

## Message from the Prez by Larry Serra, N6NC

Well, Visalia and Dayton are over now, with — are you ready — rain over the Visalia weekend! The upshot is a rumor that next year's DX convention will be in Fresno the first weekend in April (to be officially determined and announced by the Northern California DX Club later).

Congratulations to our own K6NA, Glenn Rattmann, whose induction to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame was announced by Bob Cox, K3EST. The actual formal presentation was made at Dayton. Glenn was nominated by both the Southern California Contest Club and the Southern California DX Club.



All who attended (about 36 SCCC members) enjoyed the Voice of America Delano site tour. A big "TU" to Curt Steele, director of the facility, for his time and effort in providing comprehensive tours for both groups of SCCCers. (At one point I complimented him on the gleaming polished floors of the facility, and he admitted that was part of their cleanup "field day" in preparation for our tour.) High points were a photo opportunity showing the 250 kW Brown-Boveri transmitter on 14.025 MHz ("we own this run frequency!"), party favors from the VOA junkbox (Jennings vacuum variable capacitors) for KØYW (ex-K6JYO) and others, and close-up inspection of transformers and capacitors in the power supply room that were even bigger than K6LL's pole pig and submarine capacitor bank in Yuma.

Saturday morning for your president started at 0600 for an 0700 meeting of ARRL SW Division, CAC and DXAC representatives and

all of the division DX, VHF and contest club presidents for issues related to DXAC and CAC. Questions you sent me were dutifully posed to the representatives, and answers forwarded to you by e-mail. The biggest result of this meeting was the appointment of our past president and noted contester, Ken, K6LA, as

SCCC's direct liaison to the Southwest Division CAC representative, Ned Stearns, AA7A. But it gets better. The ARRL has asked Ken to be the main representative for all ARRL log-checking procedures and methods relating to Sweepstakes. This came about at least in part when Ken discovered numerous errors in the ARRL's log checking of

'97 SS scores, because he compared the error sheet to his tapes of the full SS contest. The tapes showed many stations that logged and reported one sent exchange, actually sent another, which was carefully logged and reported by Ken. Anyway, Bill Kenamer of ARRL asked, and Ken agreed to serve as point man for the ARRL's SS log checking, beginning this year. I guess the moral is to use your VCR to tape the actual exchanges you heard in SS, so you can prove the computer log comparison software wrong when it says you logged the exchange incorrectly, when in fact the other guy actually sent his exchange differently than he logged it.

J. Allen, VY1JA, was our SCCC luncheon guest on Saturday at Visalia, and we presented J. with a plaque bearing the new SCCC logo, and inscribed "First Place Award to VY1JA, For Service to the Contesting Community." It looked pretty cool, and J. was really touched. We

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# SCCCORE



Contest Club

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enlightenment

## Prez Message (from page 1)

thought we should give him something to show our appreciation for his hanging in there under adverse conditions to give so many contestants sweeps and the important Yukon/NWT mult. I sent to the SCCC reflector J.'s note about how to be sure to work him in the contests, where he hangs out on the bands, etc. E-mail me and I'll send you a copy if you missed it.

Our new logo also appeared on our SCCC club certificates for achievement (>750 QSOs) and competition (category leaders) for the '97 CW SS. The certificates were distributed at Visalia or mailed to you directly. Hope you like them.

Tech Stuff: K7LXC and NØAX presented at Visalia their preliminary report on their actual, on-the-air comparison of several tri-band beam antennas that will be published by K3EST. One curiosity was the 6.0 db over dipole forward gain of the KLM KT-34XA at the low end of 15m that degenerated to a stronger pattern off the back of the antenna (+2.0 dB) than the front, at the high end of 15m. Our own K6LL has doubts about this and will perform some on-the-air evaluations himself. Stay tuned. Also notable for its consistent gain results on all three bands, across the bands from low end to high, was the Bencher Skyhawk, which is not yet in full

production for market. Check out the study (and included antenna evaluation software) when it is published. The boys from the 6Y4A operation in Jamaica did an interesting presentation on their DXpedition antennas placed right at the waterline. Of particular interest were the phased verticals they modelled and used, with the driven elements placed within 0.5 wavelength of the saltwater. Their gain and patterns were great for contest target areas, and the proximity to saltwater seems to do the trick. XE2DV (6E2L) seemed to be enthusiastic about modelling similar verticals for his Sea of Cortez QTH.

Our next SCCC meeting is Saturday, June 6, at N6ND (aka "Radio Free Ramona"), on radio hill in Ramona, San Diego County. Rick is a well-known tester (uncle of our famous 16 year-old champ, AD6DO) and consistently puts out one of the big signals from SDGO. Rick and Myrna have a beautiful homesite high in the hills of Ramona. Hope to see you there.

Stay tuned in August for the first of two Sprint clinics (not to conflict with the N6HC Bash, ARRL SW Division Convention, etc.). Two possible dates are Saturday, August 22 or 29, but we'll give notice by e-mail if we can set it up.

## The Editor's Ramblings — NAQP Log Checking

by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Since I just finished checking the logs for the January 1998 NAQP SSB contest, I thought it might be helpful to discuss some of the common errors that I found. Most of the errors are unique to the phone version of this contest, since they are less likely to occur in the CW version.

There are really only three items that a participant needs to copy accurately for each QSO in the NAQP: the other station's call sign, name and QTH. Yes, you also need to correctly log the date, time and band, but these are not dependent on copying what the other station sends.

**Call sign.** This seems pretty straight forward, but common errors included miscopying the prefix of the call, such as K4ABC instead of KB4ABC, or WA6BNM instead of WA7BNM, and miscopying the suffix by leaving the last letter off (K4AB instead of K4ABC), or by reversing the suffix (K4AB instead of K4BA). These errors may be caused by ill-timed static crashes, operators who don't give their calls phonetically, lack of attention, or the need to overcome computer logging program limitations. For example, I lost all of my KP3P QSOs in this NAQP because I purposely logged the call as KP4P in order to force my logging program to recognize it as a KP4, since I hadn't updated the prefix list so that the program recognized KP3 as being KP4. I intended to edit the log after the contest back to KP3P, but I forgot. I wasn't the only one.

**Name.** In NAQP CW all you have to do is copy the CW well, and you'll automatically get the name right. Unfortunately, it's a bit more complicated in the phone contest. You have to translate the operator's pronunciation of the name, filtered by a possible accent and the usual HF QRM/QRN, into a typed or written name. Jim, Tim and Kim all sound very much the same on phone, unless spelled phonetically. So do Gary and Jerry. If you have any doubts about a name, ask for it phonetically. When I copy a name that is one of the "sound-alikes," I usually repeat it phonetically and ask for confirmation.

Some testers mis-log a name because they depend on the advanced features of some computerized logging programs that show the name associated with this call sign

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## 1998 SCCC Meeting Schedule

June 6, N6ND, Ramona  
August ?, Summer Bash, N6HC  
October 10, N6VR, Ojai  
December 19, K6LA, Los Angeles

## Editor (from page 2)

during past contests. Unfortunately, there may be a different operator using the call sign this time, or he may have decided to use a different name. You also can't depend on the name being the same on each band during the contest. Some multi-two entrants use a different name for different operators. The logging program may be able to give you a hint about a possible name, but just be sure that it corresponds to the name the other operator is sending before logging it.

**QTH.** Although some QTH logging errors appeared to be the result of a station operating from another state than in past contests, most of these errors were the result of not using the correct two-letter abbreviation for states and provinces. Again, this is a different situation than NAQP CW, where copying the code will usually give you the proper abbreviation. In the phone contest, you have to know all of the correct abbreviations. If the op says "Alaska," you need to log AK or KL7, not AL. If the op says "Arkansas," you need to log AR, not AK.

Just take a little care with the exchange, and you'll reduce your logging errors. Now all I have to do is to remember to reread this column just before the next NAQP!

## Directions to N6ND, Ramona

Ramona is in mid-San Diego County, east of Escondido.

From LA and points north: Take Highway 78 east from either I-5 or I-15. Go through Escondido past the Wild Animal Park. Just after the road climbs up out of the valley and before you get to Ramona (watch for mile marker 32), take Haverford Road east about 1.5 miles. The road makes a left turn and becomes Pamo Road. Continue about 1.25 miles to Burma Road on the right. 1 mile up Burma Road to the towers.

From the San Diego area: Take Highway 67 from El Cajon, or from Poway Road or Scripps-Poway Parkway off I-15. Highway 67 becomes Main Street in Ramona. Turn left on 7th Street, cross the bridge and bear right, and it becomes Elm Street. Continue about 1.5 miles, turn right on Haverford Road for about 100 yards, and the road turns left and becomes Pamo Road. Continue about 1.25 miles to Burma Road on the right. 1 mile up Burma Road to the towers.

## 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

### 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

### August

- 1-2 North American QSO Party, CW
- 1-2 ARRL UHF Contest
- 15-16 W/VE Islands Contest
- 15-16 North American QSO Party, SSB
- 22-23 TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW

**Next Meeting: Saturday, June 6**

**Time: 11:00 A.M.**

**QTH of Rick, N6ND  
Ramona, California**

**RSVP: Dana, (619) 595-5431  
(N6NC's secretary)**

**Talk-in: 144.415 MHz Simplex**

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