

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



Fall Contest Season is HERE!

GET ON THE AIR





**NOVEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th 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.

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 Steve KN6ZJJ
Vice President Mark W6SXA
Treasurer Joyce K6QBQ
Secretary Open – NOMINATION NEEDED

You may self-nominate if you would like to serve on the board. Nominations are open until the vote is called. Your club has a lot going on and WE NEED GOOD LEADERS.

The meeting program will discuss the Run Against Hunger coming up in Thanksgiving morning. You can sign-up online on the club website.

ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON

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=aIRiTFhydFNtMIBQZXAwOUd2YTN1UT09>

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

DECEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th 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!

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 three 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

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.

Run & Walk Against Hunger 11-28-2024



GET READY FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL RUN / WALK AGAINST HUNGER THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH DOWNTOWN STOCKTON

Paul **N6KZW** and Paul **KC6RRR** are coordinating this year’s Thanksgiving Day Run Against Hunger for the club. He’s looking for volunteers! This is the 20th 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.

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

- Steve, KN6ZJJ

Hello fellow hams!

2024 has been a great year for ham radio with on the air activities. In January the year started with Winter Field Day. February saw Pedaling Paths where the club supplied radio support for the 65 mile bicycle event, April had the 2nd annual Stan Joaquin picnic and swap meet, May had the Delta Century bicycle event where the club provided radio support for both a short and long course, and the first half of the year finished up with the Linden Cherry Festival radio support, Museum Ships weekend aboard the USS Lucid and Field Day at Charlie's vineyard. Wow! That was a busy 1st half of 2024 – but the 2nd half had/has plenty of on the air events as well.

July was the Stockton 4th of July parade with club radio support, October has CA QSO party at Charlie's vineyard, the Great Shake Out emergency radio event, Pacificon in San Ramon and the Walk to beat Alzheimer's in Stockton with radio support. The year continues in November with the Walk/Run to Beat Hunger, the 10-meter ARRL event and our year end Christmas dinner at the Portside Shipyard restaurant.

2024 has been a good year for newly licensed hams/new members to the club as well. Remember to welcome the new hams that passed their test and are just getting started. They may need help programming a radio or with some antenna advice. We have a wealth of experienced hams in the club to help get our new members started.

As the year comes to an end, I want to thank everyone who participated/organized the events for the year. The events can't happen without organizing, planning and club participation. Countless hours go into preparing for events, organizing radio assignments, shopping for supplies, setting up antennas, masts, radio stations and having the flexibility to move a radio control station when it starts pouring rain out – as it did on the Delta Century bike event. The new year will have just as many activities, and I look forward to being on the air with all the fellow club members. I especially look forward to the new hams/new members getting involved in the fun and exciting events.



Finally, we could use a few new net control operators for the club's Monday night net. You don't need experience – we'll provide you with a member roster that has the call signs on it along with a script. New members are encouraged to be "net control". It's a great opportunity to get familiar with everyone's call sign and be on the air.

Thanks again for a great 2024, happy holidays to all! I'm looking forward to an exciting 2025 "on the air".

Steve – KN6ZJJ



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark, W6SXA

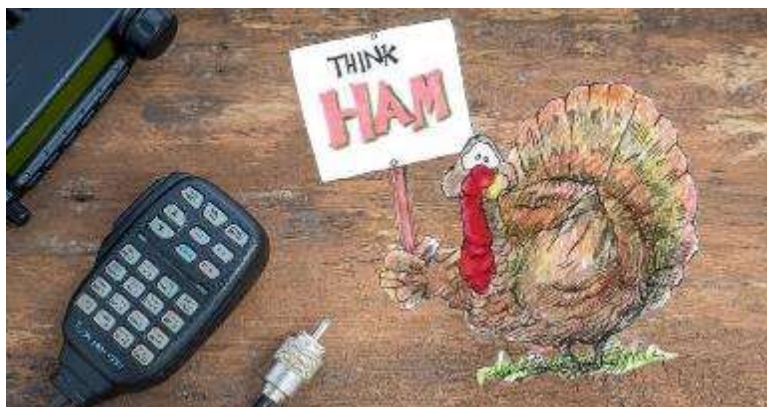
Hello SDARC members,

October was a busy month, especially with Pacificon. This was the first year that I dove into volunteering to help with the planning and work there. Of course, that meant that I was super-busy the whole time there ... serving as a Volunteer Examiner both days, manning the Talk-in radio, and helping with the vendors. Interestingly, I found that the whole "Pacificon" experience was so much more fun and rewarding. It's a point that I believe applies to a lot of the club activities that SDARC supports.

The next event that our club is going to be supporting is the Walk and Run Against Hunger. It will be on Thanksgiving Day morning. I know ... it's Thanksgiving Day and everybody has family commitments, but this starts early in the morning, and we are done no later than noon. Commit today to dive into the Run Against Hunger. If you don't have a portable radio or a yellow safety vest, we got you covered. It's a great way for you and our club to support our community. It's always a fun event to watch and you get a nice long-sleeve T-shirt for being a volunteer. We will be signing up hams to help at our next club meeting. I hope you can join us for coffee and goodies at net control that morning and you'll still have time to have a great Thanksgiving Day with your family.

See you all at our next club meeting on November 14th

Mark - W6SXA





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>

Why be a net control station?

- 1) It's an important amateur radio skill
- 2) It improves your "on-the-air" confidence
- 3) It's not very difficult to run a net and...
- 4) You 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 17th starting at 10:17AM . 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.

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 USGS report provides "Ground Truth" reports. In any disaster, but especially earthquakes, 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.

FEMA and Homeland Security use 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.



GREAT SHAKE OUT EVENT – SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ARES

San Joaquin County ARES was activated to participate in the Great Shake Out earthquake drill on 10/17 at 10:17 AM.

The net was started by Bob N6TCE on the 147.165 repeater with the announced drill message. There were 18 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

The Thursday morning Hamz and EggZ group got involved reporting members ready to be deployed. Again, the club's weekly breakfast spot sustained no reportable damage – Hams and Eggz shall continue!

SJC EC Bob N6TCE commented on the Monday Night Net 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 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease on Saturday October 19th starting at 8AM. This year, club members were placed around the new 3Km course mapped out around the beautiful campus at UOP.



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.





The event was well attended with nearly 500 walkers pre-registered and 66 teams. So far the Walk to End Alzheimer's has raised \$263,000 toward finding a cure for ALZ.

A big thank you from Suzette and the local Alzheimer's Org Chapter staff for our help in planning, coordinating and protecting the event every year. Not only does SDARC support the walk with communications around the now expanded course, but we have been included in the pre-event planning for the past several years.

Thank you Paul N6KZW and team for your great

work!

The walk was pretty well wrapped up by 11AM giving those who wanted to still attend Pacificon plenty of time to get there.



The Walk to End Alzheimer's will be back in October 2024!

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT



Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Organization Meeting Minutes Stockton Sailing Club – October 10, 2024

The meeting was started at 7 pm by President Steve Cranny. All officers were present with Mark on Zoom. There were 13 members present on site.

Treasurer's Report:

- Per Treasurer Joyce Marciel, the current balance of the general fund and PayPal is \$4,830.44. Some of the money is for the Christmas dinner which will be coming out of the funds.

Membership Report:

- Membership stands at 85.

Old Business:

- The QSO card was presented to the members and a suggestion was made.
- The club officers topic was brought up again and existing officers said they would retain their positions unless someone else would like to step in. Anyone can nominate themselves or another up to the next club meeting. Bob (N6TCE) made a motion and Paul (N6KZW) seconded it to keep the current officers. The vote will be at the next member meeting on November 14th.

New Business:

- The presentation for the center for the blind/visually impaired is still open if anyone would like to take point on it.
- Members were reminded about Pacificon this month. Motels and shuttles were talked about.
- Paul (N6KZW) talked about the Alzheimer's walk scheduled for October 19th. There is still time to sign up if anyone wishes. Contact Paul at n6kzw@sbcglobal.net.
- The club Christmas dinner will be at the Shipyard on December 12th starting at 6 pm. Paying at the door is acceptable but notification beforehand is desired to get an accurate headcount. You will need to pay for alcohol or soda's and John (NZ6Q) will check to see if credit cards will be accepted.

- Club dues can be paid for 2025 and the rates have not changed. Ask any board member for an envelope.

Presentation:

- Bob (N6TCE) gave a presentation on the 2024 great shakeout that will begin on 10/17 at 10:17 am. Information can be found at www.shakeout.org. Questions can also be brought up during the round table discussion at the Monday night net at 8 pm.
- If you are going to provide a winlink report remember to mark it as an exercise and c.c. Bob (N6TCE) and SHAKEOUT.

Upcoming Events:

- October 12 – HamCram, Stockton Fire Station, 110 W. Sonora St., Stockton.
- October 18 to 20 – Pacificon San Ramon Marriott.
- October 19th – Alzheimer’s Walk at UOP – club event; **sanctioned**.
- November 14 – Member meeting; vote on club officers.
- December 12 – Christmas dinner; Shipyard Portside Restaurant 6 pm; **sanctioned**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm and the next scheduled meeting is set for November 14 at 7 pm.

2025 CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Steve KN6ZJJ as President
Mark W6SXA as Vice-President
Joyce K6QBQ as Treasurer
OPEN for Secretary

Club members are reminded that additional nominations would be heard by the Secretary until the call for the vote at the November meeting. The position of Secretary has been reopened for nominations as Al N6ALH notified the Board that he would not be running for another term as Secretary.





Highlights

There was a constant buzz of activity at the ARRL Booths and all the vendors in General.

John NZ6Q gave a well-received talk about our club's activity with STEAM "Get Your Club STEAMed Up with new members"

Over \$10,000 in prizes were awarded.

Parschute mobile not only worked young hams including our own Collin K6CMM and Shane K5SML but managed to make it back as the Keynote Speaker for Saturday night's Banquet



PacificonSM 2025 will be back at the San Ramon Marriott.
Start planning on attending in 2025!

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST PHONE NOV 16th – 17th



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

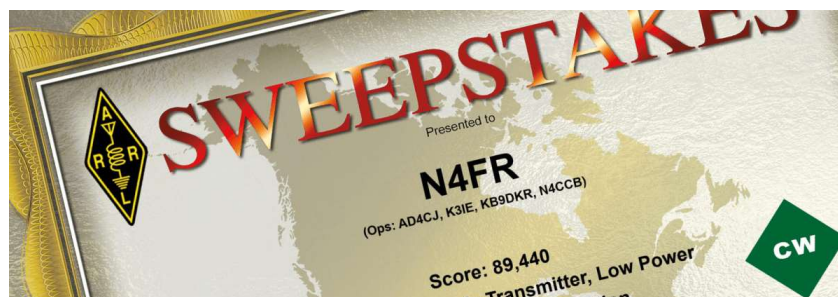
The ARRL Sweepstakes consists of two contests, one for phone and one for CW, which are open to US and Canadian hams only. A summary of the important rules:

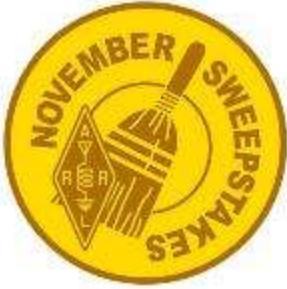
Contest Period:

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 by 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" SS 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!



A HAM'S CALENDAR

November 14th, 2023 – November SDARC Meeting – 1900 hours – Stockton Sailing Club, 4820 Buckley Cove, Stockton – Also on Zoom Video Conference. Election of Club Officers for 2025. Run Against Hunger Event

November 16th – 17th 2024 – November ARRL Sweepstakes PHONE - On the Air Event – Details at www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 28th, 2024 – 20th Annual Run Against Hunger – 0630 hours meet at Banner Isl Ball Park See details in this issue of the newsletter

December 12th 2024 – 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

December 14th, 2024 – HamCram – Stockton Fire Station #2 0800 hours – Study Session from 0800 – 1500 Test Only 1500 WWW.W6SF.ORG/HAMCRAM

December 14th – 15th – ARRL 10-Meter Contest - On the Air Event – Details at www.arrl.org/10-meter

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 14th 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>

2024 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President:	KN6ZJJ , Steve Cranny	Club Officers can be reached at
Vice President:	W6SXA , Mark Cloud	
Treasurer:	K6QBQ , Joyce Marciel	sdarc@w6sf.org or
Secretary:	N6ALH , Al Hill	board@w6sf.org
Member At Large:	KN6PYJ , Tim Bernhardson	
Call Sign Trustee:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	
Repeater Trustee:	NC6R , Steve Allred	
Membership Chairperson	OPEN	
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!