

## Message from the Prez by Larry Serra, N6NC

ARRL DX CW and phone, and WPX phone are over now, and club members put in creditable scores. One ARRL DX CW team effort was by K6LL, K6LA, N6HC, N6KI and N6NC at XE2DV's QTH in Campo Olivos on the Sea of Cortez, south of San Felipe. We operated as 6E2L M/2 in ARRL DX CW and were nipped by 400 QSOs and 4 mults for the world title by those pesky ops at KP3P in Puerto Rico. It was a new QSO record for us, with nearly 7,000 CW Qs. New calls NE6E (W6EEN) and NR6R (N6KI) were heard in the WPX phone test, with excellent scores/man of multi-op, especially NE6E. Should we do club certificates for the top scores in major categories like we do for Sweepstakes? Let me know what you think.



The new SCCC logo has been chosen, thanks to all the work by Bruce, WA7BNM, in assembling the logos online, administering the balloting and for designing what turned out to be the winning entry. A full-color version will appear on the SCCC Sweepstakes certificates that we have designed and on a special award plaque that you'll see in Visalia at our luncheon.

The Visalia International DX Convention is the weekend of May 1-3, 1998. The SCCC luncheon will be in the Terrace area of the Holiday Inn (in the lobby in front of the restaurant) at noon on Saturday, May 2, with special guest J. Allen, VY1JA, of the Yukon, who gives us all the sweeps and mults in many contests. Rumor has it that one of our members may be inducted into

the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, to be announced at Visalia. Plan to attend, and let me know by e-mail so I can get a head count.

UBN analysis has hit the contest reflector and CQ Contest Magazine. It is the careful and detailed analysis of CQWW logs by Bob Cox's, K3EST, CQWW contest committee and others, with big help from K2MM and K6TR. UBN analysis of your log shows uniques, bad (busted) and not-in-log calls, as cross referenced against many other submitted logs. (N6AA and others did a similar analysis on selected logs several years ago in articles in the NCJ.) Bob said the

study and comprehensive analysis of many logs basically shows that 99.5% of logging errors result from poor CW copying. Check your UBN log analysis on the web site, <http://www.cqww.com/> and keep those UBN rates down.

VOA Delano tours for SCCC are scheduled for 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM on Friday, May 1, on the way to Visalia. (Delano is about an hour south of Visalia on Rte. 99. See the Jan-Feb SCCCORE for directions.) If you haven't already, let me know by e-mail which time slot you would like if you want to attend the tour.

Introducing hams to contesting was one of my club goals for SCCC. I know it has begun to happen at W6EEN and N6KI contest stations. Have any of you brought a new (or old) ham in to participate in any multi-op contests? Conversion of existing hams to contesters is great, and so is introduction of young

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# SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enlightenment

## Prez Message (from page 1)

people to ham radio and contesting. Rick, N6ND, has been a big influence on our newest contest heavy-hitter, Dan, AD6DO. Dennis, N6KI, has elmered 14 year-old Nick, KF6NBH, to both ham radio and contesting, and Nick regularly participates in N6KI/NR6R multi-op efforts. Don, W6EEN, has brought Norm, W6ORD, into W6EEN/NE6E contest operations. Let me know if you are having similar successes introducing others to contesting so I can give you some credit in *SCCCORE*, and keep thinking "get new guys (and girls)." One new contest participant per year per member would do a lot.

A Sprint clinic has been suggested as a program for an *SCCC* meeting. I would like to enlist some of our luminaries, K6NA, K6LL, K6LA, N6VR, K6ZH (welcome back) in this endeavor. More later.

## 1998 *SCCC* Meeting Schedule

May 2, Visalia International DX Convention  
June 6, N6ND, Ramona  
August ?, Summer Bash, N6HC  
October 10, N6VR, Ojai  
December 19, K6LA, Los Angeles

## The Editor's Ramblings — Future Contesting Technology by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

If you've been following the CQ-Contest reflector on the Internet recently, you know that there has been a great deal of discussion regarding operating time and scoring methods for the CQ WPX Contest. Many West Coast contesters feel that they were more competitive when participants were limited to 30 out of 48 hours, instead of the current 36 hours. They feel that limiting the operating time serves to reduce the propagational advantage of the East Coast into Europe.

Other contesters suggested changes in the number of points awarded for same-country and same-continent QSOs in the WPX to try to level the playing field. As it turns out, Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, has already published new rules for the WPX starting in 1999 that will award one point for each same-country QSO, regardless of band. In other words, the upcoming WPX CW Contest in May will be the last time a contester will have the possibility of making QSOs in this contest that contribute nothing to his score.

I always find the discussions about geographical advantages/disadvantages in contests and the efforts to fix these by adjustments to the scoring system interesting. Ham radio contesting seems to be unique among competitive events in that each contestant is participating in the contest on a different playing field from all of the other contestants. I have been unable to think of any other competition where this is the case. Using the ever-popular car racing analogy, we divide contests into various classes based on the output power, number of operators, other assistance and in some cases, types of antennas (engine displacement, weight,

chassis design, etc.), but then we "race" our cars on different race tracks (geographical location, terrain, propagation). It's no wonder that this results in much fodder for late-night discussions in the hallways and hospitality suites of Visalia and Dayton about who is the best. Only the two WRTCs held to date have come close to putting all the participants on the same "race track." However, most of us will never compete on the WRTC playing field because the logistics of this event limit participation to a small number of elite-level contesters.

At the same time, it is interesting to observe that West Coast contesters are well represented in the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, currently slightly less than 1/4 of the membership. If we're on the wrong playing field, why so many West Coasters? I suspect the answer is two fold. In the past (long before I became a contester) the geographical distribution of participants in DX contests was not the same as it is now. Europeans were not as prevalent as they are today. West Coasters won DX contests in those days. Secondly, and probably more importantly, the West Coast members of the Hall of Fame built their reputations on their results contesting from locations around the world, not by staying home.

Regardless of what changes are made in the rules of DX contests, if you want to have a world-class score, you will have to travel to a location where that is possible. The rest of us can stay home and compare our results to others in the same region. However, you may not even have to get on an airplane to operate from a competitive location. As Larry, N6NC, notes in his column in this issue, the 6E2L M2 effort in this year's ARRL DX CW contest was amazingly close to the winning Caribbean-based score. Can a single op be as competitive from XE-land?

Even for those of us who elect to "stay at home" to do our contesting,

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## Editor (from page 2)

there are obviously differences in the playing fields. More and more communities seem to be limiting our ability to erect the towers and antennas needed to be competitive. This may be more of a reaction to the commercial demand for towers to supply personal communications (cell phones, pagers, etc.), but it still impacts hams.

The May, 1998, issue of *QST* has a review of the Kachina computer-based transceiver. Although this unit has been available for almost a year, I hadn't paid much attention to it until I read the *QST* review. For those who are unfamiliar with the unit, it is an HF transceiver that depends on a computer for 100% of its controls. It has no front panel. It is modular in design, so that individual subsystems could be upgraded in the future without replacing the entire transceiver. It appears to have reasonable performance, although I think it remains to be seen how well a transceiver, which depends solely on DSP for selectivity, will perform in the QRM-filled environment of contesting.

But the feature that caught my eye was the Kachina transceiver has the ability to be completely operated by remote control. It's not that some of the transceiver's functions are

computer controlled; it's that all of its functions are computer controlled. Later this year, Kachina plans to provide the necessary analog/digital modem to be able to allow an operator to sit at his computer operating a transceiver that is connected by a single phone line!

Is this the future of contesting? Think of the possibilities! I could put my antennas and equipment at some location that I might not choose to live at and still operate from the comfort of my shack at home. Multi-multi contest operations could be conducted by operators who were not physically together, but shared a virtual ham shack from locations around the world, each dialing into the actual station location. Or I could supply one of these transceivers to a non-contesting ham in the New England area so that I could dial in and use his station during DX contests without ever leaving Southern California.

Kachina will be showing its transceiver at Visalia, so look for it there. You can also find extensive info on it and a downloadable demo version of the software that controls the transceiver on their web site: <http://www.kachina-az.com/>

## SCCCORE

is the official bulletin of the Southern California Contest Club.

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Membership in the SCCC is open to anyone. Dues are:  
Domestic: \$5 per year  
Mexico/Canada: \$8 per year  
Other countries: \$10 per year  
SCCCORE is published six times per year. Please submit scores and other material to the editor.

**New/Membership/Renewal** (return to Bruce Horn, 4225 Farmdale Ave., Studio City, CA 91604) 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

### May

- 9-10 VOLTA WW RTTY Contest
- 16-17 ARRL 50-MHz Spring Sprint
- 23-24 Texas QSO Party
- 30-31 CQWW WPX Contest, CW

### June

- 13-14 ANARTS WW RTTY Contest
- 13-14 TOEC WW Grid Contest, SSB
- 13 Asia-Pacific Sprint
- 13-15 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 20-21 All Asian DX Contest, CW
- 27-28 ARRL Field Day

### July

- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
- 11-12 IARU HF World Championship
- 11-12 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
- 18-19 SEANET WW DX Contest, CW
- 18-19 North American QSO Party, RTTY
- 25-26 IOTA Contest

**Next Meeting: Saturday, May 2**  
**Time: 12:00 Noon**

## Visalia International DX Convention

**Luncheon, Terrace Area  
Holiday Inn  
Visalia, California**

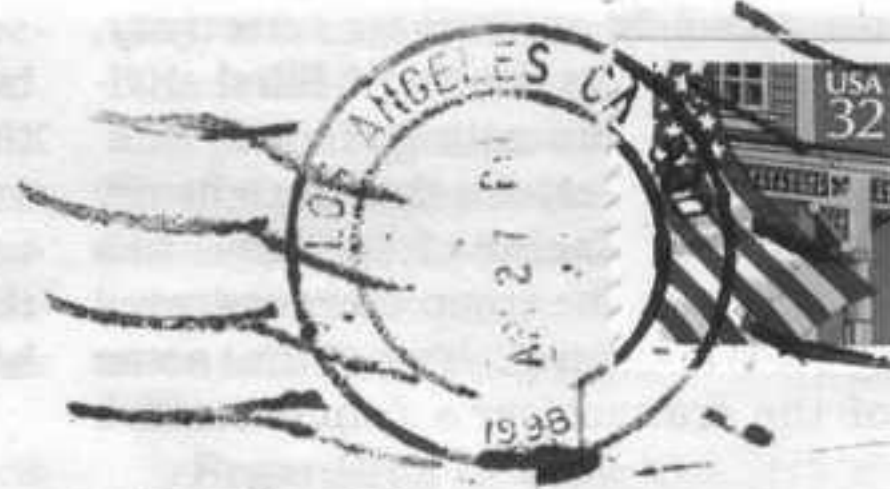
**Special Guest, VY1JA**

RSVP to N6NC



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