

## Message from the Prez by Ken Widelitz, K6LA

This is my last missive as SCCC president, and it's a good thing, 'cause I've run out of things to say, at least for now. When I got back into contesting in 1991, I didn't even know the SCCC existed. When I went to my first SCCC meeting, I was overjoyed to find a bunch of guys who shared my passion for contesting. When I was asked to be SCCC vice president, I was honored, and highly honored when asked to be president.

When I took over the office, my goal was to move meetings away from restaurants and into contest QTHs. In the last two years we've enjoyed the hospitality of meetings at N6DX, Caltech, W6EEN, N6HC, W6YA, K6RO, WA7BNM and my own QTH. Personally, I've enjoyed the change of scenery and learned something useful each time I've seen another station's contest setup, not to mention the better than restaurant food we've dined on.

For example, at the last meeting at WA7BNM's, I saw a great piece of software that makes it easy to analyze the terrain out from your antenna to use as input to the K6STI TA Terrain Analyzer program. The software is called TOPO! and covers most of LA and Orange counties. I've talked to the developer about creating output files that could go directly into TA and that might just happen. On the other hand, I've learned that my QTH puts me at the bottom of a bowl. I've always thought a good part of being loud is thinking you are loud. It will be tougher to think loud while the antenna is pointed at 45 degrees now that I know the true terrain.



My only disappointment is that there has been a definite drop off in attendance at SCCC meetings. We saw about 25 at N6DX and 30 at W6EEN, but in the low teens or lower at other QTH meetings. I've never made it to Fresno or the W6YA summer bash (at least that

will change this year) so I don't know how many members we get at those meetings. My recollection from the early '90s is that the after TRW meetings drew in the '30s. Maybe it is true that SCCC members always go to the TRW swapmeet and like to go to SCCC meetings at a local restaurant

afterward to unwind. Or maybe the existence of the CQ-Contest reflector on the internet has made going to meetings less attractive. On the other hand, we have more than 100 members and in looking at the roster there are more than 50 that I've never QSO'd in a contest, let alone eyeball QSO'd at a meeting. Well, it's no longer up to me. Let Larry, N6NC, know your feelings on this issue. And remember to vote for Larry at the August meeting.

### W6UQF Trophy Winner

Congratulations to Daniel Craig, KC6CNV, the inaugural winner of the W6UQF Trophy for highest aggregate low power SCCC-member score in the 1996 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, Phone and CW. The W6UQF Trophy is presented annually by the SCCC to honor the memory of Charlie Oakes, W6UQF.

Jul - Aug 1997

# W6UQF TROPHY WINNER

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enlightenment

Vol. 11, No. 4



## 1997 SCCC Meeting Schedule

August 10, W6YA Summer Bash  
 October 11, Pea Soup Andersons,  
 Carlsbad (note date change)  
 December 20

## SCCC Now on the WWW

The SCCC now has a presence in cyberspace. Use your favorite world wide web browser to view the club's new web site located at:

[/www.contesting.com/sccc/](http://www.contesting.com/sccc/)

Thanks to the generosity of Bill, W4AN (ex-KM9P), we are able to operate the club web site at no cost to the club.

## Are You Creative?

The SCCC needs a club logo. So if you're artistic, or even if you're not artistic, submit a sketch of your proposed club logo to the SCCCORE editor by September 1. You may submit as many designs as you wish. You can draw it on paper, create a computer file, color it, mail it, e-mail it — whatever you like. This is your chance to become famous as the designer of the SCCC logo!

## The Editor's Ramblings

by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Many thanks are in order to Will, KN6DV, SCCC vice president, who has also performed the chores of SCCCORE publisher for the past couple of years. This means that Will has been the guy who waits for the editor to get his act together and produce the usual just-in-time issue of the newsletter so that he can then get it printed, addressed, stamped and mailed prior to the next meeting. Will is stepping

down from these chores, and I am assuming the title of publisher in addition to editor. But the next time you see Will, thank him for spending time publishing SCCCORE, rather than operating his station. I know I will.

Now, here's my question of the day: If you could choose any location on the West Coast as an HF contesting location, where would you choose on the basis of propagation alone? This means independent of local terrain, antenna restrictions, salt water, etc — just propagation.

The major contest sponsors have started grouping contest results by geographical region of the country, but both the ARRL and *CQ Magazine* lump the West Coast, from the Mexican border to British Columbia, together as one geographic entity. I don't think any West Coast contesters believe that all of this area experiences the same HF propagation. So where's the best spot?

The usual rule is "go south young man." That's what the propagation experts say. But is this really the case? Does Southern California have a propagation advantage over Northern California? I decided this question was worthy of some quantitative investigation. Using W6EL's MiniPROP Plus propagation prediction program, I calculated the length of band openings on each of the five major HF contesting bands (160m was not included) between Japan and a grid of West Coast locations for three different points in the past sun spot cycle on the weekend of CQWW phone in October. The grid consisted of points on 1-degree centers (both latitude and longitude) covering all of Oregon, Washington and California. I defined a band opening as occurring when the signal-to-noise ratio (as computed by MiniPROP) was greater than or equal to 10 dB. The average duration of the band opening was

calculated by using the predicted availability of each 30 minute interval as a weight, e.g. if the availability was 75%, then that interval would contribute  $0.75 \times 0.5 = 0.375$  hour to the overall opening.

Figure 1 shows the results of these propagation calculations for 20-meters for medium solar flux (126, equivalent to the average for October, 1992).

Figure 1, Duration (hrs) of 20m Band Opening to JA, SF=126.

	W124	W123	W122	W121	W120	W119	W118	W117	W116	W115	
N48.5	8.6	8.5	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0			
N47.5	8.9	9.0	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.3	8.7	8.6			
N46.5	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9			
N45.5	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	9.2			
N44.5	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8			
N43.5	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2			
N42.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5			
N41.5	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9						
N40.5	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.9	10.0						
N39.5		10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4						
N38.5		10.5	10.5	10.5	10.8						
N37.5			10.9	11.0	11.0	10.7	10.7				
N36.5				11.1	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.1			
N35.5				11.6	11.6	11.6	11.5	9.9	9.9		
N34.5					12.0	12.0	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.2	
N33.5								10.8	10.6	10.6	
N32.5									11.1	11.2	11.1

By examining this grid, you can see that the longest average 20-meter opening (12.0 hours) for these conditions occurs at N34.5 deg, W120/119 deg. Interestingly, there is a significant variation in opening duration along an east-west line at this latitude. The adjacent point on the grid just east of the maximum has an opening 14 percent shorter. Points south of the maximum experience 20m openings 7-10 percent shorter.

Figures 2 and 3 show the results of combining the calculations for each of the five bands

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**Editor (from page 2)**

into a single parameter representing the relative total opening for that location (calculated by weighting the openings of each of the bands according to the importance of that opening). For example, the expected QSO rate for 10-meters to Japan at the bottom of the solar cycle is essentially zero. Therefore, 10-meters was not included in the relative total opening for low solar flux.

Figure 2, Relative Total Opening to JA, SF=74 (maximum set to 100).

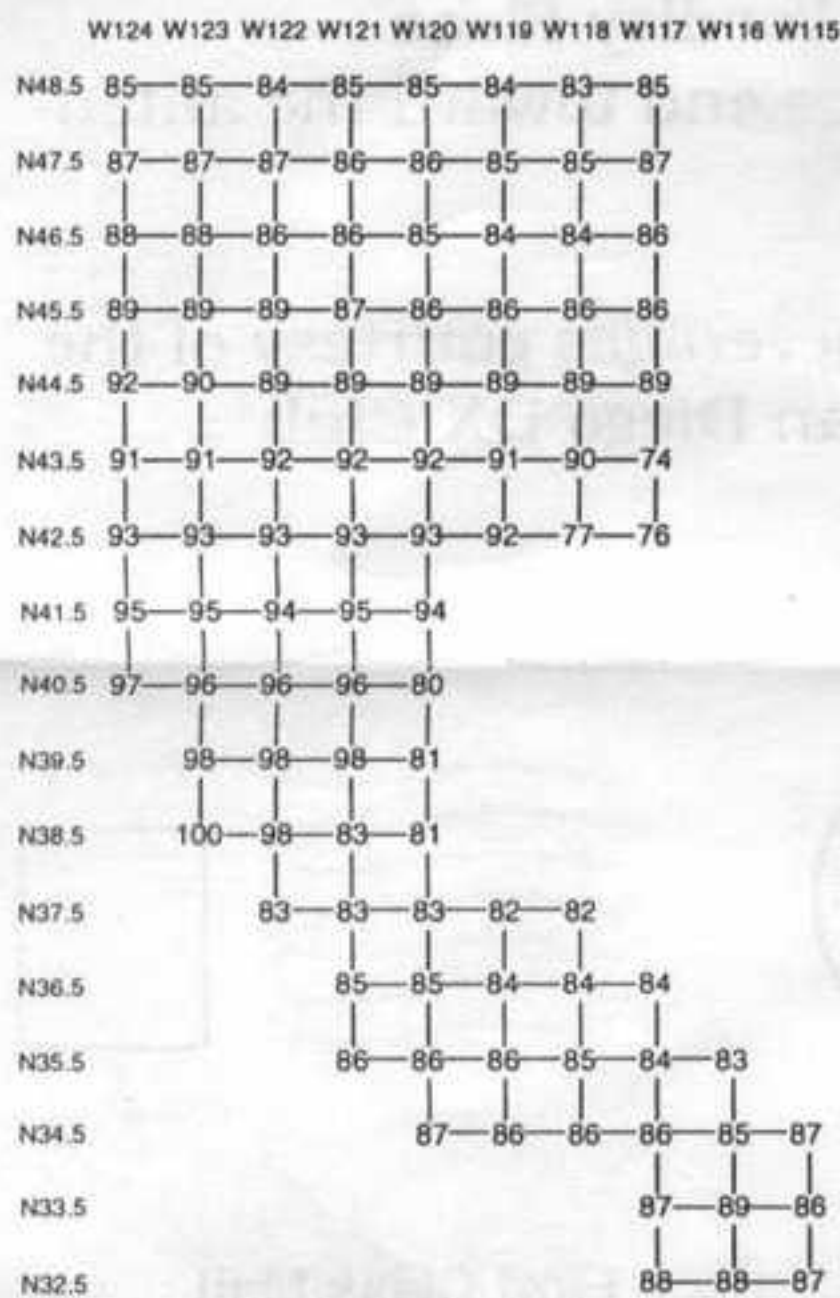
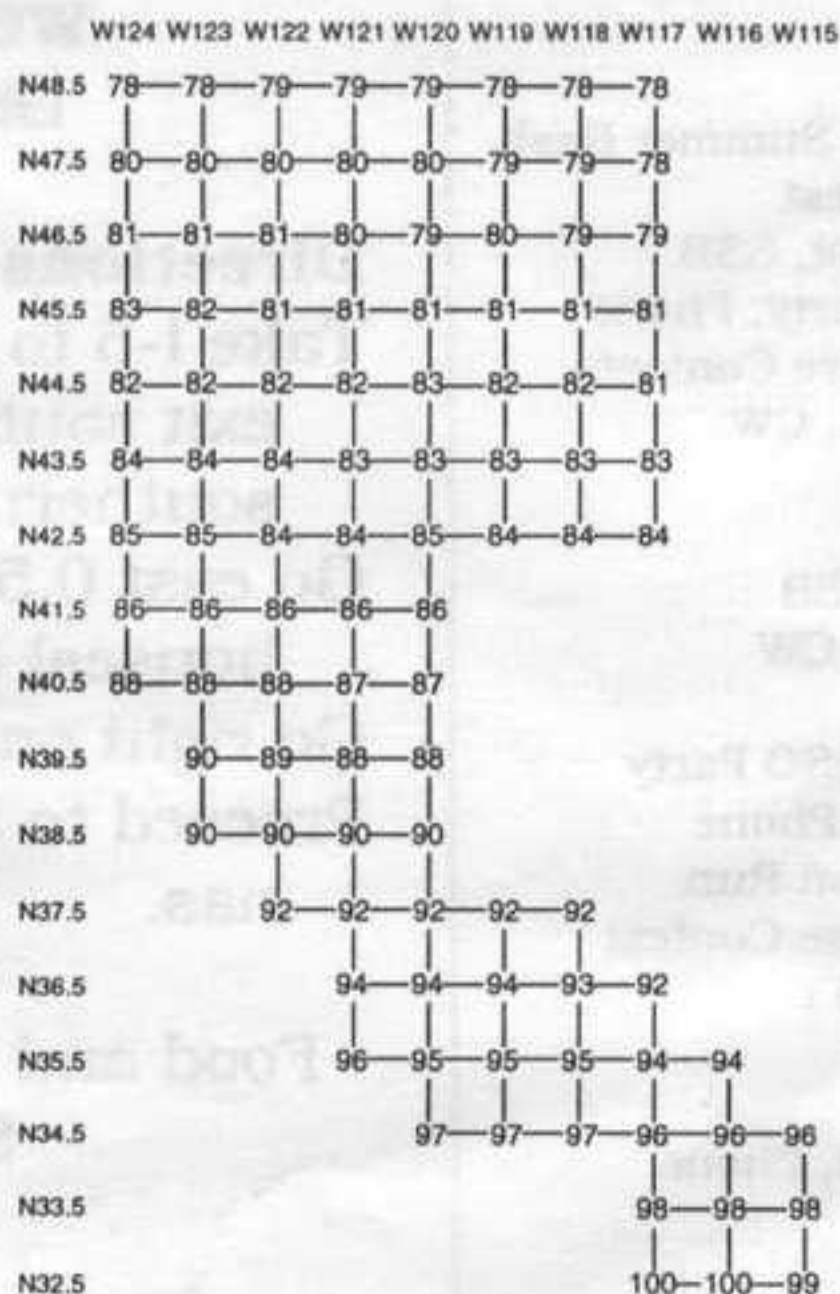


Figure 3, Relative Total Opening to JA, SF=203 (maximum set to 100).



As can be seen from these two figures, the South is not always the best. At the bottom of the sun spot cycle, the best overall propagation occurs in Northern California. At the top of the cycle, the best overall point is the furthest south. At medium solar flux levels (not shown), the peak location is at 34.5 deg latitude. More complete details can be found in the web site version of SCCCORE.

**SCCCORE**

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**President:** Ken Wideltz, K6LA  
10519 Lauriston Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 474-1355  
kwideltz@delphi.com

**Vice Pres:** Will Angenent, KN6DV  
43150 Sixth St. East  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
H: (805) 949-9833  
W: (805) 948-8800  
KN6DV@QNET.COM

**Editor and Publisher:** Bruce Horn, WA7BNM  
4225 Farmdale Ave.  
Studio City, CA 91604  
H: (818) 761-4563  
FAX: (818) 761-4563  
W: (818) 502-5180  
bhorn@netcom.com

Membership in the SCCC is open to anyone. Dues are:  
Domestic: \$5 per year  
Mexico/Canada: \$8 per year  
Other countries: \$10 per year

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**New/Membership/Renewal** (return to Will Angenent, 43150 Sixth St. East, Lancaster, CA 93535) Cut here

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Dues: \$5.00 domestic, \$8.00 Canada/Mexico, \$10.00 elsewhere Make check payable to SCCC.

If you would like a club badge, check here and include an additional \$6.00.



## SCCC Calendar

### August

- 2-3 North American QSO Party, CW
- 2-3 ARRL UHF Contest
- 9-10 WAE DX Contest, CW
- 10 SCCC Meeting at W6YA Summer Bash
- 16-17 SARTG WW RTTY Contest
- 16-17 SEANET WW DX Contest, SSB
- 16-17 North American QSO Party, Phone
- 17-18 ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest
- 23-24 TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW

### September

- 6-7 All Asian DX Contest, SSB
- 7 North American Sprint, CW
- 13-14 WAE DX Contest, SSB
- 13-15 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
- 14 North American Sprint, Phone
- 20-21 Washington State Salmon Run
- 20-21 ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest
- 27-28 CQWW DX Contest, RTTY

### October

- 4-5 VK/ZL/Oceania Contest, Phone
- 4-5 California QSO Party

**Next Meeting: Sunday, August 10  
Time: 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

**W6YA Summer Bash  
Leucadia, California**

### Directions:

Take I-5 to Leucadia Blvd. exit (one exit south of La Costa Ave. exit) in southern Carlsbad

Go east 0.5 mile (passing demolished houses) to Woodley Place

Go right on Woodley Place

Proceed to the end toward the antennas.

Food and beverages courtesy of the  
San Diego DX Club

**SCCCORE**

Southern California Contest Club  
4225 Farmdale Avenue  
Studio City, California 91604



**First Class Mail**

N6VR Member through: 02/98  
Ray Benny  
160 Brandt Ave.  
Oak View CA 93022

93022/9322

