



SPORTS BASIS



Santa Claus Sale!

Some Items Up To **50% Off**
 Selected Powder Pants & Bibs **1/2 PRICE!**
 Selected Wool Sweaters **1/2 PRICE!**

SPECIAL Deals On Skis This Weekend!

	Retail	Was	NOW
Rossignol 4S	\$420	\$369.95	\$349.95
Rossignol 4M	\$399	\$349.95	\$329.95
FISCHER Vacuum SL	\$429	\$369.95	\$349.95
FISCHER Vacuum SLS	\$399	\$349.95	\$329.95

HELP US CLEAN OUR ATTIC!

Olin Demo Racing Skis - \$50!

Misc. New Skis From **K2, Dynastar & Olin \$150!**

Don't Forget Your **SKI CLUB DISCOUNTS!** 10% Non-Sale Items
 5% Sale Items

***RAY-BAN WAFARERS \$39⁹⁵** This Weekend Only

371-2420
219 N. Balsam St.



NWC Rocketeer

Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California 93555-6001

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Michelson Lab Awards

Four win with years of effort

Four leading examples of excellence at China Lake were honored with Michelson Laboratory Awards last Friday. This award, complementary to the Naval Weapons Center's L.T.E. Thompson Award, is one of the most prestigious forms of recognition at NWC.

Saluted for their long-term, outstanding contribution to the Center and the Navy were Dr. David K. Andes, A.K. (Sandy) Rogers, Werner G. Hueber and Clara K. Erickson. Capt. John Burt, NWC Commander and Gerry Schiefer, technical director, made the presentations at a lunch in the Commissioned Officers' Mess.

Capt. Burt said the awards recognized many years of service to NWC and the impact these individuals had on the Center, the Navy and the Department of Defense. Both the technical and administrative sides of the Center were honored with the award presentations.

David Andes was nominated by Dillard Bullard, head of the Intercept Weapons Department, for his "technical excellence and foresight in enhancing the Center's capabilities and technical reputation."

Throughout his NWC career, Andes has been involved in analysis and simulation of warfare systems to support missile development. He combined his talents as an outstanding mathematician with a keen interest and capability in computer science to develop and utilize advanced computer simulations of warfare systems.

When the related field of artificial intelligence emerged, Andes was called on to lead a Center-wide committee effort to develop a plan of action on AI. As the AI program progressed, it became apparent that conventional Von Neumann computers severely limited the use of AI in missile systems. The memory capacity and computational speed required to survive in the modern battle arena could not be realized without a revolution in computer processing. Andes led that revolution by turning his attention and talents to the new field of artificial neural networks. These

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TOY DRIVE — Many youngsters in the Indian Wells Valley will enjoy a merrier Christmas this year thanks to the efforts of the annual Toy Drive spearheaded by members of the China Lake Marine Aviation Detachment. Sgt. Chris Beebe and Cpl. Clarence Lea show some of the toys collected. There are collection boxes at many locations on board NWC and in Ridgcrest businesses. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be included in the holiday baskets for families of the valley who are in need this year. Photo by PHAA Gary Brady

Celebrate the blessings

This holiday season is a time to cherish, a time to gather with family and friends, whether at home or in places far removed from China Lake, and celebrate the blessings of the year.

As China Lakers prepare for Christmas, Hanukkah and the New Year, we can be grateful for another year in which this nation has remained at peace. We, the men and women, military and civilian members of the China Lake team play an important part in preserving the peace we all enjoy this year.

When most of us sit down to a festive dinner this holiday season, or enjoy the celebration of the dawn of a new year, many China Lakers will be standing watch in a hangar, patrolling the network of roads, maintaining a vigil at important facilities or making sure there is food on the table for the sailors and Marines eating in the galley. No matter where we are, we remain part of a world-wide Navy team maintaining the peace we all enjoy.

As this year draws to a close we want to express the great pride we have in serving this nation with you. The patriotism, dedication and determination China Lakers display is a large part of what makes this place special and makes it work so well.

1988 has been a year of accomplishment for China Lake and the Naval Weapons Center. It was teamwork which made all of the many good things possible. While individual diligence and excellence cannot be discounted, teamwork is the key to our success once again.

In a troubled world, we are fortunate to be able to choose how we each celebrate these holidays. Indeed, we are fortunate to be able to celebrate at all. Much credit for this freedom must go to the military members whose preparation for war in order to preserve peace and freedom is a tribute to their skill and professionalism.

Whether you are celebrating alone or with loved ones; whether you will be on duty during these special holidays or far from home; whether you will be enjoying your first desert holiday or the 40th at China Lake we want to extend to all of you and your families, the wish for a happy and safe holiday season.

John Burt
 John Burt, NWC Commander

Gerry Schiefer
 Gerry Schiefer, NWC Technical Director

Pladson receives honors

Technical competence and outstanding management skill, combined with dedication and personal integrity throughout the years, helped bring the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award to Maggie Pladson last week.

Pladson, associate head of the Naval Weapons Center's Engineering Department, was honored at a retirement banquet with Capt. John Burt, NWC Commander, making the award presentation.

The Skipper noted this is the highest honor the NWC Commander can bestow on a civilian employee.

Sterling Haaland, head, Engineering Department, in nominating Pladson for the award wrote, "During his years as associate department head, he

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