

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

NOVEMBER 2023

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



Fall Contest Season is HERE!

GET ON THE AIR





Pasta Night

**NOVEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9th 7:00 PM
STOCKTON SAILING CLUB
4980 BUCKLEY COVE RD
WEST MARCH LANE TO BUCKLEY COVE**

QST QST QST... The November meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Stockton Sailing Club Auditorium, 4980 Buckley Cove Rd in Stockton. The Sailing Club is located at the west end of March Lane, west of Interstate 5 on the left-hand side of the road just before you enter Buckley Cove Park.

We are having Pasta Night at the meeting starting at 6:45PM. Annie N6ACL won a prize at Pacificon of an Italian Dinner from Trader Joe's and we are going to share that with others at the meeting. Contact Annie if you want to bring a good garlic bread or side salad...

HEAR-YE HEAR-YE The club bylaws designate the November meeting as the month to elect new officers for the SDARC Board. Current Officers may be re-nominated or new officers may be nominated from the meeting floor at the beginning of the meeting. The secretary will call for last minute nominations at the beginning of the meeting. If there are no other nominations, the secretary will close the nominations and call for a vote.

Current Officer nominations are:

President Charlie WB6NVB
Vice President Steve KN6ZJJ
Treasurer Joyce K6QBQ
Secretary Annie N6ACL

You may self-nominate if you would like to serve on the board. As mentioned in the October meeting, Annie N6ACL is open to stepping aside if someone new would like to serve as the club secretary.

The presentation will be "What's in Your Logbook" discussing and demonstrating good logging practices for HF operating and for EmComm events. This is by John NZ6Q

Your club has a lot going on and WE NEED YOU HERE TOO! **AND DON'T MISS PASTA NIGHT!** So... grab your spouse, significant other or just that friend and we'll see you at the meeting!

ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON
(Bring your own pasta if attending on Zoom – no home delivery option)

Zoom Meeting Information: Topic: W6SF MONTHLY CLUB MEETING ON ZOOM
Time: Thursday, November 9th, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8715741939?pwd=alRiTfhydFNtMIBQZXAwOUd2YTN1UT09>

Meeting ID: 871 574 1939 Passcode: 147165
One tap mobile +16699009128,,8715741939#,,, *147165# US



DECEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th 6:00 PM SHIPYARD RESTAURANT

QST QST QST... The **December** meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Shipyard Portside Restaurant, 2305 W Washington St, Stockton, on Thursday December 14th starting at 1800 hours.

This is our annual Christmas Dinner and Year-End Celebration!

We will have the entrance to the venue well-lit to help those who haven't been there before! Also, a shuttle service is available – Contact Mark W6SXA, Joyce K6QBQ or Annie N6ACL.

Sign-up EARLY! The good folks at the Shipyard have kept the cost this year to the same as it has been for the past two years at just \$25.00 per person / \$50.00 per couple. Click on the [EVENT SIGN UP TAB](#) on www.w6sf.org and you can complete your reservation form. Annie will have something special for you and your date. You can pay for your reservation in advance using PayPal for just a \$1.00 convenience fee.

Dinner includes Chicken and Tri-Tip, roasted potatoes and vegetables, salad bar, dessert and coffee or tea beverage.

NO-HOST COCKTAIL HOUR / MEET N GREET: Starts at 6:00 PM
DINNER starts at 7:00 PM
FUN starts at 8:00 PM
DANCING at 8:30 PM

So... grab your spouse, significant other or just that friend that wants to “see what the ham radio club is all about” and join us for good food and good fun as we celebrate this year of amateur radio fun and club achievements.



GET READY FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL RUN / WALK AGAINST HUNGER THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD DOWNTOWN STOCKTON

Paul **N6KZW** and Annie **N6ACL** are coordinating this year’s Thanksgiving Day Run Against Hunger for the club. He’s looking for volunteers! This is the 19th year of the event which benefits the Stockton Emergency Food Bank. [CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP NOW!](#)

Our mission is to provide communications necessary for the safety of participants and the public. This is both a run and a walk, conducted simultaneously on slightly different routes from the Banner Island Ballpark around Weber Point to Morelli Point (Weber Ave under I-5) and back. The 10K runners do the course twice.

Weather: The show will go on rain or shine. It normally is cool to cold during this event, be prepared for this type of weather. Raincoat?

Operators: We are currently setting up who will be at what posts.

The Plan: We meet at the Ballpark entrance at 06:30 AM. The run and walk begins at 8:00 AM for the Kids and 8:30 AM for the Adults, but access to our post locations may be difficult after 7:15 AM unless you are on foot or on a bicycle, as the course usually is blocked off and closed to traffic. Please expect to be out in the field along the route by 7:15 before the police start closing the roads.

Email: You will receive a map of the run and the parking lot you should use is to the west of the stadium. There is also another parking lot across the street (Fremont) from the ballpark which may also be used. We normally arrive early enough to easily get our parking close by.



Assignments: We are planning assignments now.

Safety: Please, all ham operators should be wearing a green or orange safety vest at all times during the event. This is for your safety as well as to identify us as participants, organizers, and public safety workers. If you do not have a vest, our club has many available, just let us know, please. Think and act safely before, during, and after the event. We want you to have an enjoyable time out there.

Beverage/Pastries: There will be coffee and pastries available at the ballpark as you walk in the gate to the right. Come early.

T-Shirts: In the past, we are given event T-shirts at net control Thursday morning. Please include your size when signing up!



Frequencies

Main	147.210 pl 114.8 +600	N5FDL	
Backup	444.325 pl 94.8 +5.000	K6KJQ	Please program your HT.
Simplex	147.510 no pl needed		

Tactical Callsigns: Standard rules of identification apply. We will use tactical calls, but you should identify your ham station as normal FCC regulations.

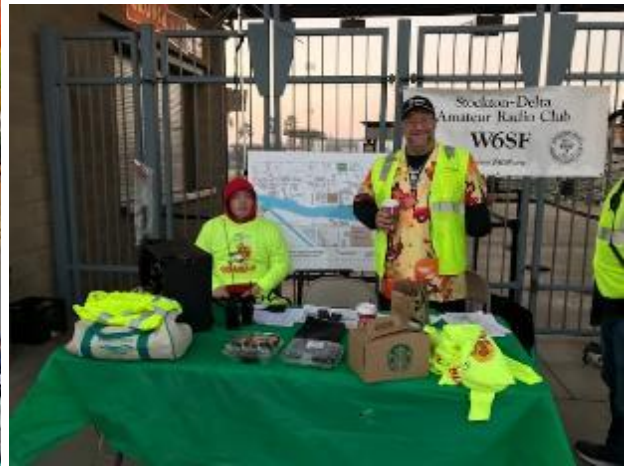
Checklist:

1. Dual-band HT radio w/extra battery. If you do not have a dual band or UHF handy-talkie, contact us.
2. Bring a folding chair as our posts don't have seating available.
3. Appropriate clothing for the weather, mindful it will be dark when we arrive. Cold and rain are always possible.
4. A flashlight may be helpful in the wee hours of the morning before the event
5. Traffic safety vest. If you do not have one, we will loan you one.
6. Hot/cold beverage, or water and snack if needed.
7. Personal items, such as glasses and medication.
8. Printed Map from the website will be emailed to you. Make sure we have your email address.

Go to the event website... <http://www.runagainsthunger.org/Event-Info> it will give you an idea of what's going on... Please ham radio folks do not volunteer that way, go to W6SF.ORG to sign up. **I suggest printing out the map and bringing it with you.** We will use that during the event. [CLICK ON THE TURKEY TO THE LEFT TO SIGN-UP!](#)

This is a great event supporting the neediest in our community. The club has been involved nearly since the beginning. Do you have time to give back? support your community? Get a free T-Shirt? If you don't want to volunteer and be part of the radio team – then just come and do the 5K walk or the 10K run.

Call me if you have any questions 209-477-6893 Paul N6KZW@sbcglobal.net



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

- **Mark, W6SXA**

Hope most of you were able to make it to Pacificon. It was a great event with lots of very interesting and informative forums. I was able to serve as a VE again this year but still had time to make it to several very good sessions. I spent entirely too much money there but got some things I've been needing.

Our next big event is the Run Against Hunger on Thanksgiving Day morning. Hope you can be there to help. It starts early in the morning, and you'll be done probably by noon. It's an especially good event for new hams to get experience working an event. Please go to our web site: W6SF.org and sign up. See you there.

Our next meeting in November is the election meeting and is an important one. Please plan on making it to cast your vote for next year's club officers. I believe we'll have something special to eat as well from our secretary, Annie.

Our Thursday morning Hamz-n-Eggs breakfast is still going strong. It's at the Omelet House on Cherokee Rd at Hwy 99. It's a time when we can all sit down and relax with no official business to transact other than ... just have fun with a lot of truly great friends. That's every Thursday morning at around 9:00am. Everyone is welcome to join us whether you are a licensed ham or not.

CQ, CQ, CQ for the Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club 10-meter net. If you have an HF rig and an antenna that works at 28.457 Megahertz, join us at 8:00 pm on every Thursday night except the evening of our club meeting. All classes of Amateur Radio operators, from Technician to Extra class can participate. You won't have to report on "your week in Ham Radio", just relax and have fun. It'll give you a chance to find out how well your antenna is working and how far your signal is getting out. We'd love to hear you.

73
Mark – W6SXA



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce, K6QBQ

Hey everyone! Colin K6CMM and I saw some wild turkeys up at Lake McClure in Mariposa County last month. Were they hiding out in anticipation of the popular main dish served on Thanksgiving Day, or were they reminding all of us to attend the annual Run & Walk Against Hunger? It could be a bit of both, but we will be attending the Run & Walk Against Hunger again this year providing radio communications support for the event.

If you are a new ham and haven't had a chance to work this event, sign up on the website and join us Thanksgiving morning. We will be done by noon, so you have the rest of the day to savor that turkey dinner, and pumpkin pie.

Also coming up next month is the club's annual Christmas dinner. Please plan on joining us on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00PM at the Shipyard Portside Restaurant. Please sign up soon, as we need to meet our minimum of 40 guests and to give the restaurant staff a final head count before the event. There will be some really great prizes, and like last year I expect there will once again be several tables full of prizes. Raffle tickets will be available that evening, top prizes include a mobile radio and an Elk antenna!

See the website to sign up, and if you prefer not to pay on line, you can pay at the November club meeting or to any club officer between now and the event. We

prefer payments prior to the event; however, payments can be made at the door through prior arrangement with a club officer.

And with winter weather right around the corner, don't forget to check to tighten the guy lines on your antennas or towers, and check your coax wrap at the connections!

73

Joyce K6QBQ



MONDAY NIGHT NET

The club holds a weekly net every Monday night beginning at 8:00PM on the **W6SF** Repeaters on 147.165Mhz VHF and 444.250Mhz UHF. Club Repeater information is listed at the end of the newsletter.

If you would like to learn how to be a Net Control Operator, contact one of the club Officers! We will happily mentor you during a Monday night net. This is a great opportunity to improve your operating skill in a "minimal" pressure environment. The Schedule and Net Control Script are available on the club website at....

<http://www.w6sf.org/netcontrolscript.html>

Additional volunteers are always welcome for net control duties. It's not very difficult to run a net and will help to share the load.

Check www.w6sf.org for the current list of net control stations.



Hamz & Eggz W6SF WEEKLY BREAKFAST MEETING THURSDAY'S AT 9:00 AM

Members AND GUESTS gather weekly to enjoy Hamz & Eggz at the Omelet House, 3455 Cherokee Rd off Hwy 99

in East Stockton. Club members start gathering around 8:30 so come early if you want a good seat!

Check in on the W6SF repeater Thursday morning to find who is coming out and make sure you ask someone to save you a seat! Everyone is invited to attend; you don't need a license. Bring an interest to discuss all things Amateur Radio and a hearty appetite and you'll have a good time.

Refills are free!



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ARES (SJCARES)

MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY NIGHTS STARTING AT 7:30 PM

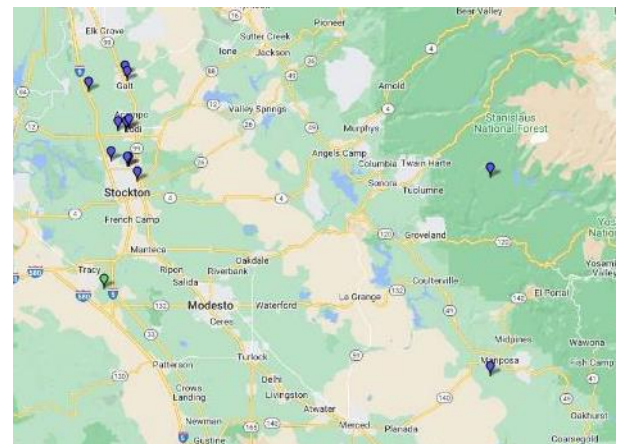
ARES Notes

As always anyone interested in ARES, contact me or visit:

[Join San Joaquin ARES](#)

October we had Shake-Out 2023 (earthquake drill) on October 19th starting at 10:19AM . I consider it a success. I went over the result and my rough draft of the after-action report. OES was interesting in the group's ability to get a quick assessment of conditions. I have yet to see the After-Action report from the SJV section.

Here are San Joaquin Counties' "Did You Feel It (DYFI)" reports.



All drills and exercises are done so we can find our mistakes before a real life event happen.

My goal as the Emergency Coordinator it to get the gaps in coverage filled. Stockton, Manteca and the areas east of the San Joaquin River need to be filled in.

The DYFI report provides "Ground Truth" reports. In any disaster there is always a doughnut hole in the center where information is missing. These DYFI are important, even more so when you become aware of a quake in your area, and you didn't feel it. These intensity maps become important when you take into consideration that different soils can absorb or transmit The energy from a quake differently.

Why was Shakeout 2023 important? This event was sponsored by the USGS and FEMA.

FEMA and Homeland Security used this drill to show how Amateur Radio can be useful to return ground truth reports. On an actual GIS map each of the balloons on the map can be clicked on and the information displayed.

This GIS mapping feature was recently added to WINLINK 2000.

[ARES and DOD- ARMY MARS](#)

The ARMY MARS also used the Shakeout 23 for one of their system tests.

In this case, the DOD sent out a message via ARMY MARS to the local EC that would be handling the traffic to a Local Emergency Manager (EM) (Duty Officer for OES,) or Agency Having Authority.

[DOD Comdex 3-23 Message for 10-19-23](#)

ICS-213

1. EXER: DOD COMEX 23-4
2. TO: LOCAL ARRL SET OFFICIALS/-
3. FROM: US NORTHERN COMMAND//J63//
4. SUBJ: DOD-American Radio Relay League (ARRL) SET INTEROP
5. 09/25/2023
- 6.
7. MSG: As the Combatant Command responsible for Homeland Defense, USNORTHCOM appreciates the Amateur Radio community efforts in conducting regular training events to hone and improve your communication skills as well as the MARS outreach to amateur radio.

Request only SET officials acknowledge receipt of this message via return message through any MARS station to UHCHBPM; radiogram/ICS213 through the National Traffic System or Radio Relay International to:
Paul English
Salado, TX 76571

or via amateur radio WINLINK to WD8DBY.

In your response, please include your:
- organization
- callsign, City and State location of your SET event.

8. POC: MARK JENSEN/USNORTHCOM
J6 COMM INTEROPERABILITY OFFICER
BT

NNNN



GREAT SHAKE OUT EVENT

OCTOBER 19th at 10:19AM

San Joaquin County ARES was activated to participate in the Great Shake Out earthquake drill on 10/19 at 10:22 AM. Eventhough the “quake” happened at 10:19AM, a minor technical glitch plus the desire of the net control station to “keep it real” delayed the start of the net for 3 minutes – give or take. The net was started by John NZ6Q on the 147.165 repeater with the announced drill message. There were 22 check-ins from around the region and the mock exercise had the feel of the “real thing” with various damage reports from around the region. WinLink capable stations were instructed to QSY and deliver their messages. Coordinated by SJC EC Bob N6TCE, WINLink stations sent “Did You Feel It” DYFI reports to the via WinLink.

The Thursday morning Hamz and EggZ group got involved reporting 13 members fed and ready to be deployed. And thankfully, they reported no damage to the clubs weekly breakfast spot.

SJC EC Bob N6TCE commented that it was a great Simulated Emergency Test and demonstrated to the County that ham radio has great value and unique skill when disaster strikes.



REPORT ON THE ALZHEIMER'S WALK

The club assisted in the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease on Saturday October 14th starting at 8AM. Club members were placed around the 3Km course mapped out along the greens and fairways of Swenson Park Golf Course.

Paul N6KZW coordinated this year's event. In all about 12 club members participated.

Some of our newest club members and newest amateur radio operators participated in the event getting their "first taste" at being part of a public service project.

The walk was well organized with club members covering the entire route and using simplex 2M frequencies to be the "eyes and ears" of the event.



Everything was pretty well wrapped up by 11AM.



OCTOBER MEETING REPORT



The October meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club was held at the Stockton Sailing Club Auditorium, 4980 Buckley Cove Rd in North Stockton on Thursday, October 12th starting at 7pm.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by President Mark W6SXA. There were 20 members in attendance.

John NZ6Q, Joyce K6QBQ and Colin K6CMM gave a report on the CQP Expedition to Mariposa County. We made 1182 QSOs a 200 QSO improvement from last year. Colin K6CMM also succeeded making 100 QSOs under his own call for CQP. Hopefully it brings him the #1 youth operator award. Steve KN6ZJJ got in several hours on the air in his first CQP manning a very busy 40M station.

Bob N6TCE gave a report on Saturday's HamCram in Stockton. We licensed 9 new Technicians as well as two new General licenses.

John NZ6Q also reminded the club that N6F and W1AW/6 special events were still in progress and club members could sign up to participate as either special event station until Saturday midnight or Tuesday 5PM respectively.

Paul N6KZW gave a final rundown on preparations for the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease coming up this Saturday October 14th at Swenson Park in Stockton. Everything looks ready for a great event.

President Mark W6SXA opened the floor for nominations for club officers for 2023. There was a lot of discussion about open positions and the following nominations were accepted:

Charlie WB6NVB as President
Steve KN6ZJJ as Vice-President
Joyce K6QBQ as Treasurer
Annie N6ACL as Secretary

The members were reminded that additional nominations would be heard by the Secretary until the statof the November meeting.

Annie N6ACL reported on the club Christmas Party / Raffle. The Year-End Celebration will be held at the Shipyard Restaurant at the Port of Stockton again. Suggestions for the raffle included a NanoVNA analyzer, SDR receivers and antennas along with some "non radio related" prizes. (more details on the Christmas Party are in the newsletter)

Bob N6TCE gave a presentation on the Great California Shake-Out Drill and on the UGS Did You Feel It reporting to be completed as part of the drill. This is set for Thursday, October 19th at 10:19 AM. He discussed the incident plan using both the Stockton 147.165 repeaters as well as WinLink. Stations will be encouraged to submit drill messages of simulated damages as they check in.



WinLink will be used to send “Did You Feel It” reports to the USGS. Stations without WinLink were discouraged from sending damage reports through the USGS website as their website had no way to flag the reports as part of a “drill” and not the real thing.



The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Annie N6ACL
Secretary



Highlights If you missed Pacificon – you missed a lot!

- Pacificon awarded radios to the youngest ham and twin 11 year old girls from Napa that passed their Technician exam on Saturday morning, the second and third youngest. With permission, here is their reaction to their exam results with their proud father Nik W6QY.



Pacificon awarded competition grade RadioSport Headphones to the youngest ham – our own Colin K6CMM

- Over \$11,000 was given out as [prizes](#).
- Three jumpers made [parachute mobile](#) contacts.
- There was a line of people to get On The Air at the [Special Event Station](#) W1AW/6 hosted by [paara.org](#).

- [Elecraft](#) released the [KH1](#) radio and we gave one away as a grand prize to Paul W6UHF from Modesto. Wayne Burdick N6KR from Elecraft was [interviewed by KK6USY](#).



KH1 Shown with the KHPD1 Keyer Paddle and Telescoping Whip (Included in the Edgewood Package or sold separately)
 Note that the Telescoping Whip is supplied with the KHATU1 option.

- Pete Harris was awarded Volunteer of the Year.
- Our super volunteers performed the Wouff Hong Ceremony live!
- Planning is well under way for 2024.
- Steve Goodgame K5ATA ARRL Education Director gave an amazing keynote address at the Saturday Night Banquet. You can see the address here on the ARRL YouTube channel
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTi8LDz4dS4>



PacificonSM 2024 in part will be part of our local club. Annie N6ACL has signed on to be the Vendor Chairperson, Joyce K6QBQ will be a volunteer chair, Mark W6SXA will volunteer for the VE Test Session.

Start planning on attending in 2024!



ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

CW NOV 4th – 6th

PHONE NOV 18th – 20th



By John Pescatore K3TN

Ahh, Sweepstakes – perfect contest or perfectly awful:

Perfect

- Doesn't require a killer station
- Challenging exchange
- Short – 24 hours operating
- Clean Sweep
- Everyone can run

Perfectly awful

- Doesn't reward a killer station
- Annoying exchange
- Long – Sunday lasts forever
- Limited Multipliers
- Once per contest rule – see “Sunday lasts forever”

Either way, the ARRL Sweepstakes is a November institution for US and Canadian hams. The complex exchange puts a premium on accuracy to challenge experienced operators, while the low barrier to entry makes SS a common entry path into contesting.

History

The ARRL Sweepstakes has its roots in “The January Contest” announced in December 1929 QST. It was originally structured as a message handling contest for hams in Canada and the US (which at the time included Cuba, the Philippines and “Porto Rico”) and ran for two solid weeks in January. A successful two-way exchange of a minimum ten-word message would result in two points for each station. The number of message points would be multiplied by the number of ARRL sections (at the time 68) for the final score. A key rule was “Participating stations will be limited for the purposes of the contest to sending but one test message to each station worked; that is, further messages can be transmitted but will not add to the contest score of either station.” Thus, was born, the dreaded “work stations once per contest” rule.

While a lot about the contest has stayed the same over the years, much has also changed. Sweepstakes was moved to November in 1932; a separate phone contest was added in 1941; and operating time was limited to 24 hours along the way. However, for the past half-century not much has changed, other than the ARRL section list gradually expanding to its current level of 83.

Description and Rules Summary

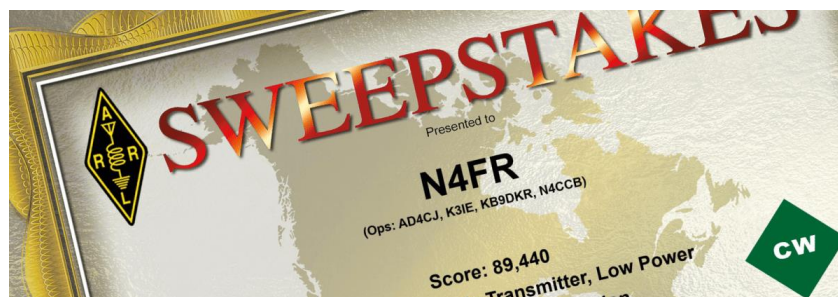
The ARRL Sweepstakes consists of two contests, one for phone and one for CW, which are open to US and Canadian hams only. A summary of the important rules:

Contest Period:

CW: First full weekend in November

Phone: Third full weekend in November

Operating Period – 24 of the 30 hours from 2100Z Saturday to 0300Z Sunday





Exchange – Serial Number; Precedence; Your Call; Check; Section

Where: **Precedence** = Q (5 watts output or less), A (under 150w), B (above 150w), U (Single Op Unlimited), M (Multiop), or S (school station)

Check = last two digits of the first year of license of the operator or station

Section – ARRL/RAC section location of the station.

Duplicate Contacts – stations can only be worked once during the contest.

The full rules can be found here. <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Strategies

Like any contest, selecting the best strategy for Sweepstakes depends on your goals. You can play to win in one of many categories or in your section, get on just to help your local club's score, try to fill in the states you need for 5BWAS or just try to see how quickly you can make a Clean Sweep. If your strategy matches your goal, you are bound to have fun.

Equipment

Station design is always an important starting point. Sweepstakes is a very "little gun" friendly contest and doesn't require huge antenna farms. Since SS is a domestic contest, low antennas in many cases are preferable. In low sunspot years, forty and eighty meters are the "money bands" in Sweepstakes for east coasters, with 20 meters being the usual workhorse. Near sunspot peaks, 15 and 10 meters provide wide open spaces for more QSOs.

Sweepstakes doesn't have any unique demands on other aspects of station design, though the "work once per contest" rule does give a lot of benefit to having a second radio. Run rates on Sunday often slow down to glacial speed (especially CW SS), and having a second radio to search and pounce between automated CQs brings in a lot of extra QSOs.

Just about every popular contest logging program supports SS – you can find a list of popular logging programs at Contest logging software. If you aren't going to use a computer to send CW, the long exchange in SS means at least using a memory keyer with an incrementing serial number capability to maintain your sanity.

Operating Time

There are all kinds of theories on strategies for selecting the optimal operating time periods for SS, but like all contests more hours in the chair will always translate to more points. In general, if you are going to put more than 12 hours or so into SS, being on from the start for the first 8-10 hours is key to getting that QSO total up. If you can only put in a few hours, calling CQ on Sunday afternoon will bring some nice high run rates since you will be fresh meat to all the stations putting in full time efforts. Save some operating time for the last two hours on Sunday - a lot of Sunday drivers get on at the very end. Remember - off time has to be in 30 minute increments. What your logging software shows as "off time" might not meet that definition.

Maximizing Score

Common wisdom in Sweepstakes is to let the multipliers come to you – unless your goal is to just get a Clean Sweep, the best strategy is to maximize QSOs. For a 100,000 point SS effort, a multiplier is worth about 8 QSOs - spending more than 10 or 15 minutes to get that elusive section will basically lower your score. But if you just want that Clean Sweep mug, knowing propagation paths from your location is the secret sauce: what times/bands will give you the short hops to nearby sections and which will provide openings to the Pacific or quasi-polar distant sections. Barring entering the unlimited category and using packet spotting, working the rare sections that don't have a lot of operators is pretty much just luck of the draw. As in any contest, maximizing score means running (calling CQ) as much as possible, and SS is one of the easier contests for the average station to find and hold a CQ frequency. However, if you did a lot of running on Saturday, searching and pouncing on Sunday to find those "Sunday drivers" will be important.

Sweepstakes Etiquette

Sweepstakes is a contest that attracts the full spectrum of hams: top operators at big stations looking to win, serious contesters looking to beat last year's score or come in ahead of their buddies, club members just looking to help the club score, and first time contesters just trying this thing out. Just like in a marathon running race, that means there are competitors at a wide level of capabilities.



▪ **The exchange in Sweepstakes is complicated on purpose** – Sweepstakes tradition comes from traffic handling - this is what makes SS fun and different. Learn the exchange before the contest and get comfortable sending and receiving it in the expected order. There are basically three scenarios to be comfortable with:

1. **The CQ Scenario:** You will either be calling CQ or answering CQs and following a standard protocol will make everything go faster and more smoothly: **K3TN:** CQ SS K3TN K3TN SS **W8ABC:** W8ABC **K3TN:** W8ABC 123 B K3TN 69 MDC **W8ABC:** 55 A W8ABC 74 OH **K3TN:** TU K3TN Remember, SS is one of those contests where you do **not** have to send RS(T). But you **do have to send your own call in the exchange**. When you send the exchange the first time, no need to send anything twice – send it once and let the other station ask for a fill if needed. Also, there is no need to send “NR” at the start of your exchange when replying to a CQ, though some feel it helps the receiving station get ready to copy the exchange. Note: Sweepstakes does **not** require that the station answering the CQ send back the CQers call. It is not a bad idea to do so if you think there is any doubt who you (W8ABC above) are responding to, such as on a crowded band where multiple CQers are “sharing” a frequency. In that case, W8ABC would reply “K3TN 55 A W8ABC 74 OH”

2. **The Fill scenario:** Contests are about speed **and** accuracy, so before you hit enter in the log you want to make sure you have the info right. Good operators will always ask for a repeat or “fill” if they missed part of the exchange or aren't 100% certain they copied it right. The generally accepted ways to ask for fills are:

CK? – Please send the Check (last two digits of the first year you were licensed) again

NR? – Please send the serial number again.

PREC? – Please send the Precedence (A, B, M, U, S, Q) again.

SEC? – Please send your Section again.

CL? – Please repeat your call?

AGN or ? – Please resend the entire exchange again.

It is only really necessary to send the entire exchange if the station sends AGN or ? but many operators aren't familiar with the abbreviations for Check and Precedence and so on.

K3TN: CQ SS K3TN K3TN SS

W8ABC: W8ABC

K3TN: W8ABC 123 B K3TN 69 MDC

W8ABC: NR?

K3TN: 123

W8ABC: 55 A W8ABC 74 OH

K3TN: TU K3TN SS

(Editor's Note: This is a CW exchange, just think about the abbreviated words when practicing for voice – i.e MDC = Maryland DC, OH = Ohio, A = Alpha, B = Bravo, etc)

3. **The Dupe Scenario:**

This is a tricky one. When you are calling CQ and a station calls you that you have already worked, in most contests it is just faster to work them a second time. However, the long exchange in SS changes that equation a bit – many stations choose to not work dupes and will send “K3TN B4” or “K3TN QSO B4” or “K3TN DUPE.” This may or may not be the right thing to do, depending on circumstances. N6TR (who manages the log-checking for SS) has made it clear that a repeat QSO in one log that is a first QSO in another will not result in a penalty to either op.

On the other hand, a NIL (not-in-log) QSO, where a QSO shown in one log is not even loosely matched in another log, will result in a fairly significant penalty. On Saturday evening, when rates are high, it may make sense to say "QSO B4" and go on to the next station, because if you are not in his log, chances are good that the station will call you again on Sunday. On Sunday, when rates are low and "fresh meat" is scarce, it makes sense to insist that the previous QSO is "not in my log" and say "pse work agn". You're really doing the other station a favor, and not costing either of you much precious time.

- **Send the entire exchange!** - don't forget, **you must send your call sign** as part of the exchange.



This Photo hv I Inknown

- **Eschew cut numbers and leading zeroes.** In contests where RST is required, sending 5NN is universally recognized to mean 599 – just as CW is universally recognized as an abbreviation for Continuous Wave. However, in SS using cut numbers in the CK field (6N instead of 69) or even in the serial number field leads to confusion because of the mix of numbers and letters in the exchange.

Just avoid cut numbers. Similarly, there is no reason to send leading zeroes – they just increase the chance for confusion.

- **Use the standard abbreviations for sections on CW and standard phonetics on SSB.** In Sweepstakes, you are not in “Maryland” or “Massachusetts,” you are in “Maryland DC (MDC on CW)” or “Eastern Mass (EMA on CW)” or wherever. You can find the list of standard ARRL sections in the rules. Similarly, leave the fun phonetics on the shelf for contests – stick with the ICAO standard phonetics.

- **Send (or say) the exchange in the standard order: number, precedence, your call, your check and your section.** There's no need to say "precedence", "check" or "section" if they are in sequence, making it faster and clearer both for you and for the other station. In general, the fewer words the better.

- **Don't repeat what you copied back to the CQer.** Especially on SSB, it is tempting to say “Thanks for number 123 B in MDC, you are number ...” Just stick to sending your information and everything will move along more quickly.

Send “QRL?” or “?” twice to check if a frequency is in use. The long SS exchange also means that there will be longer than usual gaps while a CQer is listening to someone reply. Just sending “dit dit” and then hitting that CQ key is just rude – do the right thing and check twice. If you are running stations and don't respond to QRL? checks, the frequency is assumed to be up for grabs. A corollary to this principle is...

- **Just because you own two radios doesn't mean you own two frequencies.** If you are operating SO2R and don't respond to a legitimate “double QRL?” because you were off on the other radio trying to break the VE8 pileup, that frequency is up for grabs.

- **Send CW at the code speed of the other operator, or the fastest you are comfortable copying – whichever is lower.** If you answer someone CQing at 35 wpm, but are only able to copy 20 wpm, reply at 20 wpm. If you are sending CQ at 35 wpm and someone responds at 20 wpm, slooow down to something near the other station's code speed. Hitting Page Down or twisting the knob a bit isn't that hard.

Exceptions: on Sunday, everyone slows down their CQ code speed to attract casual operators. Also, if you hear a buddy calling CQ at 20 wpm and you know they can copy 35 wpm, call them at the higher speed. Even more fun: call him or her at 45 wpm and throw in some cut numbers: "ATN B K3TN 6N MDC" Remember: only do this out of love.

- **When you are running, make it easier for stations to work you.** A short CQ message, such as "SS W3ABC" is generally the way to go, and the message you send after copying the other station's info should be simple, too - something like "TU W3ABC" Don't put "SS" after your call on your TU message, as many will jump the gun after they hear your call.

- **Take the time to make your .wav or DVK files match your mike audio and natural timing** - the ability to use recorded voice for sending that looong SS exchange is a great convenience, but sounding like a robotic talking elevator is just not attractive. It takes a lot of time to get those individual number and letter files sounding natural. If you don't have the time, just stick with recording the CQ and *Thanks*, *QRZ* messages, and the unchanging parts of the exchange - and even on those take the time to have the levels and sound quality match your MIC audio.

- **Take time to explain things to operators who are confused.** In sailing races, if one ship is sinking the other ships stop racing to help them out. Sweepstakes is often the first contest many US operators try out – a bad experience in SS may sour them on contesting.

The Most Important Rule is to get on the air and have fun!



CQ World Wide DX Contest

November 24th – 27th

The CQ WW is the largest Amateur Radio competition in the world. Over 35,000 participants take to the airwaves on the last weekend of October (SSB) and November (CW) with the goal of making as many contacts with as many different DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible.

Starts 00:00:00 UTC Saturday (4PM Friday) Ends 23:59:59 UTC Sunday

Translations

I. OBJECTIVE: For amateurs around the world to contact as many other amateurs in as many CQ zones and countries as possible.

II. BANDS: Six bands only: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz. Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged.

III. CONTEST EXCHANGE: SSB: RS report plus CQ Zone number of the station location (e.g., 59 05). CW: RST report plus CQ Zone (e.g., 599 05).

IV. SCORING:

A. Score: The final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the sum of zone and country multipliers. Example: 1000 QSO points * (30 Zones + 70 Countries) = 100,000 (final score).

B. QSO Points: Stations may be contacted once on each band. QSO points are based on the location of the station worked.

1. Contacts between stations on different continents count three (3) points.
2. Contacts between stations on the same continent but in different countries count one (1) point. Exception: Contacts between stations in different countries within the North American boundaries count two (2) points.
3. Contacts between stations in the same country have zero (0) QSO point value, but count for zone and country multiplier credit.

C. Multiplier: There are two types of multipliers.

1. Zone: A multiplier of one (1) for each different CQ Zone contacted on each band. The CQ Worked All Zones rules are the standard.
2. Country: A multiplier of one (1) for each different country contacted on each band. The DXCC entity list, Worked All Europe (WAE) multiplier list plus IG9/IH9, and continental boundaries are the standards for defining country multipliers. Maritime mobile stations count only for a zone multiplier.

V. ENTRY CATEGORIES:

A. Single Operator Categories: One person (the operator) performs all operating and logging functions. There is no limit on operating time or band changes. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time.

1. Single Operator: QSO finding assistance of any kind is prohibited (see VIII.2).

a. High Power (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **1500 watts**.

b. Low Power (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **100 watts**.

c. QRP (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **5 watts**.

2. Single Operator Assisted: Entrants in this category may use QSO finding assistance (see VIII.2).

a. High Power Assisted (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **1500 watts**.

b. Low Power Assisted (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **100 watts**.

c. QRP Assisted (All Band or Single Band): Total output power must not exceed **5 watts**.

B. Single Operator Overlay Categories: Any Single Operator entrant who meets the requirements may ALSO enter one of the categories shown below by adding the appropriate CATEGORY-OVERLAY line in the Cabrillo log file header. Overlay category entries will be listed separately in the results; scored as All Bands; and grouped by High Power and Low Power (includes QRP).

1. Classic Operator (CLASSIC): The entrant will use only one radio, no QSO finding assistance, and may operate up to 24 of the 48 hours – **off times are a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged**. If the log shows more than 24 hours of operation, only the first 24 hours will be counted for the overlay score. Receiving while transmitting is prohibited. Single Operator Assisted entries are not eligible for this category.

2. Rookie (ROOKIE): The operator was first licensed as a radio amateur less than three (3) years before the date of the contest. Indicate the date first licensed in the SOAPBOX field. Previous Rookie winners are ineligible for plaques in this category.

3. Youth (YOUTH): The operator was 25 years old or younger at the start of the contest. Indicate the birth year in the SOAPBOX field.

W6SF SWAP MEET PAGE ITEMS FOR SALE, FOR TRADE OR WANTED

TO LIST AN ITEM ON THE SWAP MEET PAGE PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL n6acl@arrl.net

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY WHEN YOU SELL THE ITEM OR NO LONGER NEED THE LISTING. MOVING SOON TO THE WEBSITE www.w6sf.org/swapmeet.html

▲ **65 FT Self-Supporting Tri-Ex Crank-up Tower** — **ONLY ONE TOWER LEFT!!** These towers are several thousand dollars new and reasonably priced at \$600 each which can include limited delivery area around Stockton, CA Hand Crank included on each and are in solid shape. Estate Sale from N6GTO — John NZ6Q 209-331-3078, nz6q@arrl.net **SOLD!!**



▲ **Shure Model 444 Desk Microphone** — Classic Microphone sounds and looks great next to any rig, but Kenwood, Heathkit and Yaesu tube rigs seem to give it the most prestige. Wired for 4-prong plug typical for classic tube transceivers Hi-Lo impedance switch on bottom. Asking \$60 or BO John NZ6Q 209-331-3078 nz6q@arrl.net **SOLD!!**

ICOM IC-706MK2 TRANSCEIVER — Icom IC-706MK2 HF + VHF Transceiver for sale. All HF Bands 100W compact reliable transceiver great filters, great “first rig” for new hams. Get on the air on 10Meters and 6Meters Technicians + 2M VHF 25W so you can have one radio that does it all. Remote mountable face plate if you decide to go mobile (cable required). Excellent condition. Asking \$500 John NZ6Q 209-687-0774 nz6q@arrl.net **SOLD!!**



KENWOOD TS-570D TRANSCEIVER — All HF Bands 100W compact reliable transceiver with great filters and great audio. Very good “first rig” for a new ham. 160 – 10 Meters, no 6-Meters on this radio. Very good condition. Asking \$300 John NZ6Q 209-687-0774 nz6q@arrl.net



MIRAGE B-5016G 2 meter amplifier (144-148 Mhz) in excellent condition and working. It comes with the manual. . This is a 50 watt in 160 watts out amplifier. Asking \$125 John NZ6Q 209-687-0774 nz6q@arrl.net



YAESU FT-840 TRANSCEIVER - Yaesu FT-840 HF Transceiver is for sale. All HF Bands 100w compact reliable transceiver with 12-v switching power supply. SSB, CW, AM (25W), FM modes, 80 – 10 M HF. Asking \$300 Contact John NZ6Q 209-687-0774 or nz6q@arrl.net



2023 CLUB MEETING DATES & SCHEDULED TRAININGS

January 12	Annual General Meeting, Pedaling Paths, VOTA John NZ6Q
February 9.....	Meeting – Pedaling Paths, CQ DX Marathon
March 9.....	Meeting – Parks on the Air / steam
April 13	Meeting – TBD
May 11.....	Meeting – Museum Ships Weekend
June 8	Meeting - Field Day Final Prep
July 13	Meeting – HamSpeak
August 10.....	Meeting – (1800 hours) RDF – Fox Hunting & Club BBQ
September 14.....	Meeting – RadioSport – CQP Prep
October 12.....	Meeting - Nominations for Officers 2023 – Shake Out
November 9.....	Meeting – Elections – TBD
December 14	Christmas Dinner / Year End Celebration (1800 hours)
December 31.....	Straight Key Night

HamCrams for 2023 – 7:45 AM - Stockton Fire Station #2 or LDS Church Ham La in Lodi

February 11th April 15th August 12th October 14th December 9th

Ham-U Training Day – 8:30 AM Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints Lodi, CA

April 29th

Club Events 2023

January 7 TH – Kids Day	On the Air Event
January 28 th - Winter Field Day	On the Air Event
February 13 th – 17 th – School Club Roundup	On the Air Event
February 15 th – 22 nd – W1AW/6 On-The-Air	On the Air Event
February 25 th – Pedaling Paths Bike Ride	Linden and surrounding areas
March 4 th - LDS Church Preparedness	Stockton LDS Church near UOP
March 4 th - 5 th ARRL DX Contest Phone	On the Air Event
March 25 th – STEAMFEST 2021	LIVE EVENT – Lincoln High School
April 16 th – Rookie Round-up, SSB	On the Air Event
April 22 nd – Stockton Sailing Club Event	Stockton Sailing Club Opening Day – Club booth and on the air
April 29 th - Ham-U	Lodi LDS Church – New Ham Training Day
April – May – Weed-Whacking on the hill	Fiddletown Repeater Site – Exact Date TBD
May 6 th – Delta Century Ride	Jessie’s Grove Winery
May 20 th - Linden Cherry Festival	Parade Assist & Demonstration Booth
Jun 2 ND – 4 th – Museum Ships Weekend	USS Lucid, Stockton, CA
June 10 th - ARRL VHF Contest	On the Air Event
June 17 th – Kids Day	Stockton, Lodi, Galt Library Demonstrations
June 24 TH – 26 TH – ARRL Field Day	Site TBD, Stockton, CA
July 4 th – 4 th of July Parade	Downtown Stockton
September 30 th – STAN Joaquin Event	Northgate Park – Manteca w/SARA and other clubs
October 7 th – 8 th – California QSO Party	On the Air Event
October 8 th – 14 th NFPW Event	On the Air Event W6SFD as N6F
October 11 th – 17 th W1AW/6 VOTA	On the Air Event W6SF Members as W1AW
October 14 th – Walk to End Alzheimer’s	Swenson Park, Stockton
October 19 th – Great Shake-Out Earthquake	On the Air
October 20 th – 22 nd – Pacificon 2023	San Ramon Marriott Hotel
November 18 th – 19 th ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	On the Air Event
November 23 th – Run Against Hunger	Waterfront – Downtown Stockton
December 8 th – 10 th – ARRL 10M Contest	On the Air Event



A HAM'S CALENDAR

November 9th, 2023 – November SDARC Meeting – 1900 hours – Stockton Sailing Club, 4820 Buckley Cove, Stockton – Also on Zoom Video Conference. Election of Club Officers for 2024.
PASTA NIGHT!!!

November 18th – 19th 2023 – November ARRL Sweepstakes PHONE - On the Air Event – Details at www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 23rd, 2023 – 19th Annual Run Against Hunger – 0630 hours meet at Banner Isl Ball Park See details in this issue of the newsletter

December 9th, 2023 – HamCram – Stockton Fire Station #2 0800 hours – Study Session from 0800 – 1500 Test Only 1500 WWW.W6SF.ORG/HAMCRAM

December 8th – 10th 2023 – ARRL 10-Meter Contest - On the Air Event – Details at www.arrl.org/10-meter

December 14th 2023 – December SDARC Meeting / Christmas Party / End of Year Extravaganza – 1800 hours – Shipyard Restaurant – Port of Stockton, No host cocktails / Meet n Great 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM, Raffle and fun n games starts at 7:30 PM

Do you have any suggestions, comments or concerns? We want to hear from you.
Do you have an idea that we, as a club can all benefit from? Let us hear about it.
To submit articles for the monthly newsletter, email N6ACL annettel@westwayfeed.com

W6SF CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS: Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month **at the Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Brookside Cove, Stockton, CA – off March Lane west of Interstate 5**. Members, guests, and people having an interest in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 9th at 19:00 hours...** Members and guests are welcome.

WEEKLY NETS: 2000hrs the regular club net starts. **147.165+ PL 107.2 Hz and 442.250 + PL 107.2 are the regular repeaters for these Nets.** Members and visitors are invited to check in. There is also an unofficial get together on Thursday evenings (except meeting night) at 8:00pm on **28.457MHz.**

San Joaquin ARES Net: Tuesday evenings 1930hrs on **147.090+ PL 114.8 Hz**

CLUB REPEATERS: Located in the Sierra at 2500 feet, the club repeater covers the southern Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Valleys. The call sign is W6SF, and can be heard on **147.165+Mhz** with a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. From the same site, the club also operates a 440MHZ repeater at **442.250 +** with a PL of 107.2 Hz.

The club also operates a UHF repeater located in downtown Stockton **444.575MHz +** with a PL 107.2Hz. Coverage includes the Stockton area as well as parts of Lodi, Manteca, Tracy and Ripon.

CLUB SIMPLEX FX: 147.51 MHz.

CLUB WEBSITE: <http://www.w6sf.org>

2023 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President:	W6SXA , Mark Cloud	Club Officers can be reached at sdarc@w6sf.org or
Vice President:	K6QBQ , Joyce Marciel	
Treasurer:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	board@w6sf.org
Secretary:	N6ACL , Annie Lewis-Dopkus	
Member At Large:	KN6IOK , Al Hill	
Call Sign Trustee:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	
Repeater Trustee:	NC6R , Steve Allred	
Membership Chairperson	KN6TQZ , Kelly Greene	membership@w6sf.org
Event Chairman	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	NZ6Q , John Litz	

CLUB DUES:

\$25 SINGLE and \$30 FAMILY

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, P.O. BOX 690271, STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271

We thank you for your continued support!