

**Message from the Prez**  
by Ken Widelitz, AB6FO

About three years ago, I started to get serious about DX-oriented contests. In preparing for my first serious DX contest, I realized that, unlike domestic contests, much more planning was necessary in order to be on the right band and have the antenna pointed the right way at the right time in order to maximize my score. I started studying the DX charts in CQ and QST. I realized there had to be a better way, and there is. It will come as no surprise to hear my answer to the better way was the computer.



I purchased CAPMAN, a more user friendly front end to the IONCAP propagation model. I say more user friendly guardedly. This is not a real user friendly program. It took a lot more time than I am use to taking to learn a program. To the good side, Tabor Software provides good and quick tech support.

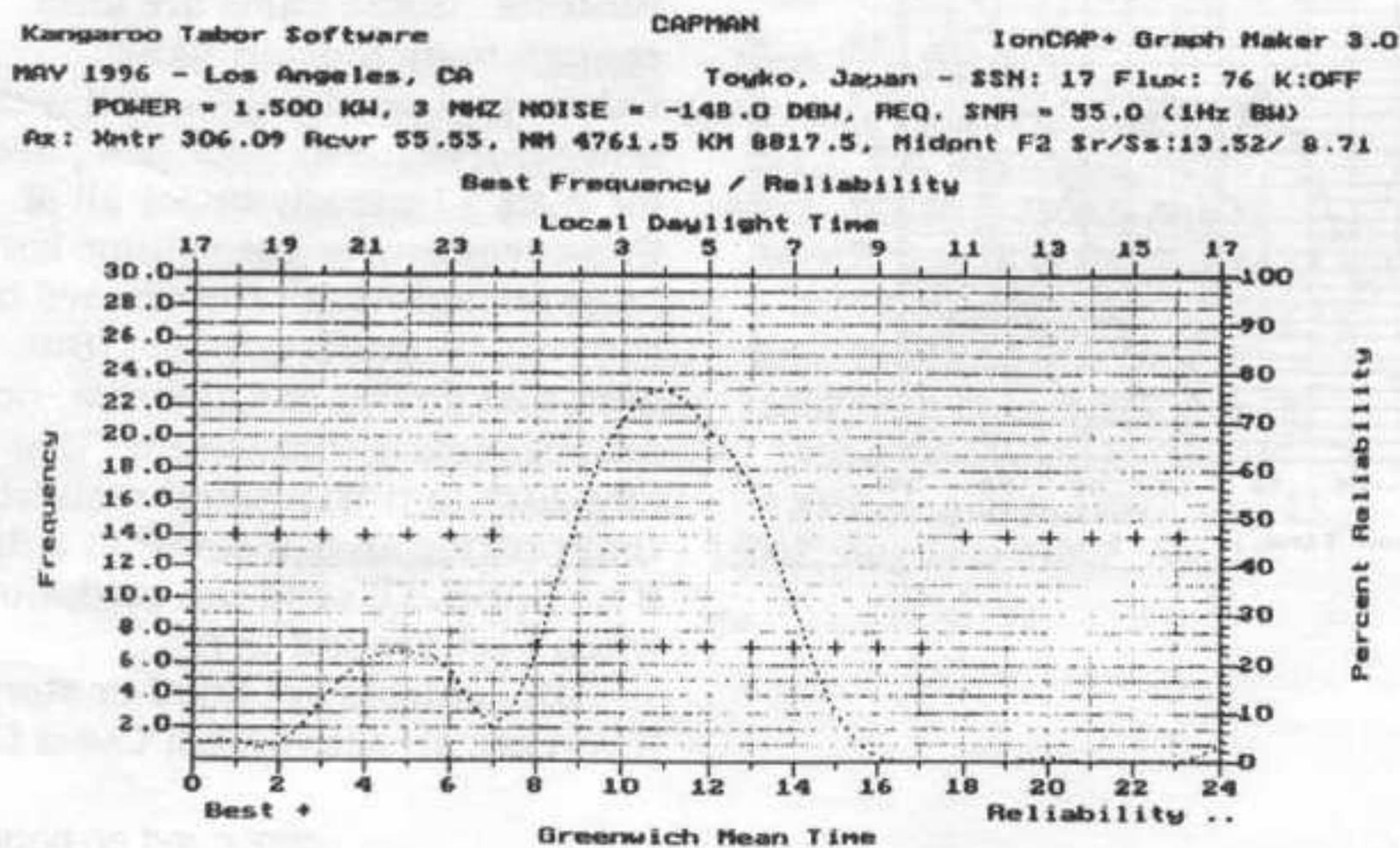
You tell the software where you are, the gain and height of your antennas, your power level and the other end of the circuit (the DX). The chart output looks like Figure 1. Figure 1 is for Los Angeles to Japan for the recent CW WPX.

The dotted line shows the forecast in terms of percentage reliability. The plus-marks show which is projected to be the best band. For CW WPX, my strategy was to maximize the JA run on 40-meters. since each QSO is worth 6 points. The chart told me to start checking for JAs on 40-meters at 0800 and keep looking until 1600. On day one, my first JA on 40 was at 0715, the last at 1521 and the JA/Asia QSOs on 40-meters would up looking like this:

| Day 1 |    |
|-------|----|
| 0700  | 16 |
| 0800  | 46 |
| 0900  | 58 |
| 1000  | 38 |

continued on page 2

**Figure 1**



May - Jun 1996

W  
R  
O  
O  
O  
O  
S

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enlightenment

Vol. 19, No. 3



## President (from page 1)

|      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1100 | 35                      |
| 1200 | 45 (+12 on 80)          |
| 1300 | 9 (+4 on 80) (EU on 20) |
| 1400 | 14                      |
| 1500 | 15                      |

|       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|
| Day 2 |                 |
| 0700  | 3 (42 on 20)    |
| 0800  | 7 (27 on 20)    |
| 0900  | 22              |
| 1000  | 18              |
| 1100  | off (too tired) |
| 1200  | 18              |
| 1300  | 15              |
| 1400  | 2               |

On day two there was an incredible JA opening on 20-meters starting in the 0500 hour. There were lots of low QSO number JAs I was working for the first time. I figured I'd work them on 20 and get them later on 40. I didn't go to 40 for my first JA until 0757 and went back to 20 at 0846. Unfortunately, the big JA run on 40 never materialized, as you can see from the day two numbers above.

Figure 2 shows a number of the CAPMAN runs overlaid onto one chart, the overall bandplan. This has to be done manually, as CAPMAN can't do overlays yet. For the CW WPX, I built the overlays in color for six different locations (JA, VK, CT, KP4, PY, 5Z). I use more DX locations for CQWW. I also noted which was the best band for each location at the best times. In addition to which band to be on and which way to point the antenna, the chart also made it clear that 1600 to 2100 were good potential off times. I wound up taking most of my off time between those hours.

Obviously, this is not the end all approach to band planning. Actual conditions will vary. I don't claim to know much about the best long paths, and I'm not sure CAPMAN could show them. Only experience can help with building a plan that includes unusual openings. But CAPMAN, or a program like it, sure is a good place to start.

## W6UQF, SK

Charlie Oakes, W6UQF, unexpectedly passed away on June 24, 1996. According to a note posted to the Internet Contest Reflector by K6NA, Charlie had a flat tire in his neighborhood and died of a stroke or heart attack after hoofing it back to his house.

Charlie was an extremely active member of the SCCC, always on during seemingly every contest to at least hand out QSOs to the regulars, if not involved in a full-throttle effort. After hearing of his death, many contesters from across the country, posted notes on the Contest Reflector reminiscing about his CW abilities, his friendship, his love of contesting, or just saying they would miss him.

Charlie will be missed.

## The Editor Says...

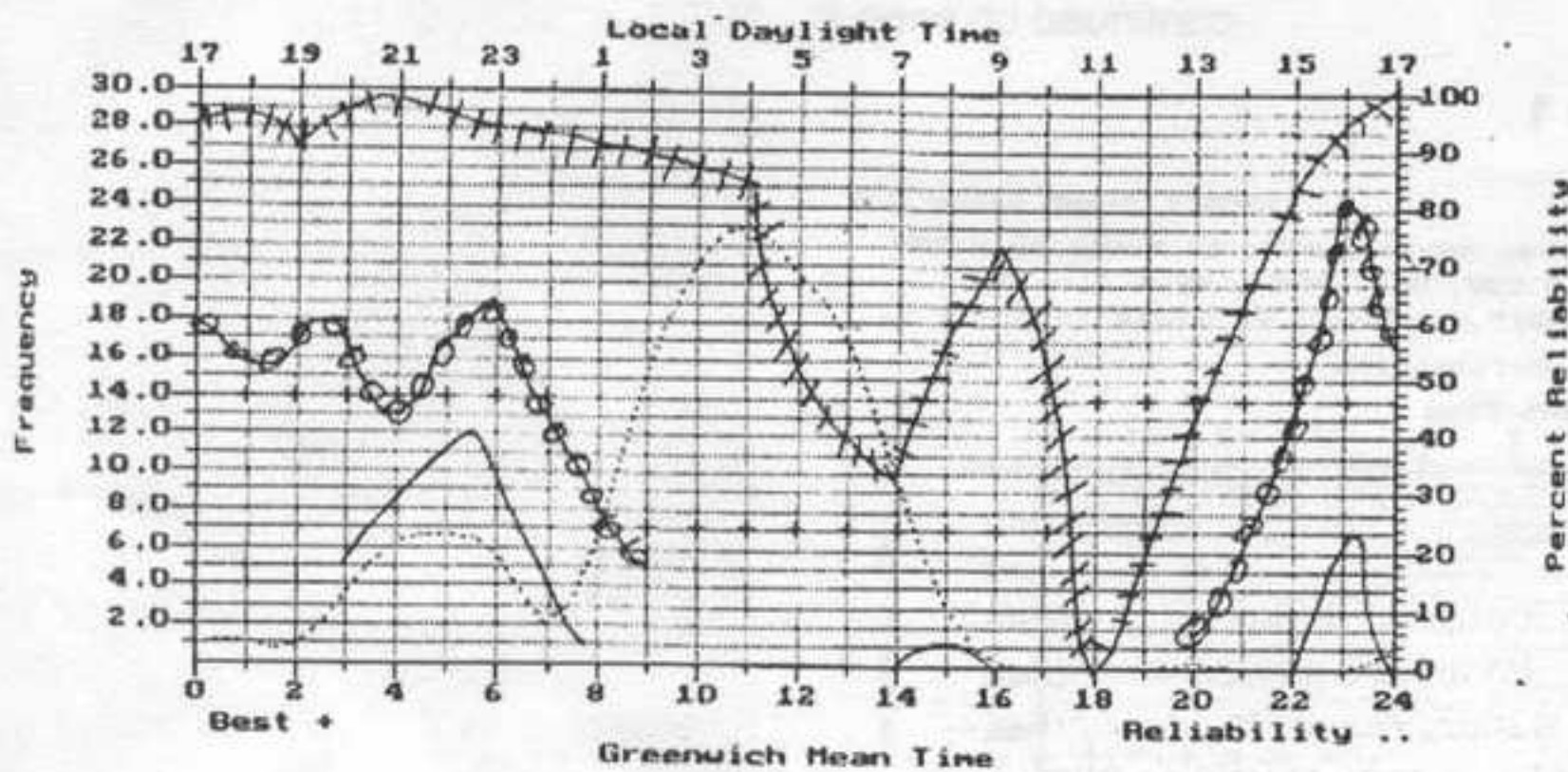
by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Since we are now in the slow portion of the contesting year, I've been spending some of my time taking care of the QSLs that contesting always generates.

I always receive a few domestic QSLs from my activities in the NAQPs, WPXs and Sweepstakes contests. Some hams are kind enough to include an SASE. Others just send a QSL card with a hopeful request: "pse QSL, need for WAS." I usually honor all of these requests — the volume isn't large enough that I feel abused by the lack of return postage. But, after all I do live in California, not exactly a state that is rare! Usually, I try to turn around requests that include an SASE within a day. If no SASE, I'll send the card, but when I get around to it.

DX contests are another story. If you are an active West Coast DX

Figure 2



JA .....  
 Europe ———  
 Carib - - - -  
 SA ooooo

continued on page 3



**CONTEST CALENDAR**  
**June 9, 1996 Edition (96.6)**

Please send corrections and additions directly to me.  
Thanks to AB5KD, W3HDD, DL2DN for contest info.

73 de Bruce, WA7BNM (bhorn@netcom.com)

---

Please note that you may not be able to operate during all of the total hours of the contests listed below. Total operating time may also vary by entry category. See individual contest rules for allowed operating hours.

---

**June, 1996**

All Asian DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Jun 15 to 2400Z, Jun 16  
SMIRK QSO Party 0000Z, Jun 15 to 2400Z, Jun 16  
West Virginia QSO Party 1800Z, Jun 15 to 1800Z, Jun 16  
Marconi Memorial Contest HF 1400Z, Jun 22 to 1400Z, Jun 23  
ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 22 to 2100Z, Jun 23  
RGSB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z, Jun 22 to 0100Z, Jun 23

**July, 1996**

RAC Canada Day Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Jul 1  
World Radiosport Team Champ. 1200Z, Jul 13 to 0600Z, Jul 14  
IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14  
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 1800Z, Jul 13 to 2100Z, Jul 14  
DIE Contest 0500Z-1300Z, Jul 14  
RGSB Low Power Field Day, CW 0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 14  
SEANET WW DX Contest, CW 0001Z Jul 20 to 2359Z, Jul 21  
North Amer. QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 20 to 0600Z, Jul 21  
RGSB IOTA Contest 1200Z, Jul 27 to 1200Z, Jul 28

**August, 1996**

European HF Championship 1000-2200Z, Aug 3  
ARRL UHF Contest 1800Z, Aug 3 to 1800Z, Aug 4  
North Amer. QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 3 to 0600Z, Aug 4  
WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Aug 10 to 2400Z, Aug 11  
SARTG WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Aug 17 to 1600Z, Aug 18  
SEANET WW DX Contest, SSB 0001Z, Aug 17 to 2359Z, Aug 18  
ARRL 10 GHz Cumul. Contest 0800-2000 local time, Aug 17 and Aug 18  
North Amer. QSO Party, Phone 1800Z, Aug 17 to 0600Z, Aug 18  
WSWSS VHF and Above Sprint 1900-2300 local time, Aug 21  
TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW 1200Z, Aug 24 to 1200Z, Aug 25  
Utah Centennial QSO Party 1500Z, Aug 24 to 2100Z, Aug 25

## September, 1996

All Asian DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Sep 7 to 2400Z, Sep 8  
European Field Day, SSB 1500Z, Sep 7 to 1500Z, Sep 8  
North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0359Z, Sep 8  
WAE DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Sep 14 to 2400Z, Sep 15  
Islands Contest 1700Z, Sep 14 to 2300Z, Sep 15  
ARRL September VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16  
North American Sprint, Phone 0000Z-0359Z, Sep 15  
ARRL 10 GHz Cumul. Contest 0800-2000 local time, Sep 21 and Sep 22  
Washington State Salmon Run 1200Z, Sep 21 to 0700Z, Sep 22  
and 1200-2400Z, Sep 22  
Scandinavian Act. Contest, CW 1500Z, Sep 21 to 1800Z, Sep 22  
CQ Worldwide Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29  
Scandinavian Act. Contest, SSB 1500Z, Sep 28 to 1800Z, Sep 29

## October, 1996

VK/ZL Contest, Phone 1000Z, Oct 5 to 1000Z, Oct 6  
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB 1500Z-1859Z, Oct 5  
California QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6  
RGSB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB 0700Z-1900Z, Oct 6  
VK/ZL Contest, CW 1000Z, Oct 12 to 1000Z, Oct 13  
EU Autumn Sprint, CW 1500Z-1859Z, Oct 12  
Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z-2400Z, Oct 12 and 0000Z-0500Z and  
1300Z-2200Z, Oct 13  
JARTS WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Oct 19 to 2400Z, Oct 20  
Asia-Pacific Sprint 1230-1430Z, Oct 19  
Worked All Germany Contest 1600Z, Oct 19 to 1600Z, Oct 20  
RGSB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW 0700Z-1900Z, Oct 20  
CQ Worldwide Contest, Phone 0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27

## November, 1996 (U.S hams should note that CQWW is before Thanksgiving)

ARRL Sweepstakes, CW 2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4  
High Speed Club CW Contest 0900-1100Z and 1500-1700Z, Nov 3  
Japan Int.DX Contest, Phone 2300Z, Nov 8 to 2300Z, Nov 10  
WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 9 to 2400Z, Nov 10  
ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone 2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18  
RGSB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 16 to 0100Z, Nov 17  
CQ Worldwide Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24

## December, 1996

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8  
ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15  
TARA RTTY Sprint 2100Z, Dec 14 to 0100Z, Dec 15  
RAC Canada Winter Contest 0000-2359Z, Dec 29

---



## Editor (from page 2)

contester, you receive hundreds, if not thousands, of JA QSLs. I recently shipped about four pounds of QSLs to the ARRL's outgoing bureau—at least 95 percent of the cards to JAs. I was just feeling caught up on my bureau QSLing, when I received more thick envelopes from the 7-land bureau, with a request to send more envelopes.

West Coast contesters have a wide range of attitudes about JA QSL cards. Some throw them away unanswered, while others answer every card. Some contesters will QSL if it is the first QSL from the requester, while some QSL new band QSOs.

What is the answer? QSLing takes time away from other ham radio activities: improving the station, operating, etc. I suppose in a perfect world we would answer every QSL we receive. However, we are more apt to be motivated by fears than by perfect world scenarios.

The question we all ask is: will not QSLing affect my score? When I'm trying to run JAs, does someone who tunes across my CQ note that I haven't answered his QSL request and keep tuning? I don't know that we will ever have a

definitive answer to this question. However, I do know that as a low power DX contester (I don't think I would feel differently if I ran high power), I'm extremely dependent on JA QSOs to generate a competitive score from the West Coast.

My personal QSLing policy is to answer any QSL I receive, as long as it isn't an exact duplicate (another QSL for the same QSO). I don't try to figure out what motivated the requester to want yet another QSL from me on 15-meter SSB, when he already has three. I just send the QSL. After all, the ham who is a ragchewer may be puzzled as to why I want another 5-second QSO with him, when we've had many such QSOs in the past on the same band and mode.

I recently heard a rumor that there was some sort of contest in Japan for hams to individually collect 10,000 QSL cards. If true, this may be the motivation for the multiple QSL requests for same band and mode QSOs.

The bottom line is that my QSLing policy is driven by not being willing to risk losing QSOs. I, like all contesters, need all the QSOs I can get.

## SCCCORE

is the official bulletin of the Southern California Contest Club.

President: Ken Widelitz, AB6FO  
10519 Lauriston Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 474-1355  
kwidelitz@delphi.com

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

Editor: 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

SCCCORE is published six times per year. Please submit scores and other bulletin material to the editor.

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

Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Internet Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

### July

13-14 WRTC  
13-14 IARU HF World Championship  
13-14 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest  
20-21 SEANET WW DX Contest, CW  
20-21 NAQP, RTTY

### August

3-4 ARRL UHF Contest  
3-4 NAQP, CW  
10-11 WAE DX Contest, CW  
17-18 SARTG WW RTTY Contest  
17-18 SEANET WW DX Contest, SSB  
17-18 NAQP, Phone  
24-25 TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW

### September

7-8 All Asian DX Contest, SSB  
8 North American Sprint, CW  
14-15 WAE DX Contest, SSB  
14-16 ARRL September VHF QSO Party  
15 North American Sprint, Phone  
28-29 CQ Worldwide Contest, RTTY

**Next Meeting: Saturday, July 13  
Time: 11:00A**

## **Hands-On Two Radio Contesting during IARU HF Contest**

QTH of AB6FO  
10519 Lauriston Avenue  
West Los Angeles

Although meeting is at 11:00A, shack will  
be open all day. BBQ lunch at noon.  
Please RSVP to Ken (310) 474-1355.

### Directions:

From 405 Fwy, take Olympic Blvd. Exit  
Proceed East on Olympic to Patricia (if you  
get to Beverly Glen, you've gone too far)  
Turn right on Patricia  
Turn right on Lauriston (1st right)  
4th house on right

**SCCCORE**

Southern California Contest Club  
43150 Sixth St. East  
Lancaster, California 93535



**First Class Mail**

OCR#2 SCF930 07/07/96 02:50 HD#1

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

93022/9322

