

SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Organization, Results, and Enlightenments

Volume 14

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Number 2

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Our first meeting of 1991 was held at 11am at the newly rebuilt Luigi's Restaurant on Rosecrans in Hawthorne right after the TRW Swapmeet. 38 poeple attended. This was the best turn out for an SCCC meeting since the barbeque at Pete Grillo's in 1976. The lucky ones were:

W6AE	-RED	*N6TD	-JIM
NØAFW	-PETE	* +	-STEVE
N6CW	-TERRY	**N6TG	-TOM
AE6E	-NEAL	N6TJ	-JIM
**N4EA	-DON	**K1TKL	-PAUL
WT7F	-TERRY	AA6TT	-BILL
*WA2FIJ	-JAY	NC6U	-KEVIN
W6HAL	-LEON	* +	-JORDAN
K5KT	-JOE	WK6V	-BILL
W6MDH	-JERRY	**KI6VC	-VIC
W6MKB	-TERRY	* +	-TODD
K6NA	-GLENN	NI6W	-KURT
*N6NI	-TOM	N6VR	-RAY
W9NQ	-BOB	*WA6WZO	-FRIED
N6NW	-NEAL	NS6X	-JOHN
WB6OKK	-RICK	KI6X	-DAN
WA6OTU	-MARK	W6XD	-ART
K6SVL	-JOHN	WA7ZTN	-MIKE
W6SX	-HANK	N6ZZ	-PHIL

** = new member * = visitor

We ate and talked and talked and ate. The most important thing that came up was that Morgan, N6JWV, had requested being released from his duties as Vice President. We saw no big deal with that and promptly twisted W9NQ's arm into becoming the new Vice President. Good luck, Bob, we'll let you know what you're supposed to do as soon as we figure it out. 73, Morgan, and don't be a stranger.

WA2FIJ and NØAFW were visitors who wanted to see if any of us were interested in doing a 'real' DXpedition to Clipperton or something. Contact them for details. It was clear that anyone interested in 'out-of-this-world' operations, should, however, simply remain a member in good standing of the Southern California Contest Club.

EDITORIAL

Ha! You thought you were through with my opinion. Guess again. The only reason I put it on the front page as well was because I looked and looked, but I couldn't find anything really newsworthy for the lead article.

There is a sure fire way to see less and less of my personal opinion in these pages and that is to submit some of your own, plus any other stuff you'd like to see here instead of my boring rambling-on.

* * *

I have a confession to make. In the January-February issue of the NCJ, they printed the results of the September 1990 NA Sprint, CW. I noted that the SCCC team had come in second to some other guys, but it was really close. I also noted that the listing for our team showed 9 ops, missing one of the full compliment of 10. Well, I didn't even have time to wonder who the jerk was who didn't get on (or worse yet, who got on and didn't send in his log) before I felt really sheepish and stupid. You see, it was me.

Perhaps this is a chance for us all to learn from my mistake. I know I have harped on members before to get their scores in, or at least to get on and help out. Here is the most perfect example you could ask for that YOUR CONTRIBUTION REALLY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. We lost to those other guys by something like 4K points. The score I failed to turn in was in excess of 10K.

Oh, yes, I got on. I just got 'too busy' or something after the contest to get around to turning in the record of my

operation. Well, as they say, the job isn't done until the paperwork is finished. (And sent in).

I must say, though, after all that, that I operated the contest in February this year with a really bad computer set-up, and it was STILL easier than doing it by hand. The program wasn't even written for anything like the Sprint. And, of course, logging by computer makes that after-contest drudgery go a whole lot easier.

* * *

I was reading the NCJ last week, one of my favorite activities, regardless of how critical my letter was a few issues ago when they wanted to change the name to "Operating" (what a bad idea). The first article in it was a piece by our own Dick Norton, N6AA, called "Open Contest Logs and Open Log Checking: The Case For, and A Successful Example." It was a very fine article (as is the norm for Mr. Norton), and equated our sport to those of the more athletic variety, making the extremely poignant point that if The Olympic Games ever said "The 100-meter dash was held in a secluded location, and the judges have determined a winner and a time. There will be no videotapes to see, and the decision of the judges is final" they would, presumably, not be taken seriously. And yet, that basically sums up the status quo of Radio Contesting.

Dick proposes that if any one of our competitors could, at any time, ask the sponsoring organization for a copy of our log and audio tape, it would make us operate very accurately indeed. I think this is true. In fact, since I participate in our informal comparisons of callsigns every year, I make darned sure I get each callsign in the log right, or as best I can, at any rate. I also tape every minute of my operating in the Sprints and in the CQWW, mostly to satisfy my own curiosity about other ops' sending (like Jim, N6TJ, I have found about half of my uniques to be caused by the other guy sending his own call wrong). I also like the tapes because I can show my friends what their signal sounds like on 160, and what working a rate of 300 sounds like (if only for a few minutes at a time!). They are a sure fire way of keeping me honed during the off season.

Anyway, more power to Dick for having the balls to make such an extraordinary proposal. I think it's a great idea. As he says toward the end of his article, "almost all of the top world single-operator entrants exchange log and accuracy data. Note that a few have refused to participate....they definately do not enjoy the full respect of their peers." I can say nothing more besides "it's true."

FLASH! MAN BITES DOG

Now that I've got your attention, I'll tell you the late-breaking man-bites-dog story that pertains to the Southern California Contest Club.

First of all, there is this oddly named bulletin I have to suffer under. I thought that SCCCORE was just one of the many names we hashed through way back when, when we were trying to find a new name for the bulletin. I didn't remember it as being a serious submission by anyone, and I, for one, don't like it. Not only that, I've heard from a few people who don't like it.

Well, after I commented on it in the last newsletter, of course I learned the whole story. It turns out to be an official submission for consideration as a new name for the bulletin. Heck, it even means something. All these years and I thought Organizations, Results, and Enlightenment was some cute former-editor's way of playing on the name SCCCORE (since it really is a word on it's own except for having two-too many Cs, and the word SCORE is appropriate to our club). Turns out the Organizations, Results, and Enlightenment part was actually, officially part of the name as originally submitted.

I have nothing against organization, results, or enlightenment, but it sure makes for a wordy bulletin name. Bulletin names are supposed to be flashy and catchy, not long, drawn out, and well, eclectic.

Wouldn't you know it, but I naturally got an earful from the guy who originally submitted the name. Well, silly me - I never even realized we had had a "name-that-bulletin" contest and that a winner

see "DOG" p.3

SCCCORE

is the official Journal of the

Southern California Contest Club

President - Kevin, NC6U
Vice President - Bob, W9NQ
Editor - Mark, WA6OTU

Membership in the club is open to anyone.
Dues are \$4. per year. Please use membership
located elsewhere to join or renew.

Mail all correspondence to:

Southern California Contest Club
c/o Mark Beckwith, Box 4
Sierra Madre, California 91025-0004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we fade out of the spring contest season and into the summer doldrums (no offense to the VHF-types and Field Day fanatics!), it is only natural to start planning for next fall. Whether you operate at home or away, thoughtful preparation will allow you to be more competitive and have more confidence when the clock rolls over to 0000 UTC. Most testers like to start with station improvements - bigger antennas, more power, better equipment, etc. While these will help the signal, also consider upgrading the operating position to allow you to be more efficient during the contest. Is your chair too soft/hard? Do you have any wasted motion because of equipment layout? Is the ambient light too bright/dim? Is the table top large enough? All of these factors affect operating efficiency, even early in the contest. Our illustrious CAC member NI6W is a proponent of improving the "man-machine" interface. Kurt uses extra large remote keyer switches "that can't be missed" and has been known to radically offset the transceiver on the table to require minimal arm motion while tuning and logging. (Kurt is a radical anyway, but that is another story...)

Contest planning also applies to personal preparation. The basic challenge is to keep your head in the contest for the duration. The Fundamental Law of Contesting is "You can't be the loudest signal on the band if you aren't transmitting!" The Paradoxical Corollary to this is "You can't work anybody if you are transmitting all the time!" Consider analyzing your operating habits to minimize the time it takes to do basic contest functions, such as running rate, searching and pouncing, changing bands, etc. It might seem insignificant if it takes an extra minute to tweak the amplifier when changing bands, but over the duration of the contest it could mean an extra 100 Qs or 10 more multipliers. Likewise, an extra two seconds spent in a CQ or exchange adds up a wasted hour over the contest. Good testers pay attention to details.

Practice what to do in the contest before the contest starts. Some testers "work out" in the car during the morning commute - other drivers just think they're singing along with the radio! N6TJ has been a long-time

advocate of making an audio recording of the contest, not just for log back-up, but also to give provide feedback on his (and others) operating technique for the next contest. A long-play tape recorder can be used, or you can wire up the family VCR to record the headphone audio via the audio input. You might even videotape yourself during the next contest to see how you perform under pressure. If you are prone to waving your arms, yelling at the radio, and otherwise losing your head, the tape may be somewhat entertaining to your family. However, if you are a good operator, the tape will be extremely boring!

73. Kevin NC6U

DOG continued from p.2

had ever been chosen. In my haste to satisfy my own desire to bring about a really sweeping "out with the old, in with the new" transformation of this good rag, I inadvertantly wiggled someone's pet peeve.

The worst part of it is that it's someone whom I respect a great deal and who has done a lot to help me as a competitor and I feel kind of bad about it. But I still don't like the name. Sorry.

So there it is. If I am the man, and SCCCORE is the dog, then consider it bit.

NEW MEMBERS

The members of the Southern California Contest Club would like to extend a warm reception to all the new members who have recently joined our fine Club. They are Don, N4EA, Tom, N6TG, and Paul, K1TKL, who joined at the meeting at Luigi's, Vic, KI6VC, who joined at the meeting at WB6OKK's, and Dick, W6MVW, who could feel the heat all the way down in San Diego. Also signing on was Bruce, KD6WW, who was pointed this way by Paul, N6LL. Welcome aboard, y'all.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Members: fill out the following.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

Dues are only:

\$4 /yr!

The best
deal in town!

Checks payable to "SCCC"

Everyone: Check here if you would like a club badge - include an additional \$5.
Current Members: Check your mailing label on the back of this form. If everything is hunky-dory then don't do anything else, just send this and a check. If there are changes either note them on the label or on the form above.

Mail to: SCCC c/o Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU - Box 4 - Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0004

BULLETIN EDITOR APOLOGIZES TO EVERYONE

(Sunday, April 7, 1991) - The editor of the SCCC Newsletter today issued an official statement of apology to everyone whom he has screwed up by procrastinating, being late, or otherwise committing simple acts of irresponsibility. As this issue goes to press, he was heard saying things like "oh, shit, I forgot about Dennis' want ad" and "doggone it, I never called Ray to get the Oblast listing updates."

Presumably, the cruel reality of work and personal responsibility, combined with the pressure to get Caltech's airplane hanger cleaned out before the 8th and Dave's prop-pitch squared away as quickly as possible, not to mention the full sized 3-element 40 meter yagi that has to be in place at W6UE by June, play a role in his obvious decision to move "SCCCORE" to the back burner.

It is common for a new newsletter editor to take a few issues to get his act together, so we assume the situation will be smoothed out before the third new issue, where we will expect to see things like Classified Ads and Score Rumors in their rightful place alongside all his editorial blithering. Mr. Beckwith was not available for comment.

SCCC CALENDAR

Following is a list of dates close to the hearts of SCCC members:

April 12, 13, 14 - Visalia
June 24 - Club Meeting
August 31 - Club Meeting

NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club Meeting will be held:

Saturday
April 13, 1991
12:30pm

at:

the Brass Elephant
restaurant

Holiday Inn
Visalia

This will be our usual April meeting, held in conjunction with the 1991 **International DX Convention**. We have arranged to have lunch in the restaurant at the hotel. They are holding enough room for 25 of us, provided we agree to a single check and a 15% gratuity. Let's make this a Club tradition!

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