

# SUMMARY SHEET

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1983

ISSUE 1-83

The SCCC Bulletin is published bimonthly and sent to all members of the Southern California Contest Club. Membership is two dollars per year.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 16 at Numero Uno's, 16545 Ventura Blvd, Encino at 1:00 pm.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A radio club has two basic purposes. One is to provide a place and a time for people with a common interest to meet. This has been the basic function of the SCCC to date. There is also another purpose which has been neglected in our club. That is to support the segment of our hobby that we are commonly interested in. The SCCC, as a group, has done nothing to benefit contesting.

I feel it is time that the membership share some of the responsibility of maintaining contesting to the level we want it at. Below is a list of things that come to mind:

- Sponsor awards
- Encourage more people to become active contesters
- Join with the NCCC in supporting a contest suite at the Visalia/Fresno convention
- Repeater fund
- Field day activity
- Bulletin
- Log sheets made available to members
- Telephone calls between officers

Not all of the things listed will be done, but any of them could be. I don't know if the SCCC will ever have its own repeater, but if we ever got a good opportunity to have one, I'm sure we could put it to good use.

I have sponsored three awards in the ARRL DX Contest under the club name with my own money. I have also contributed to the beer fund at Fresno on behalf of the club. These are things that I feel should be shared from now on.

To meet these new demands on the club's treasury, we will need to raise the annual dues to \$7.00. This rate will be effective February 1, 1983 unless voted down.

Anyone who is a member at that time will not pay the higher rate until his membership expires. This makes it attractive to renew or join the club before February!

Perhaps the majority of club members do not feel as I do. If this is true, I will be happy to withhold changes. Please give me your input by returning the enclosed ballot form to Dennis Younker NE6I before the next meeting.

73, TREE

#### SCCC NOTES

Glad to see everyone survived the fall contest madness. I personally am glad to have a rest in December and January. Hope you have all had a wonderful holiday season and hope Santa brought those radio goodies you have been wanting.

The Club did an outstanding job in the CQWW contests. We have easily surpassed our previous best. Some of the scores appear elsewhere in this issue.

We at the W6SX multi single station failed to reach our goal in the CW contest of one million points but learned from the experience and had a pretty good time, too. We had a visit from Murphy when one of our rotators jammed up pointing due north rendering one antenna fairly useless. Our two biggest mistakes were failing to get on 40 meters early enough causing us to miss a lot of European multipliers and failing to put our second transmitter on the air hunting multipliers until late Saturday afternoon.

For those of us that enjoy 160 meters, there is certainly no shortage of contests this winter! The ARRL 160 CW was December 3-5, the 73 Magazine 160 Phone is January 15-16, the CQWW 160 CW is January 28-30, and the CQWW 160 Phone is February 25-27! Plenty of other single band contests to dabble in with 10, 40, and 80 meters all represented.

Tree reports both of N6AA's towers came down in the recent high winds. Also a pole at W6AM came down making a mess of his rhombic farm. Rainbow Ridge has some damage as well as K6RR! Our sympathy to you guys,

Welcome aboard to new members N6DX, W6GC, AB6R, and KA6SHB.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM THE DATE NOTED IN THE LAST BULLETIN TO SUNDAY JANUARY 16 AT 1:00 PM!!!

Recent high claimed scores are as follows:

PHONE SWEEPSTAKES	
NP4A	2560 x 74
AA5D	2080 x 74
WA7NIN	1980 x 74
K7RF	1920 x 74
K7RI	1920 x 74
W7RM	1920 x 74
N6BV	1851 x 74

CQWW DX Phone	
9Y4VT	10 million + pts
ZF2FL	4.2 million
KB6I	3.1 million
K6RR	2.1 million
BP6J	2 million
N6DHV	900 thousand
W6YA	539 thousand

N6TR 1826 x 74  
AJ60 1750 x 74

NE6I 270 thousand  
W6SX 6 thousand

CW SWEEPSTAKES

NE6I 662 x 71  
W6SX 170 x 54

CQWW DX CW

8P6J 5200 QSOs  
9Y4VT 5100 QSOs  
K6NA(CNB) 6 million pts  
N6DX 3.1 million  
9K2DX 3 million approx  
K6RR 2.1 million  
W6SX 919 thousand

UPCOMING CONTESTS

JANUARY 8-9 ARRL QSO Party CW  
JANUARY 15 World Communications Year Contest  
JANUARY 22-23 ARRL QSO Party Phone  
FEBRUARY 5-6 NA Sprint CW  
FEBRUARY 19-20 ARRL DX CW  
MARCH 5-6 ARRL DX Phone  
MARCH 26-27 CQWW WPX SSB

EXCITING EXCUSES  
by N6TR

It's a documented fact that contesters are not very original in their thinking. They always talk about the same things (i.e. rate, multipliers, etc.) and always have the same excuses about why they didn't do well. Below is a list of the common boring excuses heard by contesters:

1. Had 10 dB over S-9 line noise.
2. No 10 meter opening to Japan.
3. Blew up the 40 meter beam while tuning it up in the phone band.
4. Had the flu.
5. The amplifier would blow its fuses every five minutes.
6. Had TVI and had to QRT.

How BDRING!!! To help spark up the next contest club meeting, why not try some of these?

1. When I sent "nr 57" in the Sweepstakes, I had to take a cold shower which shorted out my watch and I couldn't tell when my break ended. (If this does not make sense, you haven't been hanging around N6TJ enough!).
2. I had been contesting for 20 years when I fell asleep and blew my off time.
3. I left work before the contest in such a daze that I drove home to the wrong station and ended up using a 14AVQ all weekend.
4. Thought I was still in Kuwait and tried to run JA's with the beam pointing northeast.
5. Found out the 40 meter beam was installed backwards, so instead of blowing a hole on 7029 into

the USA, my first contact was with Ascension Island.

6. After reading the article on dupe rates, I thought I would try some catchy phonetics with my call. I spent all week and couldn't come up with anything, so I didn't get on at all (submitted by N6USA).

#### TUNEUP BRIDGE by W6SX

Dennis asked me to write a short blurb on the SWR tuneup bridge I use. Mostly I will just extract from the article which describes it ("Tune Up Swiftly, Silently, and Safely", QST, Dec '79, page 42):

"Basically, the idea is extremely simple. The transmitter is operated into a dummy load and a small amount of voltage is sampled by means of an RF transformer in the bridge. This voltage is then used to excite a simple Wheatstone bridge designed for 50 ohms. When the antenna matching system (your matchbox) is connected to the bridge, a null of the bridge meter indicates that the antenna system is presenting a 50 ohm load. A DPDT switch allows switching from the TUNE to the TRANSMIT position. In the TRANSMIT position, the transmitter is connected directly to the matching network, and from there to the antenna."

There are a number of advantages to this system: Your transmitter always looks into 50 ohms when you are tuning up, even when your matchbox is not tuned. This means you don't have to worry about frying your final amplifier or about your solid state rig powering down and/or shutting itself off. It also means you can tune your matchbox without putting a signal on the air. (Well, not exactly. The small sampled voltage does go to your antenna, but it is considerably reduced from normal: less than 5 watts for 750 watts output.) Also, because your transmitter sees a constant load, its output doesn't vary as you fiddle with the matchbox. Consequently, you don't get any interaction as you tune the matchbox.

In summary, you put the switch in TUNE, key your rig (which sees 50 ohms) and tune your matchbox. Then switch to TRANSMIT and you are ready to go. Quick, painless and essentially no on-the-air QRM. I have used the system for three years and am delighted with it. If you use an antenna tuner, look the article up and give it a try. I think you will like it. Oh, one last thing, with a normal junkbox, it won't cost you anything but about an hour's construction fun.

#### THOSE WONDERFUL JA's by NE6I

We on the west coast must consider Japan the oasis in the DX contest desert. Just as water is plentiful in the forest as compared to the desert, DX multipliers are plentiful on the east coast as compared to the west coast

(where you and I reside).

If not for the tremendous QSO boost those JA's provide us in the DX contests, we could forget about seriously competing with the east. But JA's are plentiful on all bands for us and we can offset the loss in multipliers by running JA's at well over 100 per hour. They love giving us contest QSOs even when they are on the air casually.

But just as water in the desert has its price, those QSO points are not without theirs. Japanese amateurs come from nowhere to work us in a contest, but damn, they sure like to QSL! And yes, if you want to remain successful at JA runs, DO return your QSLs to them! K6SE once told me of a contester who failed to answer his JA QSLs and got black-listed in Japan. His JA runs quickly got worse and worse.

As an example of just how much JAs love to QSL, I ran out what I've received already since the ARRL DX contest in February 1982.

I could not be on much that contest so I concentrated on JAs. I worked 155 stations of which 109 were JAs. As of December 25, 1982 I had already received QSLs from 45 of them! That's forty per cent after only ten months! I expect to get some more--enough to make sixty per cent!

I worked considerably more JAs in the WPX contests in March and May and all indications point to at least 50% QSL rate in those as well!

It sure has made me appreciate the QSL chores of DX stations (who get thousands more cards than I do)!

By the way, if you're thinking my NE6 prefix had something to do with the high rate, very few JAs mention they need my prefix for WPX. Almost all cards from elsewhere did!

Oh, one more thing; should you manage to dupe a JA, he doesn't mind. He will send a QSL for both QSOs!

TIME TO RENEW? CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR EXPIRATION DATE.

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