

Message from the Prez by Ken Widelitz, K6LA

During the February 1997 ARRL CW DX Contest, an SCCC group set the record for the all time easiest, least expensive contest DXpedition. Or so I claim. Prove me wrong!

Arnie, N6HC, Larry, N6NC, Dave, K6LL, Bill, N6WS, and I joined Dick, XE2DV, at his hacienda about an hour south of San Felipe on Baja's East Coast. Here is how easy it was for me. I left my house about 10 AM and drove just under an hour to get to Arnie's place. Bill met us there, did some work on Arnie's computer, and we drove about 90 minutes to



pick up Larry in San Diego. After a leisurely stop for lunch, we headed over to Calexico/Mexicali. The only event of note on the drive was the car computer's miles to empty read 2 when we got to the only gas station within 25 miles. Whew!

After crossing the border, we headed south. After gassing up in San Felipe, it was a slow hour to Dick's place, slow due to the vayos in the roads (calling a vayo a big dip doesn't do it justice). We arrived at Dick's at 8:30 PM to dinner already in the oven. Dave had arrived two days earlier to do a little antenna maintenance. That job was made difficult by the winds. The morning of the contest we finished putting up an elevated 160-meter vertical. Since we were going multi-two, we also tested the two stations for RFI. By lunch we were all set up. Amazingly, after lunch everyone took a nap!

Dick's place is literally on the beach, totally isolated and comfortably slept all of us. The shack is located in a large room and

running multi-two left lots of elbow room. While he has satellite TV, the phone service is via a long path to Yuma's cellular system, and only works, via ducting, a few hours a day. Dick supplies his own power, water and waste management, but the rules for conservation were easy to get used to and live with, at least for a few days.

Dave started on 40-meters, and I started on 20. Conditions weren't great, but we put 275 QSOs in the log in the first hour. An hour and a quarter after the contest started 20-meters died, and I moved to 80-meters. Despite our checking out RFI problems earlier, as soon as we went to 80-meters, RFI problems immediately cropped up with Dave's computer. We wound up having to take the computer/radio interface off and manually enter band changes.

That was the only major glitch. One of the highlights was when Larry went to 160-meters for the first time. I was listening on a second pair of phones. It sounded like every PacketCluster in the country spotted us at one time. What a pile up! They were calling from all over the U.S. We wound up with 557 QSOs on 160 and 54 multipliers. That elevated vertical Dave put up sure got out.

In the battle of SCCC at XE2L (Larry's XE call) vs. NCCC at 6Y4A, the SCCC came out second: 6.5M to 5.96M points. On the other hand, it cost us about \$60 each for reciprocal licenses, under \$50 each total for food (and thanks to Dick's hospitality and kitchen expertise, good food and drink at

continued on page 2

Mar - Apr 1997

SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enlightenment

Vol. 11, No. 2

Prez (from page 1)

that), zero for lodging, a couple of tanks of gas and two day's worth of Mexican auto insurance. Travel time was about 10 hours door to door from Los Angeles, including picking up other team members and a lunch break. Like I said, that has got to be a record for minimal costs and hassle in being DX for a DX contest. Dick opens his shack for a few contests a year, so if you have always had a hankering to be DX in a DX contest, make nice to Dick next time you run into him on the air or at the DX convention.

Mast Calculator Available

K7LXC recently announced the availability of his Mast, Antenna and Rotator Calculator (MARC). Reportedly, MARC will let you enter any wind speed from 70 to 120 mph and allow you to select up to six antennas on the mast with any spacing, and then calculate the mast size, wall thickness and tensile strength required for your installation. In addition, the program recommends an appropriate rotator based on your specific antennas.

Price is \$9.95, plus \$2.55 for shipping and handling. Order from Tower Tech, Box 572, Woodinville, WA 98072.

1997 SCCC Meeting Schedule

April 5 (at International DX Convention in Fresno)

June 7

August (TBA, in conjunction with SCDXC/SDDXC summer bash)

October 11, Pea Soup Andersons, Carlsbad (note date change)

December 20

The Editor's Ramblings

by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

If you haven't already done so, take a look at the mailing label on your copy of this issue of SCCCORE. Does it indicate that your membership has expired? Are your dues overdue? If it does, please mail your dues to Will Angenent, KN6DV, as soon as possible.

Timely receipt of every member's dues is important because the SCCC has what must be the lowest dues of any club that is not sponsored by Microsoft or Nike: five dollars per year. Unlike the Southern California DX Club, which a number of SCCC members also belong to, the SCCC has no other source of income other than dues. We don't sponsor any income-generating conventions or sell advertising space in SCCCORE.

What does the SCCC do with your dues? It publishes and mails this six-times per year newsletter. Ken and Will may correct me about this, but that is basically the only significant expense of the SCCC. We don't buy raffle prizes, print T-shirts, donate to contest DXpeditions, pay speakers' expenses, or buy pizza. We also don't have any cash reserves to temporarily absorb the shortfall when members don't pay their dues on time.

Now you may be saying to yourself, how much can it cost to publish this newsletter? After all, it's just the cost of a stamp and copying. Printing 150 copies of a 4-page SCCCORE, including folding to 5.5 x 8.5, costs about \$50. Actually, it cost more than \$50 for the last issue, but I don't think it **should** cost more than \$50. By the way, this is for printing by a local print shop, not a chain like Kinko's where it would cost significantly more. We'll ignore the cost of the mailing

labels because they are only about a penny each. So the total cost for printing and mailing about 140 issues is \$94.80, or \$568.80 per year. That requires the dues of 114 members. Since some of those 140 copies are complementary copies exchanged with other contest clubs or provided to the editors of contest journals, there's not much difference between income and expenses.

I'm sorry if this has sounded like a dreaded public broadcasting system pledge break, but there's not much in our bank account. Please pay your dues on time.

Now back to our regularly scheduled programming.

During a recent long weekend in the Monterey/Carmel area, I took the opportunity to visit what may be the most unusual and unique city park in the United States! This park is in the city of Marina, about 10 miles north of Monterey. Unlike most parks, this one does not have lush grass lawns or carefully planted walkways. In fact, most of it is just plain dirt with some scraggly brush and a few trees. It is set on a hill of several acres that rises approximately 100 feet above the surrounding land, and the Monterey Bay/Pacific Ocean can be easily seen a mile or so away — although the view to the ocean is of more dirt and brush and a few wooden buildings. And like most parks, it does have a picnic table.

But this park is beautiful because it is a ham radio park, primarily devoted to DXing and contesting! Until recently, the land that is now the park and the concrete block building on that land was the Fort Ord MARS station. Through the exhaustive efforts of Pat Barthelow, AA6EG,

continued on page 3

Editor (from page 2)

over the past three years, this facility was transferred from the Federal government to the city of Marina. At one point in this process the facility was almost bulldozed. After all, the Feds thought the site would be more attractive to the public sector if they had already taken care of the demolition of all those ugly 70-foot wooden poles and the nondescript building.

The unusual aspect of this land transfer to the public is that it is based on the recreational value of ham radio, not the usual emergency-preparedness justification. That is why it is owned by the Marina City Parks and Recreation Department.

Pat's dream is to build a world class multi-multi contest station on this site. The air-conditioned building is spacious by ham shack standards and consists of a large common room with three separate sound-proofed radio rooms, in addition to a bathroom and a small work room. The inherited antennas are a 3-30 MHz discone and a 7-30 MHz military-grade log periodic. Although these antennas might produce a nice score if the station were located in New Hampshire or Maine, obviously a lot of work is yet to be done to produce a station that will be competitive with other West Coast big guns.

However, Pat seems to be generating interest among fellow NCCC members. One local is donating a 140-foot commercial broadcast tower that will probably become the centerpiece of the site. Jack Troster, W6ISQ, recently donated a large portion of his personal antenna collection, including a 5-el 20m yagi inter-laced with a 3-el 40m yagi on a 56-foot boom, numerous 20m, 15m and 10m KLM monobanders, and many other antennas. In fact the facility may have so many 20-meter monobanders that it can initially mount them on the wooden poles already in place and dedicate an antenna to Japan, Europe, and the Caribbean — no rotators needed, just switch antennas.

Although much work remains to be done (actually, most of the work remains to be done), it is a site of great potential. Seeing it leads me to wonder what other MARS stations could be transferred to the ham radio community at the military bases being closed across the country. As it becomes more and more difficult to get approval to erect one tower, let alone several, I wonder if this is the future of HF contesting in this country.

SCCCORE

is the official bulletin of the Southern California Contest Club.

President: Ken Widelitz, K6LA
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

April

- 5 SCCC Meeting @ Intl DX Convention
- 5-6 EA RTTY Contest
- 11-13 Japan Int. DX Contest, 20-10m
- 14 ARRL 144-MHz Spring Sprint
- 19-20 SP DX RTTY Contest
- 22 ARRL 222-MHz Spring Sprint
- 26-27 Ontario QSO Party
- 30 ARRL 432-MHz Spring Sprint

May

- 3-4 Texas QSO Party
- 10-11 VOLTA WW RTTY Contest
- 10 ARRL 902/1296/2304 Sprint Sprint
- 17-18 ARRL 50 MHz Spring Sprint
- 24-25 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

June

- 14-15 ANARTS WW RTTY Contest
- 14-15 TOEC WW Grid Contest, SSB
- 14 Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB
- 14-16 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 21-22 All Asian DX Contest, CW
- 28-29 ARRL Field Day

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 5

Time: 12:45P

**International DX Convention
Fresno Holiday Inn
Main Lobby**

Lunch Meeting

SCCCORE

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



First Class Mail

N6VR paid>02/98
Ray Benny
160 Brandt Ave.
Oak View CA 93022