

SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results, and Enlightenments

Volume 15

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Number 2

The President Rambles On

by Jim Neiger, N6TJ

Gosh - is it that time already? This issue's column once again finds me vectoring eastward, but only short runs to W4 and V2 this time. Meanwhile contests come and go. The ARRL DX is history, the CQ WPX phone imminent and Visalia/Dayton just around the corner.

The ARRL DX CW was loads of fun from ZD8, but 160 meters is the pivotal multiplier band these days and the South Atlantic section is just too far removed. Twenty-five years ago most radios didn't even cover Top Band, but today and increasingly, you're hard pressed to win without big mults there. Rumor has it that Rich, N6KT, exceeded 10K QSO's in the ARRL phone from TI1C. That would be truly impressive. I remember when Scotty, K0DQ, broke the 10K barrier in that contest from XE111J - but, of course, those were the days of 2 weekends, 96 hours.

One thing apparent during the recent ARRL CW test was the lack of big-time activity from California. Oh, for the good old days when the NCDXC and SCDXC each seemingly fielded scores of ARRL DX entrants.

I had a nice chat the other day with John Beck, W4AI, who many of you will remember from his days as TI9MHB, VQ9J, ZD8J, VP2AAA, W6MHB, and others. John has moved to Sebring, FL and is hoping to get some aluminum up before too long. John posted some world-high scores from Ascension back in the 1965-68 time-frame, and was then a dominant force in the DX contests. John taught me that you can't sleep during contests.

I was happy to see the CQ WPX test lengthend to 36 out of 48 hours. Now it's starting to get interesting. Anyone for 48 out of 48??

The center of contesting has definitely taken another turn towards Southern California. Did you know that last September's CW SPRINT had more logs from California than the 1 thru 4 call areas COMBINED? Rumor has it that the east coast big guns have given up on the SPRINT because they can't run Europeans and therefore can't win. Too bad, think what the SPRINT numbers could be if the YCCC, PVRC, AND FRC made only one-half the effort of the SCCC? Our NCCC brethren also seem to be having difficulty in forming SPRINT teams. What can we do to help???

Meanwhile SCCC member W6MKB is off on another of his world adventures as a key player in the ongoing VP8SSI South Sandwich expedition. When I met Terry seven years ago, he'd never even possessed a passport. Our SCCC contest expedition

in 1986 to JY7Z, however, showed Terry the error of his ways. Now we can't keep him home. Good going, Terry!

Terry won't be back in time for Visalia, but I expect the rest of the SCCC will be represented. And then we're off to Dayton which, for some of us, is becoming the #1 convention of the year. Can the CQ WW and SS be far behind?

Jim, N6TJ

FROM THE EDITOR....

Boy, this is an odd time of year. I picked the right time to move because the SCCC activities have slowed down just enough to make the publishing of this issue not quite such a big job as the others can be sometimes. Speaking of moving, the one thing I made sure I got done this issue was the new roster. As always, any corrections or changes should be sent to me at either the P.O. Box, or addressed to me on Packet.

I look forward to seeing as many SCCC members as can make it in Visalia. As I write, I have not yet gotten on the phone to confirm our annual reservation of lunch space at Visalia for our BIG Visalia meeting. If the announcement makes it onto the back page, then you will know I was successful.

There are a couple of big contests coming up that I will be trying out for the first time, and I hope you all will get on, at least to hand out a few QSOs. I have never ever operated a WPX (seriously) and will be using it as a deadline to get W6AQ and W6UE back on-line big-time. (CW, of course, SSB is history).

The other is the Texas QSO Party which promises to be as big as everything else in Texas. The contest happens 1600Z Saturday, May 2, and goes for 30 hours, with single-ops allowed 24 hours on. (Exact format of CQP - imitation is the sincerest form of flattery). I will not publish the rules here, because it would cost another sheet of paper, and TDXS didn't pay us for advertising. I will try, however, to get them up as an announcement over the Packet network.

From the Editor...continued

Am I crazy, or is DX-spotting via packet radio having a disturbing effect on DXing and Contesting? I mean, it's a great idea in theory, like taking the club repeater concept and DX announcements a step further, but really, I have recently found several disturbing things.

For example, when I started using packet myself just for casual DXing, before I knew it, I hadn't found anything to work *on my own* for a month. No tuning, no digging, no searching. Just looking up at the screen after the beep, then deciding if I wanted to work it, then going there, then working it, then logging it. The day I realized it, I was aghast, amazed that I had become so easily addicted to such mindless operating.

Now, I have taken my ability to copy CW for granted for almost 20 years, and I have never had a QSO with someone whose call sign I didn't personally copy myself. It never even occurred to me to simply take someone else's word for what another station's call was.

When I hear some rare country is on some frequency, I go there and find him. Part this process includes copying his call sign. Imagine my surprise and disgust to read Jay O'Brien describe the use of packet in his column in the NCJ, and find he made no mention of at least confirming that the guy you have just worked is really the guy who was reported over the packet network.

This may seem like it would be taken for granted, but frankly, I now believe that it is the call sign of the DX station which is sometimes taken for granted. This was confirmed recently by a conversation I heard between a couple of ops, one observing that since the advent of packet, he was adding many more countries to his CW total now that he didn't have to figure out the call sign, since it was right there on the screen.

I don't know about you, but I take that to mean that some operators are now 'working' and logging, and QSLing contacts with DX stations whose call signs they weren't capable of copying. Am I over-reacting, or is this a complete abomination of everything that a QSO has ever been about?

Maybe I am reacting too hastily, but I was so completely shocked by this revelation, that I have taken matters into my own hands and have begun a retaliation campaign. I admit it is possible I am being childish, and unfairly unilaterally judgemental, but I think it is appropriate that those who engage in this practice need to learn that this behavior is completely intolerable.

My solution is simple: Nowadays, when I find some choice bit of DX on CW, I put it out over packet, but I will either list an incomplete call sign, or a wrong call sign.

Of course, those capable of correct operating procedures will see through this baffle, and copy the call for themselves. Those who are succumbing to the temptation of working a station it is beyond their ability to copy, will, of course, wind up with the wrong call in their logs, and consequently (hopefully) not get the QSL.

Perhaps this is rude and uncalled for, but I for one am so incensed by this appalling state of affairs that I think my actions constitute an appropriate 'measured response.' Not only that, I would encourage anyone else bold enough to jump on the band wagon to do the same.

I have no problem with one ham telling another ham that "Bouvet is on 14025," but the situation is out of hand when in any given day an SSB op whose CW skills are mediocre can log QSOs with 10 or 15 countries (That's CW DXCC in 10 days to anyone who can copy their own call sign sent back to them in CW).

Don't get me wrong. I am having a ball using packet. I find it really useful for keeping the club closer together, increasing the level of communication between officers and the exchange of score information and meeting announcements and bulletin articles, and other stuff like that. The DX

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THE VICE PREZ SEZ....

Thanks once again to all those who participated in the last NAQP and Sprint contests. This Fall should again be "a lotta fun" and I hope that all the "regulars" and other club members will again rise to the occasion. I would like to point out a few guidelines that should be followed next Fall concerning team contesting.

To start with, if you would like to be on a team for NAQP, Sprint, or any other contest, *please let me know a minimum of 2 weeks in advance.* I would appreciate hearing from all persons wishing (or willing) to be on a team, regulars included. More than likely, we will only go to the trouble of organizing two teams for any one contest/mode. This means that latecomers may not be able to get on a team. Also, please let me know what call sign will be used when operating at a different station. Lastly, whether or not you're on an SCCC team, please send your scores to Mike, KA6SAR. He will be collecting score info for publication in SCCCORE.

If you have any suggestions for improving SCCC team contesting, please let me know. See you all in Visalia!
Bob, W9NQ

SCCCORE

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Membership in the club is open to anyone. Dues are \$5 per year. Please use the membership form located on the penultimate page to join or renew.

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Deadlines for submission of bulletin material:

June issue - June 8
August issue - August 17

Anyone may leave bulletin related messages at any time for W9NQ, WA6OTU, or KA6SAR via the Southern California DX Packet System. They may also be mailed to the above addresses or to the club address:

Southern California Contest Club
c/o Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU - Box 4
Sierra Madre, California 91025-0004

Editor... continued

announcement part of it would be okay if everyone were conscientious enough to copy the other station's call for themselves. Until then, I think we have a problem.

Now about another conversation I recently over-heard. Two guys were talking the other day, and one said to the other "Why sure, Joe, it really *is* possible to work DX at random just by tuning around the bands. You'll be surprised to know I actually worked almost 60 countries before I discovered nets and lists...."

Mark, WA6OTU

SCCC Welcomes New Members

The Southern California Contest Club would like to welcome the following new members who have joined in the last 6 months: Dale, K0BGL; John, AB6ED; Don, W6EEN; Jim, W7EJ; Ken, AB6FO; Ted, W6HX; Bill, KV0I; Russ, KG6IP; Lee, KY7M; Bruce, K6OY; Larry, KC6QN; Jim, N6RJ; Ken, K5TSQ; Dick, NN6U; Ron, KC6WLC; and Art, K6XT.

As of 4/7/92 when this issue of SCCCORE went to bed, our roster boasted a hefty 97 paid and active members. If we can't clean up in the Sweepstakes with that kind of support, we may as well throw in the towel....

SCCC Saddened by the Passing

of the following Radio Amateurs from the ranks of active membership in the Southern California Contest Club (some tacky organ music would be appropriate here): Jim, K7EG; Morgan, N6JWV; Rick, N6ND; Tom, N6TG; Paul, K1TKL; Vic, KI6VC; and Rich, KI6ZH. Shame on you guys for not renewing your memberships with our great Club. Sure, times are tough, but the SCCC remains the best bargain in Ham Radio at only \$5 per year.

If any of you fine, upstanding paid-up members run into any of these guys, you might tactfully remind them of these facts and see if you can wheedle the five bucks out of 'em. Remember, membership in the SCCC is not a duty, it's a privilege. (Har).

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The last regularly scheduled meeting of the SCCC was held after the TRW Swapmeet on February 29, 1992 at the Jolly Roger restaurant in El Segundo.

28 were present:

Dick	- N6AA	Glenn	- K6NA
Red	- W6AE	Bob	- W9NQ
Dale	- K0BGL	Mark	- WA6OTU
Debbie	- KD6CAG	Joe	- K6QH
Ken	- AB6FO	Larry	- KC7QN
Leon	- W6HAL	Dan	- NF6R
Arnie	- N6HC	John	- K6SVL
Larry	- KJ6HO	Hank	- W6SX
Ted	- W6HX	Dick	- NN6U
Don	- N6IC	Ray	- N6VR
Joe	- K5KT	Ron	- KC6WLC
Paul	- N6LL	John	- NS6X
Jerry	- W6MDH	Art	- W6XD
Terry	- W6MKB	Phil	- N6ZZ

Due to a serious lack of unified club direction, we mostly sat around and had a good time and talked about operating radio contests. It was great.

Bob, W9NQ, presented his plan to get the SCCC to go for the gavel in the Medium-club category for the November Sweepstakes. There appeared to be a good deal of support for his idea.

It also came up that some unknown club (to testers, anyway) was making a valliant effort to get new hams interested in contesting by having training multi-ops in the 10 meter contest where unexperienced ops could operate beside "experienced" operators to learn the ropes.

Mostly we were concerned that if none of US had ever heard of ANY of THEM, it might not speak well for the quality of education these green hams would be getting. Several members pointed out, however, that at least THEY were doing something about it besides sitting around and talking. The club concurred that this was a good point, and continued to eat and drink. And all were quite merry.

SCCC Sweepstakes Assault!

Just a reminder that the SCCC is planning an all out effort as a club in the 1992 Sweepstakes contest. If you are planning to do SS this year, please let me know ASAP. I am trying to get a preliminary head count to project our potential for a big score, and possibly a win in the medium size club category. I fell that a club of the stature of the SCCC can and should make an occasional big splash in other contests besides CQWW CW and Sprint CW. So what do you say? Let's get together and kick some booty! 73,
Bob, W9NQ

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues are \$5 per year. Gifts are appreciated. New Members fill out the following:

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

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 current, fine. Just send this in with a check. If there are changes, note them.

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

SCCC CALENDAR

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

APRIL

10, 11, 12 - 1992 International DX Convention (Visalia)
11 - Club Meeting at Visalia

MAY

2, 3 - The *ALL NEW* Texas QSO Party
30, 31 - CQ WPX CW contest

JUNE

8 - Deadline for June issue
13 - June VHF Contest
20 - Club Meeting, location TBA
27 - Field Day

JULY

11, 12 - IARU HF World Championship

AUGUST

1, 2 - North American QSO Party, CW
15, 16 - North American QSO Party, Phone
17 - Deadline for August issue
29 - Club Meeting, location TBA

SEPTEMBER

5 - North American Sprint, CW
12 - North American Sprint, Phone

NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club meeting will be held:

April 11, 1992
12:30 pm

The Brass Elephant Restaurant

within the Holiday Inn at Visalia

This will be our usual April meeting as usually held in conjunction with the 1992 **International DX Convention**. We have arranged to have lunch on the terrace by the indoor pool. They can only hold enough room for 25 of us, so be there if you want a seat. The usual restrictions apply. We will order from a limited menu and a 15% gratuity will be included on our bill.

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