

*Cool, a Laser Printer that really works!*

# SCCCORE

## Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results, and Enlightenment

Volume 17

March - April 1994

Number 2

## Message from the Prez

*by Bob Selbrede, W9NQ*

Greetings fellow SCCers. Thank you for selecting me as your new President for the upcoming 2 year term. It was a tough race with lots of competition (yeah, right) and I am glad to have won. I am looking forward to the challenge of keeping the SCCC an interesting and rewarding club to be a member of. I'm sure our new Vice President Ken, AB6FO, will do likewise. Ken will of course be organizing the club's team competitions for the next 2 years. Please make a note of that for this fall's slate of NAQPs and Sprints, etc. I want to thank Jim, N6TJ, for serving as the SCCC President for the past two years and also Mark, WA6OTU for doing an excellent job for the last umpteen years publishing the SCCCORE and managing the administrative affairs of the SCCC (*it has only been 3 years and NE6I and N6ADI both still have me beat! -ed.*). It's not an easy job to do as those with experience will testify to. Again, thank you all very much. Also, Congrats to our own WA6OTU on being appointed by the President of the ARRL to the Chairmanship of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (CAC).

Now on to the future. Several people have expressed an interest in seeing some different types of material added to SCCCORE once in a while. Sounds good to me. If you have a short article that you would like to contribute to the bulletin please feel free to send them to WA6OTU. I'm sure Mark would welcome some help with new bulletin material. Other suggestions for improvement can be sent directly to me. I would like to hear your ideas and/or suggestions.

Not much happening in the next few months contesting-wise. Has anyone made special plans for WPX CW this May? How about any record breaking efforts being

planned for the June VHF Contest or Field Day this June?

I guess it's time to start moving out on antenna projects and station upgrades that have been on the drawing board all winter long. Have any planned? I have a few ideas that may or may not get implemented. Being located out in the middle of nowhere, I have pretty much given up on any thoughts of building up a "small scale" Multi-Multi contest station. I figure it is far too difficult to compete with the really BIG stations and to get operators to come out this far. Therefore, I have decided to concentrate on building a decent Single-Op/Multi-Single station. I hope to acquire a second radio and necessary support hardware to join the ranks of the two-radio contesters out there. Also, a third tower and antennas will hopefully go up as well. I am planning to have multiple antennas for each band with the ability to use any antenna with any radio and be able to rotate them independent of each other for a little azimuthal diversity. It looks as though it will be necessary to use two radios to be competitive in Single-Op contesting in the future. I wonder how many fellow SCCers are currently running two radios on a regular basis? I suspect about 6 to 10 people at least.

Congrats also to all SCCers that have made decent showings in last year's contests. I had a personal best in several of my efforts and managed to win the high U.S. S/O score in WPX SSB last year (low power category). Thanks to those of you who noticed and said something to me about it. It's not a CQWW World High Score but I was certainly jazzed about it! Anyway, I hope most of you can make it to Visalia this year. We will have our customary Saturday lunch time meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. 73,  
Bob, W9NQ

# FROM THE EDITOR

Here we are again. You will notice this issue has a new look to it. Not that it looked *bad* before, it just looks better than it did. I was bound to mess with this Bulletin long enough to figure out how to do it using totally state-of-the-art desktop publishing.

Of course, this is not without a price. Remember my pledge to get these issues out *well in advance of the next meeting listed on the back?* That is the price I paid (you all paid) for getting an even better looking rag (is that an oxymoron?)

Like any kid with a new toy, I have been staying up late at night trying to figure out everything I can do with it. It's kind of like when you sit down at a new radio. Speaking of which, I took the plunge and upgraded my Collins S-Line with a TS-850S. I haven't even had time to take it out of the box and I bought it in January. I hope that serves as an indication of how swamped I am. Not that I am looking for pity. What I really should do is jump ship on *this* job, but I can't do that until somebody else wants it.

I bought the Laser printer (and the new computer, the fax machine, the modem, and the second phone line) because I need to upgrade the professionalism of my image. The SCCC just happens to be in the right place at the right time to benefit from the improvement.

Professionalism? That brings me to the CAC deal. What a surprise to get that phone call from Connecticut - I wasn't expecting it until next year. (*Expecting?*). This is a long story that I want to tell because I have felt a desire to give in to my own insecurities lately and now I can't break down in public because of the importance of my 'public image.' So you guys are going to have to bear with me while I share my deeper thoughts about this one. I feel like the SCCCORE Editorial is the only place I have left to just say what I think.

*Did I do the right thing?* Of course, I am referring to 'The Editorial From Hell' in the January issue of the National Contest Journal. This is a really tough question. You all know I have been yelling for some time about the ARRL DX Contest, and when Trey offered me a chance to write the Editorial in the NCJ (based upon the Editorials I have been writing in these pages for over three years now), I saw an opportunity to open discussion on a topic people have been turning their backs on for far too long. I won't go into detail here, because too much has been said now already, but to get any unfamiliar readers up to speed, let's just say I put forth that the ARRL DX Contest was a farce because it presumed to identify the top operator "in the US and Canada" using a format that was completely inappropriate for that purpose. Now you and I here in California know this not as a "possible premise that might be true," but as an out-and-out truth. Then, as any good leader would, I offered some solutions.

What happened then was not what I expected. Let's just say I must have touched a raw nerve. That editorial spawned more discussion than any other single topic in the history of the Contest Reflector, and I am still having a hard time walking due to the rip from my navel to my shoulder blades.

I have not made my internet address particularly public, and I imagine I will keep it that way for a while longer. I was particularly amazed, offended, and dismayed by the number of cheap shots taken at me (and all of us west coast ops) behind my back, when my telephone number and address are easily attainable to anyone who would like to talk to me face to face. I had no idea operators on the east coast were so insecure. This has certainly proven to me that adversity promotes growth and strength, inasmuch as we here on the west coast who even bother to participate in this Contest have developed a secure attitude of confidence without that stupid trophy.

All this has worked out fairly well, since I was then given a regular column in the NCJ and a separate opportunity to defend my original Editorial coming out in the May issue.

Now for the deep thoughts. Set aside the NCJ / DX Contest thing for a minute and let me explain that on a totally separate track, I campaigned to get on the CAC because I was

sick and tired of how ineffective that organization was. I blasted the CAC more than once in these pages and didn't make any friends of CAC Chairmen, who insisted they were 'doing a fine job.' I decided it was time to show them what 'a fine job' really was. My timeline was a little different than theirs, though. I figured I'd accomplish my goal of getting appointed Chairman *next year*. I guess I worked even faster than I thought I could.

The CAC has been another farce all by itself, floundering aimlessly for a lot of years. I will not go into detail here, but I would relish an opportunity to defend this statement by anyone with the balls to challenge it.

Due in large part to the "three ring circus" nature of the committee, we had an incident come up last year which left us looking completely un-believable to an entire faction of the contesting community (the VHFers). We had egg on our faces, believe me. I did what I could to pry into the complex inner workings of the ARRL and the CAC and lo and behold, I turned around one day to find myself standing at the top of the pile, having been appointed Chairman.

I want to be on record as saying I believe I am mostly a pawn in League politics, having replaced a fellow who didn't deserve to get dethroned but who became a likely sacrificial lamb because of the terrific mess-up on the single issue. My goal is to assure this kind of stuff cannot happen in the future.

Now look at the above two true scenarios relative to each other. I write a stinging piece for the NCJ, then immediately get appointed Chairman of the CAC. There must be guys on the east coast ready to spit. Also, as a 'private citizen,' I am free to editorialize in whatever way I see fit, even if my style is abrasive and harsh. As Chairman of the CAC, I am obligated to exercise tact and apply the keen wisdom and smoothness that earned me the appointment - especially when I address the two-thousand-plus readers of the National Contest Journal.

Well, nobody ever said it would be easy. In fact, being a good leader sometimes necessitates putting yourself up where you make a great target. I hope I don't make such a mess that I find myself being sacrificed next time. Time will tell.

So, dear readers, there you have my feelings on my sleeve. This is a liberty I can't take with anyone else. Thanks to those who read this far. I will continue editing this bulletin as long as I can, even if I continue to be required to write most of it. If everything goes according to plan over the next year and

## SCCCORE

is the official Bulletin of the  
**Southern California  
Contest Club**

President - **Bob Selbrede, W9NQ/6**  
6200 Natoma Avenue - Mojave, CA 93501  
H - 619 373-2204  
W - 805 277-9161

Vice President - **Ken Wideltz, AB6FO**  
10519 Lauriston Avenue - Los Angeles, CA 90064  
310 474-1355

Editor - **Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU**  
P.O. Box 4 - Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0004  
818 355-8697

Membership in the club is open to anyone. Dues are:

Domestic: **\$5 per year**  
Mexico/Canada: **\$8 per year**  
Non-adjacent Countries: **\$10 per year**  
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a half, though, I may find myself with some really irresistible fish to fry. I hope some of you are thinking about volunteering to take over.

I am really going to miss you all at Visalia. I have to work. I told myself a long time ago that singing must come before contesting. It's times like this when I am sorry radio is "just my hobby." 73,  
**Mark, WA6OTU**

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

In February I had the occasion to realize a long held dream, that of being DX for a DX contest. Larry, N6AZE, Marv, K2VIV and I went to the Baja for the ARRL CW DX contest as 6E2T. It was everything I had hoped it would be.

We had two condo units in Puente Nuevo, which is only about a 30 minute drive south of the border. In fact, even though we were doing a multi-single we had two of everything, including rigs and computers, just to keep Murphy away.

As soon as we started putting up our antennas, it began to rain. The clay of what will be a parking lot turned into the heaviest mud I've ever been in. Hours later, the HF2V and A3 were up, we were totally soaked and I was in the local doctor's office having a large thorn removed from my sending thumb under local anesthesia.

The contest started and I was facing my first real pile-up, just like I always dreamed about. The cacophony of signals sounded like mud. I forgot I had planned to turn off the AGC and play the RF gain. The first hour yielded a 151 rate. Late the next morning I pushed the last 10 rate meter to 286. What a blast! Now I know why guys go all over the world for CQWW.

Murphy did visit in the form of blowing up the 160 meter capacitors on the vertical, which cost us dearly in multipliers. We also had deafening intermittent line noise. And in the middle of the night I had to wake up Larry and Marv when I blew the AC in the operating condo and had to run an extension cord from the "sleeping" condo.

We have established a relationship with the radio club in Tijuana. We can use the call 6E2T. This is as easy a DXpedition as can be done. Larry, Marv and a few others went down for WPX phone and Larry is planning to go back for WPX CW. So if you've shared my dream, you might be able to realize it in the near future. 73,

**Ken, AB6FO**

## The Last Meeting . . .

by WA6OTU

The last meeting of the SCCC was held on January 29 after the TRW Swapmeet. What a mess it was, settling on a place to hold it. First, we picked a place that, because *he*

thought I was going to call and I thought *he* was going to call, nobody called to make reservations for a party of 35. This can be a big mistake all by itself, but we committed a doozy. It turns out the "Jolly Roger Restaurant" was no longer in business. Mike, KA6SAR, and I found this out about an hour before the meeting was supposed to take place, so we posted a note on the out-of-business restaurant directing everyone to Coco's where we have held meetings after TRW before.

Wouldn't you know it, Coco's was in no position to accommodate us with so little notice as they didn't have the staff. Strike Two.

We walked across the street from Coco's and made friends with the manager of The Olive Garden at the corner of Marine and Sepulveda. He was very happy to make room for our party of 35 and we proceeded to have the meeting with the biggest turnout for a non-Visalia meeting we ever have. 36 people showed up. It was great. We all talked about radio and shared good food, and it was only \$7, drinks not included. The best part was that at the end when we passed the hat, the money was all there right down to the last dollar.

## Reviewer Wanted . . .

by WA6OTU

Well, I screwed up again. What started out as a nice idea has turned into yet another example of how holding on to stuff and not delegating tasks is just plain bad management. This contester called me (gosh, was it last November?), who had just joined the SCCC even though he lived a long way away. He had written a couple of books for DXpeditioners he wanted to get reviewed in SCCCORE.

The ham above is SCCC member Craig Maxey, KH8AL, formerly WB7RFA, and he has compiled the DXpeditioners Worldwide Licensing Guide and the DXpeditioners Caribbean Licensing Guide. He had asked me to review them and advertise them in the Bulletin. He sent me copies of both.

Well, I have not gotten around to it, and I don't see how I will either, so I am looking for somebody else to do it. Now's your chance to get a look at these two treatises on a subject close to everyone's fantasy. First caller gets the gig. In fact, I am going to try to get these two books up to Visalia so Bob can offer them to anybody at the meeting who's interested.

As far as the ad goes, the SCCC has no stated or implied policy about advertising and has never yet advertised any commercial product in the pages of SCCCORE. This sounds like a question for the Board of Directors.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Anyone applying for New Membership should fill out the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$5 Domestic, \$8 Canada/Mexico, \$10 anywhere else.

If you would like a club badge, check here:  and include an additional \$6.

Mail completed form to: SCCC - Box 4 - Sierra Madre, California 91025-0004

# SCCC CALENDAR

Truly all the dates that fit! by W6EEN

## APRIL

15-17 International Dx Convention - VISALIA  
FRIDAY EVENING - SoCal/NorCal DX PktCls  
Sysop Dinner, 7pm El Tarasco Restaurant,  
2636 S. Mooney, (4 mi So of Hwy 98).

## SATURDAY - SCCC LUNCHEON - NOON

Look For Posting of Private Room  
29-May 1, West Coast VHF/UHF Conference,  
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel info:714 990 9203  
29-May 1, DAYTON Hamvention

## MAY

28-29 CQ WW WPX Contest CW, 0000z (48)

## JUNE

4-5 ARRL June VHF Contest  
18-19 All Asian DX Contest CW w/e  
25-26 FIELD DAY CW & SSB 1800z (24)

## JULY

9-10 IARU HF WRLD CHMPSPH 1200z (24)  
9-10 CQ Worldwide VHF WPX Contest

# NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club  
meeting will be held:

**Saturday, April 16, 1994**  
**12:00 Noon**

at the 1994 International DX  
Convention in Visalia

This year the luncheon/meeting will be held in a private room to be announced. The staff there has come to understand that matters of the importance of a meeting of the SCCC deserve special attention. Purchasing lunch is not required, but will be available for \$9. See W9NQ for exact details on Saturday.

Southern California Contest Club  
Post Office Box 4  
Sierra Madre, California 91025-0004



N6VR MEMBER THROUGH 02/96

Ray Benny  
160 Brandt Ave.  
Oak View CA 93022

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