

# SO CAL CONTESTER'S GUILD

## BULLETIN OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB

VOLUME II ISSUE IV

MAY 1981

The Southern California Contest Club meets on random days in random places to avoid detection. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Numero Uno Pizza Cookery in Encino, at one p.m. Their address is 16545 Ventura Blvd. A map is included below.

Membership to the SCCC is available to anyone infected with the contest disease. Merely send a note signed by your doctor with three dollars to the bulletin editor. Once a member, you shall receive this bulletin for one full year. Ads are published free and should also be sent to the editor:

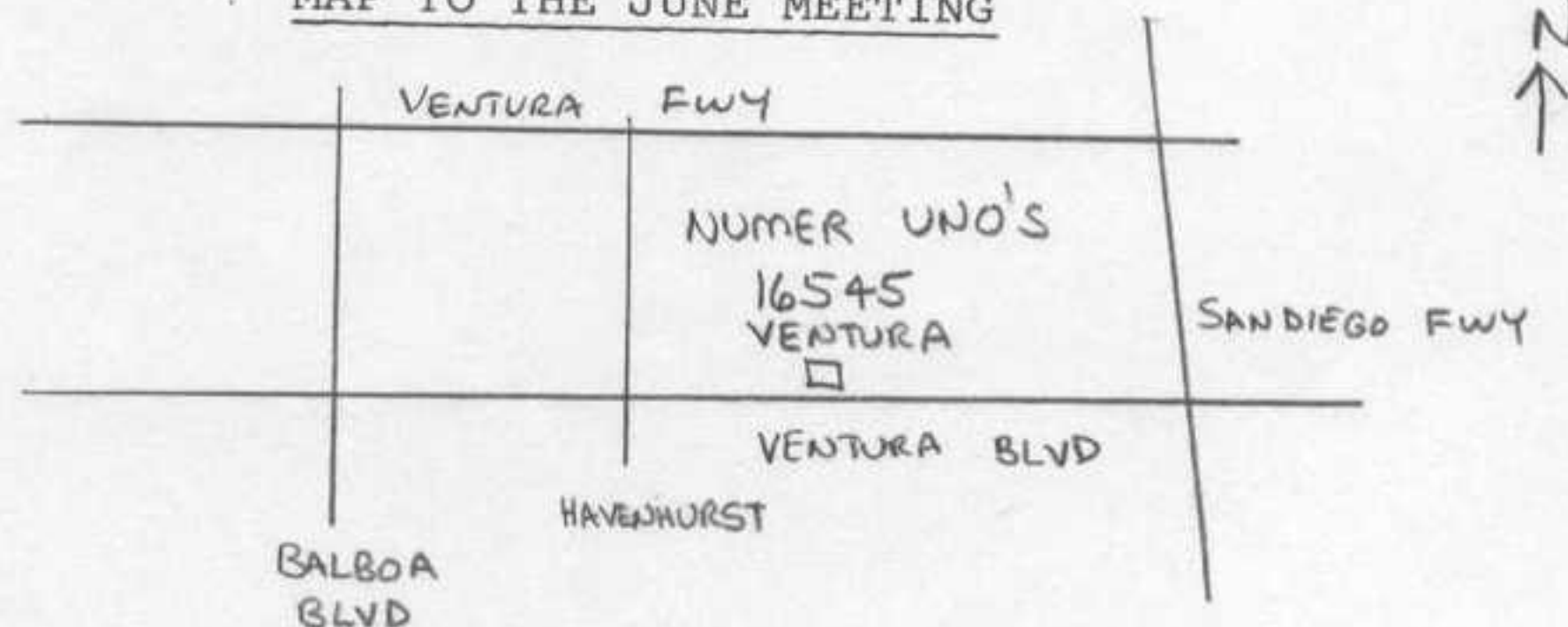
### BULLETIN EDITOR

Larry "Tree" Tyree N6TR  
1850 Stow Street  
Simi Valley, Calif. 93063  
Tel (805) 526-3372

The club has four new members, N6PE, K6SE, N6CW, and KR6X (who is KR6X?). They are included in the new roster attached to this bulletin. This brings our membership total to 29, and our treasury is now at a record high of \$62.40!! That's almost enough money for me to buy that keyer.

### MAP TO THE JUNE MEETING

1 P.M.  
JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For those of you who missed the last meeting, you also lost out on a private tour of Don Wallace's fine QTH. Jim Neiger took several of us up there after the regular meeting. You just never know what will happen at one of our meetings.

It was certainly a pleasure to see so many SCCC members at Fresno/V. I estimate that twenty members were there. Maybe we should hold all of our future meetings there?

Those of you who wish to criticize our meeting locations are encouraged to use the following format for registering your complaint. List the following: your name, your call, the town you would like to see a meeting in, the place you have approved for the meeting, and the time and date the meeting is to be held there. If this format is followed you will achieve amazing results. The form for complaining about the president is even easier, just tell me when you want to take over.

Several people have asked me about Field Day. I had to say that the club hadn't yet shown an interest this time around. If there is an interest, then please express it. Due to the late hour all plans will have to be made at the next meeting. If you are looking for a place to operate, there are several people involved in different operations that may need your help.

This brings me to another point. This is your club. I am not going to originate all the club's activities. I will instead provide you with the means of accomplishing your goal. Don't be afraid to speak up. It's the only way to make sure the club will respond to the desires of its members..

Many thanks to Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU, for his penetrating review of the FT-901. Next month Dick Norton, N6AA, will share his thoughts on the Signal One radio.

I am thinking of holding a picnic on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, in Forest Falls. I'm sure some of you remember the SCN picnics that have been held there. If you are interested in attending please let me know. If I get some response to help my enthusiasm, then it will happen for sure.

That's all for this month folks, see you in the CQ WPX CW contest!!!

73 es GL contest

"Tree" N6TR



## YAESU FT-901-DM REVIEW

Not being a person who has kind words to say about transceivers very often, I would like to savour the moment by saying that in my test operation of the Yaesu FT-901, I didn't miss a single contact because of the radio.

The extent of my knowledge of this radio prior to my using one came largely by word of mouth. I had heard that it had adjustable filters on CW capable of out-performing a Drake R-4C with the 600 Hz Sherwood filter installed. I'm sure this is a statement none of us takes lightly, so I got ahold of one to see for myself. I had about two months of once-a-week operation, including one day of the ARRL SSB DX Contest, to familiarize myself with the transceiver before the April CW CD party. I was assured that the radio I was borrowing was up-to-snuff, in fact, the shop checked it out for me just before I took it.

The FT-901 boasts two 600 Hz CW filters, one fixed, the other tunable around the first's passband. The instructions say that you have a controllable width passband because of this feature, but when I tried to see how it worked, it just didn't play. Upon inserting the moveable filter, signals dropped a fair amount, and selectivity didn't seem to improve. In fact, it sounded like the same 600 Hz bandwidth had been retained, and that its skirts had become very mushy. I decided against using this feature in the contest since the fixed filter sounded better by itself.

The rig has an excellent 100 Hz "Audio Passband Filter" whose center frequency is variable throughout the 600 Hz filter's passband. This filter works very well but is too narrow to use throughout a contest unless everyone calls you within 50 Hz of your frequency, which we know is not the case. It is with this filter activated that Yaesu must be making its claim to out-perform the Drake receiver. In actual operation the Drake is easier to use because you don't need to switch in and center a second filter whenever you hear a weak signal. I have always been able to keep the R-4C 250 Hz filter in all the time. In this case, ease of operation takes a higher vote from me than the ability to filter your passband from 100 Hz to 600 Hz by throwing a switch and turning a tiny knob.

Filtering aside, this transceiver possesses a malady that most other transceivers have, the lack of a reference pitch to tell you where you are transmitting with respect to the receiver. Granted the sidetone is designed to be a



close approximation of your CW offset frequency, but when the RIT is engaged, you may as well be driving a car when your're blind. The FT-901 RIT works very well, but unless you switch it out or center it to zero, you have very little idea where your transmitter is with respect to what you are listening to.

As I said in the beginning, this radio didn't cost me any QSO's, and let me make it known that I have always preferred an S-line or a Drake line to operate contests with. I hate RITs and I can't stand not listening to my own signal when I'm sending. All that aside, the last hint I have for using the FT-901 in a contest is to learn how to write while your're sending because you have got too many controls to adjust when you are receiving and you have to log sometime.

SCCC FREE AD LISTINGS

HW-16 transceiver, factory aligned, QSK CW \$75 -  
WA6OTU

HG-10B receiver needs work \$25 - WA6OTU

SB-101 with power supply, speaker, CW filter, needs  
major clean-up, first \$200 - WA6OTU

Motorola X53GJV 2 meter transceiver, 50 watts out, 4  
channel XMIT, 2 channel RCVR, with mic, speaker,  
homebrew head, 12 VAC or VDC make offer - N6VI

Drake T4-XB/R4-B/MS-4/AC-4 all in great condition,  
contact Dennis Mowers, ex K6OVJ, (213) [REDACTED]

Ads are printed free in the bulletin. Send your ads  
to the bulletin director shown on the front page.

SCCC MEMBERSHIP LIST

N6AA

W6AM

W6AQ

N6CW

AE6E

W6EE

N6IC

K7JA

WA6JAH

WB6KOU

N6NI

N6NB

WA6OTU

WA6OYV

N6PE

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AA6RX

K6SE

WB6SHL

W6TAG

N6TJ

N6TR

K3VA

N6VI

N6VR

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WA6WZN

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