

Message from the Prez by Ken WidELITZ, AB6FO

Please RSVP for the next meeting! The next SCCC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, at CQ magazine cover page station, W6EEN. Don has asked that members planning to attend call him to RSVP so he can arrange for food. The phone number and directions are in the box in the usual place on the back page.

I visited Don while on a New Year's Eve vacation to the desert. All I can say is Don has done what I (and probably you) have dreamed about doing, as far as an antenna farm goes — and he isn't done yet. During my visit, there was a 3-element 80-meter yagi on the ground. The boom was assembled, and it alone was awesome at 60 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter at the middle. On the inside Don's shack is a beautiful thing to behold. It is over a two hour drive from LA to W6EEN, but well worth it. I hope you will be able to make it (and please call to let Don know you are coming).

Given the state of the sunspot cycle and some comments I received after the 1995 CQP, my thoughts have turned to improving my 160-meter performance. I was told I had a pile-up calling me on 160 during CQP, but you could have fooled me. I only made 13 QSOs on 160 using a shortened sloper off of my tower at the 70-foot level. I obviously needed some help hearing on 160.

The February '95 issue of QST had a write up on a EWE antenna that I thought might fill the bill at 38 feet long and 15 feet high. ZJ Electronics, (315) 635-2016, offers a complete kit, including the



amplifier (beverage box), terminating resistor, ground rods, antenna wire and support cable. The antenna went up easily, but, alas, I was unable to hear anything on it that I couldn't hear on the sloper. ZJ honored its money back guarantee.

I next turned my attention to the September '95 QST write up on the receiving loop designed by our own Brian, K6STI. A quick call to Brian got some questions answered, and I concluded the best way to put up the 21-foot loop was on top of my garage. Some 5-foot PVC posts plus two longer ones sticking off

the side of the garage at a 45-degree angle got me a 21-foot square at a 15-foot height. Building the matching network was easier than I thought. However, I found that the loop, while certainly quieter and easier to listen to than the sloper, still didn't hear anything that couldn't be heard on the sloper. Of course, it might be due to my not having tuned it optimally. I tuned it by maximizing the noise in my headphones on a long extension that I ran through the skylight in the shack up to the matching network.

Then I read an ad for a \$40 160-meter balloon vertical kit in HTYS, placed by Ron Chudy, WA7UQV, 3324 N. 7th, Tacoma, WA 98406 (I don't have a phone number). The kit consists of a heavy duty 4-foot balloon that provides 1.5 pounds of lift when filled with helium, a driven element wire with a swivel on top, four ground radials, fishing line, electrical tape and instructions.

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Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enrichments

Vol. 19, No. 1

New North - South Contest

by Bob Selbrede, W9NQ

Out with the old and in with the new. This is the fate of the long standing and seemingly stagnant competition between the Southern California DX Club (SCDXC) and the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) in the ARRL DX Contest. The old competition is being replaced with a new competition as outlined below. The traveling trophy, awarded each year at Visalia, will be replaced by a new trophy, also to be awarded at Visalia. However, the ground rules for the competition have changed.

First, a little background info might be helpful. Early last year the NCCC sent a proposal for a new ARRL DX Contest competition to the NCDXC, SCDXC and SCCC for consideration. The essence of their proposal was to foster a more meaningful and fun competition between Northern and Southern California DX and contest club members. They cited the lack of competition and participation in the current competition as the basis for their proposal. They proposed a total North vs. total South competition in which the scores of the SCDXC and SCCC would be added and compared with that of the NCDXC and NCCC to determine who would win a new traveling trophy. The new trophy would be purchased by the NCCC. The proposal was discussed by members of the SCDXC and SCCC and approved. The lone hold out was the NCDXC. They didn't want to participate in the new competition (why should they, they always won). The new board of the NCDXC is now willing to go ahead with the competition. A consensus was reached, and the new competition born.

The new total North vs. total South competition will start with the 1996 ARRL DX contests. By agreement, the charter clubs

involved have grown from the original proposal. The total South score will be the sum of the published club scores of the SCDXC, SCCC and the San Diego DX Club (SDDXC). The total North score will be the sum of the NCDXC, NCCC and River City Contesters (RCC) scores. Other California clubs can be included at a later date by a majority vote of the six charter clubs. The rules for the ARRL DX Contest and the requirements for the ARRL club competition will apply. The ARRL will publish the results of the contests, usually in the October issue of QST. The winner of the competition will be determined by summing the published results of the clubs involved in the competition. The winner will be announced, and the trophy will be presented at the following year's DX convention. This process is simple and fair.

In order to maximize our score and win the trophy, a few obvious things need to be done. As with any ARRL club competition, only the scores of eligible members are included in the club score, and therefore in the total South score. This means that each of the three charter clubs in the South need to make sure the ARRL contest department has an accurate up-to-date roster of their club. This is something that each club should be doing anyway and shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone (I hope!). Remember that the ARRL has both QTH distance and meeting attendance requirements that must be met by eligible members. The next thing that needs to happen is for participants to remember to indicate their ARRL club affiliation on their contest summary sheets. This is very important. If you do not, the ARRL will not include your score, however good, in your club's score. The last and most obvious thing is

to get on the air and operate! It doesn't matter if you have a big score, every little bit helps. True, it is short notice for this year's contests, but if you can possibly operate, please do so. Let's make this new trophy competition a real competition.

From the Vice President

by Will Angenent, KN6DV

Hello all. Well, it looks like the SCCC teams are doing well. We had some great scores in the NAQP CW and made an all time team record in the NAQP phone. Also, the Sprint is going very well. We just had the phone Sprint, and it looks like we have a first place there also.

I participated in the phone Sprint myself. It was my first Sprint ever. It is something else, but I must say I love it. It is fast and takes some nerves — my type of contest! On the other hand, 3853 is a different story. Oh well.

In the future we need to try to have two teams for the phone Sprint because it sure makes a difference. Please let me know if you would like to be on a team for either NAQP or a Sprint.

Please look at your mailing label to see if your dues are due! Dues are still only \$5.00 per year. There are many members who are not up to date. We still need your dues to maintain SCCCORE.

Member WWW Access?

If you routinely have access to the Worldwide Web, please let Bruce, WA7BNM, know via his e-mail address: bhorn@netcom.com Bruce would like to hear from all members with this capability.

From the Prez (from page 1)

I strung the radials from a second floor balcony in front of my house: two over the house, one over a neighbor's house and one out in the trees along the curtilage that runs between the sidewalk and street. Launching the balloon was fun. I rented a small helium tank for \$26 from a local balloon store. There is some cord from the swivel at the top of the driven element that gets tied and taped to the balloon. I soldered the other end of the driven element to the center of an SO-239 and connected the radials (terminated to lugs) via a small bolt and nut.

A fishing line is also attached to the swivel to prevent the balloon from getting away. Good thing too, as I didn't use strain relief cords the first time I ran the balloon up, and the driven element broke off the SO-239 in short order. The fishing line, tied to a street lamppost, also kept the balloon from floating into the yagis and power lines.

The balloon vertical had an SWR of 1:1 at 1830 kHz without pruning. SWR was 1.7:1 at 1800 kHz, so the bandwidth is great and no problem running high power. In the CW NAQP, I was told by a few East coast stations that I was one of only a few 6s heard. I also

used it in the CQ 160 CW contest and worked the Caribbean and Japan for the first time ever on 160.

I also decided to run a SIP receiving antenna (a SIP is a very short beverage). I realized that the house behind me was vacant, and I could run the beverage along its 6-foot high cinderblock party wall that runs perpendicular to the party wall at the back of my property. I ran the wire under the bougainvillas that cover the wall, came out in my back yard and jagged a few feet to my side party wall. The coax runs buried under leaves and dirt at the base of the wall in the back neighbor's yard and then up the vines and across my back wall to the shack in the garage. It is totally invisible.

I wound up with a 250-foot SIP, using the ZJ beverage box and terminating resistor/ground rod kit. The SIP points at 105 degrees, and some of my Caribbean contacts were made using the SIP for receiving, since I couldn't hear them on the balloon. The balloon does hear great, but, being a vertical, it is noisy. Although short, this beverage is the first 160-meter antenna I've used that let me hear signals I couldn't hear otherwise. I now have the satisfaction of feeling maxed out as far as 160-meter antennas go on a city lot.

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 bulletin material to the Editor.

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

February

- 17-18 ARRL International DX Contest, CW
- 23-25 CQ 160m Contest, Phone, 2200Z

March

- 2-3 ARRL International DX Contest, Phone
- 16-17 Bermuda Contest
- 16-18 BARTG WW RTTY Contest
- 30-31 CQWW WPX Contest, Phone

April

- 6-7 EA WW RTTY Contest
- 12-14 Japan Int. DX Contest, 20-10m
- 13-14 Int. HF Gridloc Contest
- 15 ARRL 144 MHz Spring Sprint
- 20-21 SP DX RTTY Contest
- 23 ARRL 222 MHz Spring Sprint

**Next Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 24
Time: 11AM**

W6EEN Contest Station Tour

42605 Byron Place
Bermuda Dunes, California
(619) 345-8780

How to get there:

10 Freeway East 26 miles past Palm Springs

Exit at Washington St. (5 miles after Monterey exit)

Turn right on Washington (South)

Go through 3 traffic signals (1.5 miles) and turn left onto Hidden River (between two apartment buildings)

Go approx 200 yards and turn left on Byron Place

W6EEN at end behind white gates

Talk-in on 145.48 MHz, PL107.2

Important: RSVP to W6EEN by evening of Feb 22 so he can plan food



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First Class Mail

N6VR MEMBER THROUGH 02/96

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