

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



W6SF FLYSHEET



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

NOVEMBER 2022

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



Fall Contest Season is *HERE!*
GET ON THE AIR



NOVEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 7:00 PM

STOCKTON SAILING CLUB

4980 BUCKLEY COVE RD

WEST MARCH LANE TO BUCKLEY COVE

QST QST QST... ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2023 ... The November meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Stockton Sailing Club Auditorium, 4980 Buckley Cove Rd in North 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.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend in-person or online... Coffee and snacks are serviced at the in-person meeting.

The meeting will start with a final call for candidates for the 2023 Board of Directors. The following candidates were nominated at the October meeting.

President	-	Mark W6SXA
Vice President	-	Joyce K6QBQ
Treasurer	-	Charlie WB6NVB
Secretary	-	Annie N6ACL

If there are no other candidate nominations, the president will close the nominations with a call for a vote for all unopposed officers.

The meeting program will be on NanoVNAs presented by Mark W6SXA. NanoVNAs are amazingly inexpensive devices that can tell you a lot about your station. You don't want to miss this. 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.

The meeting **will be** broadcasted on Zoom.

Topic: W6SF SDARC MONTHLY MEETING - ZOOM INVITE
Time: November 10th, 2022 7:00 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 (San Jose)



2022 CHRISTMAS DINNER & YEAR-END CELEBRATION!

**THURSDAY NIGHT,
DECEMBER 8TH 6:00PM**

QST QST QST... Sign-ups are open for the 2022 Christmas Dinner & Year-End Celebration which will be held at the

Shipyard Portside Restaurant, 2305 W Washington St, Stockton.

Several outstanding prizes will be offered in our year-end raffle. Raffle prizes include four (4), that's right FOUR complete radio packages including DMR, GPS enabled and Analog, the 2022 Radio Amateurs Handbook, Antennas, test gear and more. By more, we are talking about non-radio prizes so the non-ham in the family can win something he or she wants too!

Sign-up for the dinner today! Go to www.w6sf.org and follow the link to the event sign-up page and book your seats today. You can pay for your reservation in advance using PayPal for just a \$1.00 fee – bringing your total dinner costs to just \$26 ! The club is picking up the tip and the tax. 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

RAFFLE: starts at 8:00 PM

So... grab your spouse, significant other or just that friend that you want to get their license and join us for good food and good fun; celebrating a great year together as a club!

PS – if you're having trouble with PayPal just contact Annie N6ACL to make other arrangements for paying your reservations.





GET READY FOR THE 17TH ANNUAL RUN / WALK AGAINST HUNGER THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH DOWNTOWN STOCKTON

Paul **N6KZW** is coordinating this year's Thanksgiving Day Run Against Hunger for the club. He's looking for volunteers! This is the 18th 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 bring 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 morn.

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**

November 10th at 1900 hrs (7:00pm) is our next club meeting at the Stockton Sailing Club.

I will be presenting a talk on the NanoVNA. If you happen to have one, bring it along and we'll have fun exploring the basics and some interesting and informative information on these incredible little devices.

The November meeting will be elections for next year's club officers. Nominations can still be made but please make sure that if you want to nominate someone other than yourself for a position, make sure that they are willing to serve before nominating them.

Pacificon was a great event this year. One of our newest members received an award for being the youngest ham at the event. That of course would be Colin Meeks, K6CMM. For me, it was a privilege to serve as a volunteer examiner for both Saturday and Sunday.

Don't forget that if you are planning to serve on the Run Against Hunger crew on Thanksgiving morning ... please sign up of the W6SF web site. That event is always a quick and easy one for us with very few problems and we'll be finished by 11AM, so you can still spend the rest of the day with your family.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a "Hamz-n-Eggs" breakfast every Thursday morning

at The Omelet House on Cherokee Rd at Hwy 99 at 9:30am, or 9:00am as many are arriving earlier and earlier in order to secure a good spot to sit. It's a very special time to get together and just talk Ham Radio or whatever else you'd care to share with whoever is nearby at the table. No business to transact, just easy, relaxed conversation. Join us every Thursday. Refills are free!

Don't forget our 10-meter net if you have an HF rig and an antenna that works at 28.457 MHz. It starts 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 are able to 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 far your signal is getting out. We'd love to hear from you.

73



Mark – W6SXA

VICE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce, K6QBQ

Fall greetings to my fellow hams! I am pleased to see the endless hot summer gone, and am enjoying the cooler weather, and lower electric bill as the air conditioner takes a long winter break. With the cooler weather, November is the month I plan to modify my HF antenna and finally get on the air outside my local area. But I will admit I did hear conversation last week between two hams in Georgia, which was quite exciting. I have ordered my QSL cards and will be ready to start making contacts.

This past month during our club meeting nominations were accepted for the 2023 officers, but only one new person stepped up for nomination. If you are not ready to be a board member, how about membership chair, events chair, or field day coordinator. Don't be shy; you will receive help and guidance from your fellow club members. I was a licensed ham for only 3 months when I was nominated for vice president. Yes, I was a little unsure if I could figure it all out, but the club members supported me all the way. And I will support you too.

Besides our monthly club meeting and election of the 2023 officers, this month is the annual Run Against Hunger on Thanksgiving morning in downtown Stockton. If you have not worked this event, it is a lot of fun, but make sure you have a warm coat, hat and gloves because it can be really chilly in the early morning. This event benefits the emergency food bank of Stockton and San Joaquin County. Our job (if you are not running) is to provide radio support during the event. Please sign up on our website home page, click on event sign-up, and scroll down just under the Christmas Dinner sign up.

Speaking of Christmas Dinner, please join us on Thursday December 8th at 6:00PM for a great evening of fellowship, food (and we are talking really good food), and of course prizes! Sign up on the website home page, click event sign up. We are planning car pool options for those who need a ride. See you at the next meeting, Thursday morning breakfast, or on the air!

73

Joyce K6QBB



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 9:00 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 News and the Ground Truth

Hello all we are slowly growing ARES into a group with can be a useful tool for our Local and State Emergency Managers.

Even if you are not a member of ARES or any other group if there is quake and you feel it please fill out a DYFI report.

Recent bad weather had a sighted tornado in the Modesto area. So let's remind everyone to consider taking SKYWARN training.

This training is available to anyone from the Nation Weather Service and comes at no cost to you. These reports represent a valuable "**Ground Truth**" report to the NWS.

Training to be a SKYWARN member can be found here as an on-line class and test.

<https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN>
<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/spotter/index.php>

Bob, N6TCE
San Joaquin County, ARRL's ARES EC

You can get the latest information and join through their website at www.sjcares.org



GREAT SHAKE OUT EVENT OCTOBER 20TH 10:20

San Joaquin County ARES was activated to participate in the Great Shake Out

earthquake drill on 10/20 at 10:20 AM. The net was started by John NZ6Q on the 147.090 Lodi Repeater with the announced drill message. There were 28 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 switched to the Stockton 147.165 repeater and coordinated with SJC EC Bob N6TCE to send "Did You Feel It" DYFI reports to the USGS via WinLink. Even the Thursday morning Hamz and EggZ group got involved reporting that the Cherokee overpass to 99 was damaged, but the breakfast was still good.

The picture is Colin K6CMM at Mickey's Grove checking in with Bob K6DGQ and Joyce K6QBQ using Bob's Go-Kit on FM and on WinLink.

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 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease on Saturday October 15th starting at 8AM. Club members were placed around the 3Km course mapped out along the greens and fairways of Swenson Park Golf Course.

Vice President Joyce K6QBQ ran the event after Ron KG7OR took ill. In all about 11 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 leaders Mark W6SXA and Joyce K6QBQ working with the Alzheimer's leaders on course map and placement of operators as the "eyes and ears" of the event.



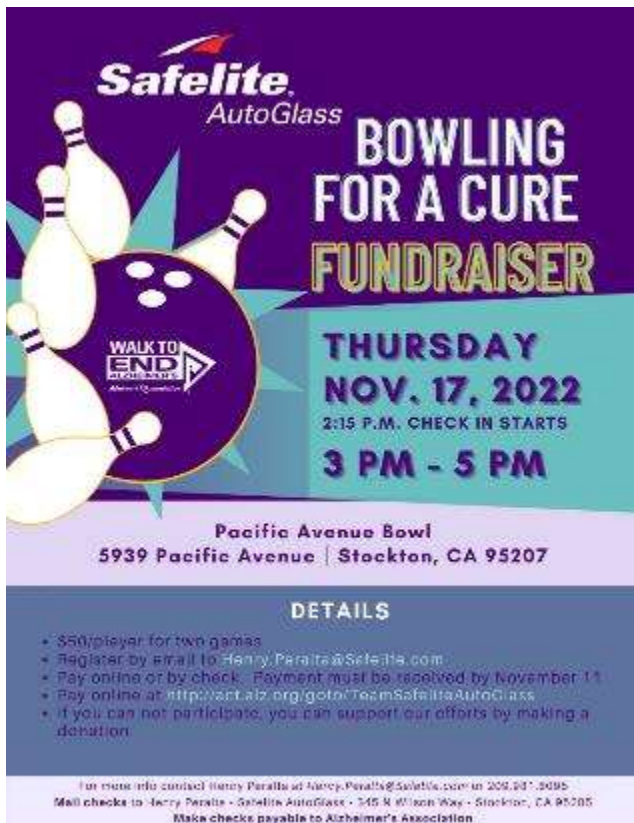
Joyce K6QBQ also assisted with organizing teen volunteers on the day of the event.

Everything was pretty well wrapped up by 11AM giving several club members the opportunity to head to Pacificon for the rest of the weekend.



If you're interested in continuing to support the Alzheimer's Association, you can sign up for "Bowling for a Cure" at Pacific Ave Bowl.

Let them know you're part of SDARC!



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 13th starting at 7pm.

There was a limited Zoom presentation because of an equipment issue.

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

Old Business:

John NZ6Q gave a report on the CQP Expedition to Mariposa County. We made 981 QSOs and worked all 58 multipliers for a submitted score of 144,750 points and currently led the Multi-Op Low Power Expedition category. Colin K6CMM got on the air on 10M using his call sign and made 20 QSOs Sunday afternoon before we had to start breaking down. Thomas KN6TQY and Kelly KN6TQZ arrived Saturday night and served up a great meal for all and then got on the air Sunday morning as well. Joyce K6QBQ was a big help with set-up on Friday as well as President Mark W6SXA. Everyone is excited to do this again next year.

Bob N6TCE gave a report on Saturday's HamCram in Lodi. We licensed 9 new Technicians including a mother and son from Valley Springs, 2 upgrades pass their General and 1 Extra Class upgrade.

John NZ6Q also reminded the club that N6F was still in progress and club members could sign up to participate as the special event station until Saturday midnight.

There was a report on the Alzheimer's Walk given by Joyce K6QBQ as Zoom issues prevented Ron KG7OR from connecting. Everything looked pretty set and a couple of additional members stepped up to volunteer.

President Mark W6SXA opened the floor for nominations for club officers for 2023. Peter K6PH stated he would not continue as Treasurer and Charlie WB6NVB was nominated (accepted) as Treasurer to replace him. All the other officer positions had no nominations to replace incumbents. Bob N6TCE motioned to accept a "white ballot" election, but it was pointed out that club bylaws keep the nomination window open until the November meeting. Anyone

wishing to nominate a member to board, including themselves, should contact Annie N6ACL (n6acl@arrl.net) to be included in November's election.

Annie N6ACL reported on the club Christmas Party / Raffle and it was voted on by the membership to hold the Year-End Celebration 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 on Thursday October 20th at 10:20 AM. He discussed the incident plan using both the Lodi 147.090 and Stockton 147.165 repeaters as well as WinLink. Stations will be encouraged to submit drill messages of simulated damages as they check in.



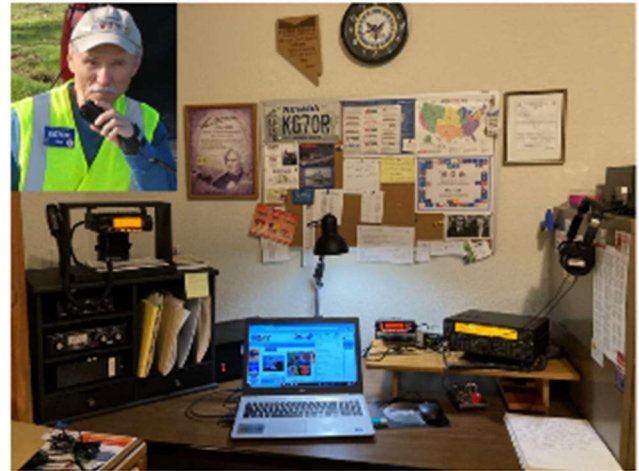
WinLink will be used to send "Did You Feel It" reports to the USGS. Stations without WinLink were discouraged from sending damage reports through the USGS website as their website had no way to flag the reports as part of a "drill" and not the real thing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Annie N6ACL
Secretary



Photo Shack Contest Winner



Ron KG7OR was selected as this years "Shack Photo Contest Winner" It was announced in the September meeting. Ron receives a ton of bragging rights for his entry as well as a cash prize from the club. Great photo too – simple, neat, organized... not at all like oh say something like this?



***Congratulations on your achievement
Ron!***



**RUNNER-
UP
PHOTOS**

**Mark
W6SXA**

**Joyce
K6QBQ**



California QSO Party

The California QSO Party was the first weekend in October. Joyce K6QBQ, Colin K6CMM, Mark W6SXA, Kelly KN6TQZ and Thomas KN6TQY joined John NZ6Q, Annie N6ACL and Shane K5SML for a multi op – multi station county expedition in Mariposa County at Lake McClure. The first CQP took place in 1966. Since 1974, the Northern California Contest Club ([NCCC](#)) has sponsored CQP. CQP has traditionally opened the annual contest season by providing an opportunity for contesters to prepare for the ARRL November Sweepstakes since the format is similar. John NZ6Q has been doing county expeditions since 2010 and Annie joined him with Shane in 2016 with National Parks on the Air + CQP at the Pinnacles in San Benito County.



John NZ6Q arrived Thursday afternoon and started setting up tables, antennas, and supplies into Thursday evening. Joyce K6QBQ arrived Friday mid-day with Colin K6CMM and they set up our HexBeam for 20 – 10 Meters and our 80/40 Meter dipole using John's antenna launcher. Annie N6ACL arrived with Shane K5SML Friday and every station was set-up and checked out on Friday evening.



Saturday morning the contest was off to a fast start with activity on 40 – 10 Meters. Annie N6ACL was on 15 Meters making Phone QSOs at a fast pace, John was on 20M CW, Mark W6SXA on 40M and Colin K6CMM with Joyce K6QBQ on 10M. That crew quickly switched up to 20M phone in the first two hours with Shane K5SML providing relief watch and coverage throughout the day until he had his own good run of QSOs on 20M phone. 15M continued well into the night and Annie N6ACL would log nearly 300 QSOs on 15 M phone for the weekend.

John NZ6Q would log nearly as many on CW, and the balance was a mix of phone operations on 20M, 40M and 80M overnight.

Kelly KN6TQZ and Thomas KN6TQY arrived early Saturday evening and came prepared with a delicious tri-tip dinner. We need him to cook for next years Field Day because man it was good!

Everybody took turns into the evening on Saturday with being on the air or with eating smores and having a lot of fun.



Sunday early we were back on the air and Colin K6CMM and I worked 10 Meters together until he figured out how the voice keyer worked on the IC-7300 and set-up his own CQ using his call sign. So he started then making QSOs on 10M phone and I took over logging. It was great to watch him enjoy working station after station and getting very supportive comments from operators around the country. At one point he got up and I answered a call and was promptly told "No, I don't want to work you, I want to work the other operator!" So Colin dutifully got back on the mike and promptly worked that guy plus about 5 more.



In CQP, California becomes the "DX" and it's a great to see the rest of the country out in force "hunting" us on the radio.

It took a few hours to get everything down at the end of the contest. Thanks to everyone working together, we did manage to get out of there before sunset. 73 until next October for the greatest QSO Party of them all! de NZ6Q



981 QSOs.... 58 Multipliers (all).... 144,750 points

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

CW NOV 5th – 6th

PHONE NOV 19th – 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

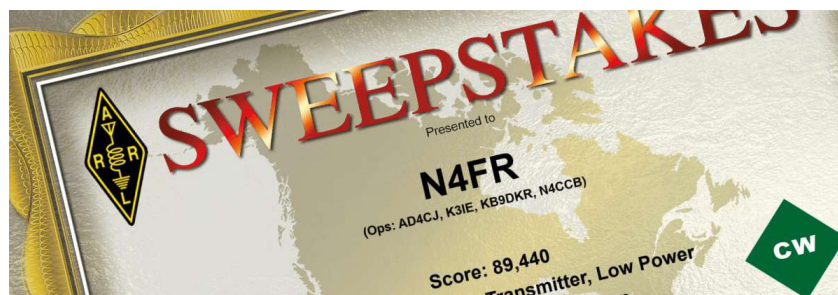
The ARRL Sweepstakes consists of two contests, one for phone and one for CW, which are open to US and Canadian hams only. A summary of the important rules:

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 callsign** as part of the exchange.



This Photo by I Unknown

- **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!



CQ World Wide DX Contest

November 25th – 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 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

DENNIS W6UT IS SELLING HIS UNIQUE COLLECTION OF CW KEYS

- **2004-2006 Vibroplex Original 100th Anniversary Key – Serial # 100A-536**

I purchased this key direct from Vibroplex. The key is no longer available. I could not find out from Vibroplex the year of production. The first year Vibroplex was patented was 1904 although some keys were made before the patent was issued. This key is as new as it has never been used and always stored in a case which will be included. I am asking \$300.00 plus shipping. From the Collection of Dennis Sanford, W6UT – email:

w6ut@att.net



- **1977 Vibroplex Lightning Bug Deluxe Serial No. 382556.** The key is in VG condition. It includes the Vibroplex Vari-Speed Adapter. This Vari-Speed is no longer manufactured. This model key was made from 1927 to 1979. \$175 plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed. Dennis W6UT – email: w6ut@arrl.net



- **1916 Vibroplex Original Serial No. 55439.** Dennis restored this key himself. The main frame and the damper frame have been replated. The key includes a sturdy protective case. \$275 plus \$22.00 shipping via Priority Mail and double boxed.



- **1940 or 1941.** Vibroplex Plate is not there. Arnold R. Noe is name on replacement plate and A.A.C.S. under name. Arnold was in US Army Aircorp from 1940 to 1945. AACS is ARMY AIRWAYS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM 1938. Arnold was born in 1917 and died in 2008. He lived and was raised in Columbus, OH. I have copy of his obituary from news paper that will go with key. The key is in excellent condition. \$250 with travel case plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed if shipped. w6ut@att.net



- **1937 Vibroplex Martin Junior Serial No. 109995.** It is called a Junior because it is slightly smaller than an Original. The key is in VG condition. The feet have been replaced with Vibroplex feet. The old feet will be included with the key. \$250 plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed. I will include an original case for \$25. Dennis W6UT w6ut@att.net



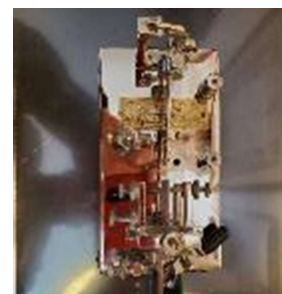
• **1943 Original Deluxe Serial No. 123982.** It is Battleship Gray as Chrome was needed for the war effort. It is in pristine condition. \$200 plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed. Dennis W6UT w6ut@att.net



• **1956 Vibroplex Zephyr Serial No. 196386** . It is in very good condition. These were only manufactured from 1939 to 1958. \$180 plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed. Dennis W6UT w6ut@att.net



• **1944 Vibroplex Champion Serial No. 137365.** The Champion's were sold from 1939 to 1979. It uses a standard Vibroplex Original base. The key is in in Very Good Condition. \$160 plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed. Dennis W6UT w6ut@att.net



• **Vibroplex #4 Blue Racer Standard Serial No. 157953.** The key is in VG condition. It has one small flaw as paint chipped off next to the frame on the right side as it was being cleaned for these pictures. A touch of black paint will take care of it. \$175 plus \$22.00 shipping via priority mail and double boxed. Dennis W6UT w6ut@att.net

Note: Dennis has 3 more Deluxe Blue Racers and a 1916 that he restored and comes with a Racer case.



If you are interested in purchasing any of these keys please contact Dennis W6UT via email at w6ut@att.net

• **RigExpert AA-170 Antenna Analyzer** - a powerful antenna analyzer designed for testing, checking, tuning or repairing antennas and antenna feedlines up to 170MHz (0 – 170Mhz). Mainly, this is an SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) and impedance measurement instrument (vector impedance analyzer). Estate Sale from N6GTO this is brand new in the box \$250 pick up in Stockton (\$25 additional for shipping/insured) John NZ6Q 209-331-3078 nz6q@arri.net



• **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 included 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@arri.net



• **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



• **TYT MD-380 DMR HT** – VHF/UHF DMR & ANALOG HT 1000 Memory Channels, 1000 Talk Zones or Contact Zones. DMR Tier II + MotoTurbo Estate Sale Item comes with Battery, Charger, NA-771 Nagoya antenna. Asking \$80 or best offer John NZ6Q 209-331-3078 nz6q@arrl.net ***sold pending programming....***



• **TYT MD-2017 DMR HT** – VHF/UHF DMR & ANALOG HT 3000 Memory Channels, 10000 Talk Zones or Contact Zones. DMR Tier II + MotoTurbo + IP67 rated Waterproof. Estate Sale Item comes with Battery, Charger, NA-771 Nagoya antenna. Asking \$80 or best offer John NZ6Q 209-331-3078 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



ICOM IC-706MK2G TRANSCEIVER – Icom IC-706MK2G HF + VHF + UHF 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 50W and 440MHz 20W 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 or nz6q@arrl.net



Astron RS-50M 12v 50-amp Power Supply with meters. Run your whole station and then some on one power supply, perfect pair up for the TS-480HX or other 200-watt HF transceivers. Asking \$250 John NZ6Q 209-687-0774 or nz6q@arrl.net



2022 CLUB MEETING DATES & SCHEDULED TRAININGS

January 13	Annual General Meeting, ARES Membership – Bob N6TCE
February 10.....	Meeting – Baluns – Mark W6SXA
March 10.....	Meeting – ARRL Membership Perks – John NZ6Q
April 14	Meeting – Antenna Tuners – Mark W6SXA
May 12.....	Meeting – Logbooks and MSW
June 9	Meeting - Field Day Final Prep
July 14	Meeting – Battery Go-Box
August 11.....	Meeting – (1800 hours) RDF – Fox Hunting & Club BBQ
September 8.....	Meeting – RadioSport – CQP Prep
October 13.....	Meeting - Nominations for Officers 2023 – SET Shake-Out
November 10	Meeting – Elections – NanoVNA
December 8	Christmas Dinner / Year End Celebration (1800 hours)
December 31.....	Straight Key Night

HamCrams for 2022 – 7:45 AM - Stockton Fire Station #2

February 12th April 9th August 13th October 8th December 10th

Ham-U Training Day – 8:00 AM Fire Station #2

SEPT DATE CANCELLED – MOVED TO MARCH 2023

Club Events 2022

January 1 st – Kids Day	On the Air Event
March 26 th – STEAMFEST 2021	LIVE EVENT – Lincoln High School - presentations needed
April 18 th – Rookie Round-up, SSB	On the Air Event
April 23 rd – Stockton Sailing Club Event	Stockton Sailing Club Opening Day – Club booth and on the air
April – May – Weed-Whacking on the hill	Fiddletown Repeater Site – Exact Date TBD
April 30 th – Delta Century Ride	Jessie's Grove Winery
Jun 3 rd – 5 th – Museum Ships Weekend	USS Lucid, Stockton, CA
June 18 th – Kids Day	Stockton, Lodi, Galt Library Demonstrations
June 25 th – 27 th – ARRL Field Day	Club Field Day Site TBD, Stockton, CA
July 3 rd – 4 th of July Parade	Downtown Stockton
October 1 st – 2 nd – California QSO Party	On the Air Event
October 14 th – 16 th – Pacificon 2022	San Ramon Marriott
October 15 th – Walk to End Alzheimer's	Swenson Park, Stockton
November 19 th – 20 th ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	On the Air Event
November 24 th – Run Against Hunger	Waterfront – Downtown Stockton
December 10 – 12 – ARRL 10M Contest	On the Air Event



A HAM'S CALENDAR

November 5th – 6th, 2022 – ARRL November Sweepstakes CW – Details coming in the next newsletter and on at www.w6sf.org great operating contest to improve your CW skill.

November 10th, 2022 – November SDARC Meeting – 1900 hours – Stockton Sailing Club, 4820 Buckley Cove, Stockton – Also on Zoom Video Conference. Election of Officers for 2023 Program – NanoVNAs

November 19th – 20th, 2022 – ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone – Details in the newsletter and on at www.w6sf.org great operating contest to improve your copying skills. Get a clean Sweep by working all 84 sections

November 24th, 2022 – Run Against Hunger – 0630 hours – Meet at Banner Isl Ball Park, Stockton See details in this issue of the newsletter

November 25th – 27th, 2022 – CQ World Wide Contest CW – Details in the newsletter and on at www.w6sf.org great operating contest for CW

December 8th, 2022 – December SDARC Meeting / Christmas Party – 1800 hours – Shipyard Restaurant, Port of Stockton – huge Raffle Details in this issue of the newsletter – sign up at www.w6sf.org \$25 per person.

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 10th 2022 starting at 7:00 PM** ... Members and guests are welcome.

WEEKLY NETS: Held each Monday evening at 1900hrs is an informal round-table discussion of technical and new ham topics Paul **N6KZW and Others.** Then at 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>

2022 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President:	W6SXA , Mark Cloud	Club Officers can be reached at sdarc@w6sf.org or
Vice President:	K6QBQ , Joyce Marciel	
Treasurer:	K6PH , Peter Hine	board@w6sf.org
Secretary:	N6ACL , Annie Lewis-Dopkus	
Member At Large:	N6TCE , Bob Officer	
Call Sign Trustee:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	
Repeater Trustee:	NC6R , Steve Allred	
Membership Chairman	N6KZW , Paul Engelman	
Event Chairman	OPEN	
Field Day Coordinator	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!