MC



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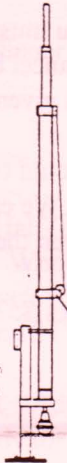
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