

SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results, and Enlightenments

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Number 3

SCCC Makes Great Showing in CQ WPX CW Contest

by Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU, and Mike Baker, KA6SAR

Just when it looked like the contest season was finally coming to a close, several SCCC members obviously decided they hadn't had enough for one year, and set out to conquer the CQ WPX Contest on CW.

Leading the pack were Glenn, K6NA, operating 9Y4H, and Jim, N6TJ, operating NH6T. Back at home, Mike, KA6SAR, energized W6EEN battling for dinner against Mark, WA6OTU, smoke-testing the new W6UE. Rounding out the local effort was Ken, AB6FO, putting his brand-new super-antenna-on-a-city-lot to the test in Low Power. Representing the Multi-Single category were the N6DX crew as NY6Y. Other SCCC members heard during the weekend were N6AA, N6DLU, W6HAL, AA7NX, K6OY, W6UM, W6UQF, K6VNX, K9VV at XE7X, and N6ZZ. Others may have been on but were not spotted by this reporter. AA6TT was on from 9M0S, but he wasn't in the contest.

Conditions seemed to be pretty good. Earlier in the week there was concern that the MUF might not rise above 20 meters, but Sunday of the contest proved to be one of the hottest 15 meter openings to Europe in recent months, and kept everyone busy during what might otherwise have been a pretty slow period. Likewise, 20 meters was quite hot all night into Europe from the West Coast and allowed us all a chance to make up some ground on the East Coasters.

40 meters appeared to be a bit lacking, and JAs came pretty hard to those who persevered. With each QSO worth 6 points and the potential for multipliers to Japan being so high, extraordinary perseverance was the order of the day, and W6EEN and NY6Y both came up with great 40 meter numbers.

On the outside bands, namely 80 and 10 (160 didn't even figure at all), very little activity could be heard, and very little was worked, with everyone favoring the higher traffic frequencies.

WA6OTU's REFLECTIONS

The WPX, to me, never used to be a 'real' contest. I guess I started out as a stodgy conservative back when I was 14 years old, and have loosened up considerably since attaining a greater degree of, um, maturity. In those days, the WPX was SSB only, and therefore was categorically exempt from being taken seriously. When they went to a CW version, I was forced to take a second look. I still found the contest lacking in requirements of skill, since multipliers were virtually random, and there was no way to systematically accrue a score besides just calling CQ and hoping not too many people would give you the dreaded "zero pointers."

Then came the callsign thing, making it possible to work a whole bunch of American multipliers. Now a serious entrant will work hundreds of "zero pointers" which are worth a whole lot more than Zero to their bottom line. When it first started in the

late 70s, a few ops got one-letter callsigns which made them instant multipliers (how incredibly unfair, thought I), but as the years have passed, more and more contesters possess these coveted WPX callsigns, and finally we are to the point where just about anybody has one, and anybody who doesn't (i.e. a W, K, or N, not to mention a WA or WB) has a halfway decent callsign if only because of longevity and attrition.

So in all the years I spent complaining about what a stupid contest the WPX is, it has evolved into a downright legitimate, and let's face it, FUN operating activity. I stand corrected. I was wrong about this one, okay? I got on this weekend and had a REALLY GOOD TIME. What a surprise.

That was where the fun ended, though, because I overslept during the contest and wound up way down the list as a result. I still came away feeling like I can't wait until next year, though, for one very important reason: This contest allows single ops 12 hours off, like, to sleep, or attend to family or professional obligations. I'm not a lightweight, but I have never been able to go 48 hours in a contest. This one gives me a playing field that doesn't kill me. This is a big plus. Another reason the WPX is good fun is because you can work anybody, not just stateside only or DX only, but anybody. This keeps your rate up, and keeps it, well, you know, not boring.

So that is my take on the 1993 CQ WPX CW Contest. I would do it again in a second, but I think next time I may want to try it with one of those newfangled callsigns.

WPX CW Scores

Single Operator All Band High Power

W6EEN	1647/618	2.56 Meg	KA6SAR, Op
W6UE	1037/512	1.34 Meg	WA6OTU, Op
KC6X	1011/501	1.0 Meg	
N6AV		293 K	
W6OUL		70 K	

Single Operator All Band Low Power

AB6FO	963/500	1.1 Meg	
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Multi-Operator Single Transmitter

AG6D		4.55 Meg	
NY6Y	2225/708	4.3 Meg	

Single Band Entries

K7JYE	315/175	232 K	40 Meters
WB6JMS		126 K	20 Meters, QRP

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OK - the Visalia and Dayton conventions have come and gone. The SCCC was well represented at both, and most attendees seemed to be having a pretty good time. Visalia set an all-time attendance record, and I guess Dayton had upwards of 40,000 registered.

SCCC member Oliver, W6NV, was sorely missed at Visalia, and from the tone of his telephone call from Cairo last week, we may not see Oli at Visalia for another five years. He's been busy getting antennas up at SU2MT in Alexandria and should be making a big radio splash soon. Already he's been on 40 (Cushcraft 2-el) with awesome EU pileups.

Speaking of Visalia: The Contest Forum was lots of fun and WA6OTU and N6TV did a nice job running the "Visalia Group" panel. It was especially fitting when NCCC President N6TV was talked into joining the SCCC. Of course WN4KKN had to encourage Bob by paying his dues for him. Steve, NS6T, is the incoming NCCC President.

Trust everyone secured their Holiday Inn rooms for Visalia 94. Wasn't it fun trying to get through to the reservations office?

It was great to see old friend Jorge, EA9LZ, at Visalia. Jorge was the host to N6ZZ in Ceuta last CQWW CW, and we appreciate Phil reciprocating by getting Jorge all the way over here.

Congratulations to Tree, N6TR, for the nice review of his logging software in the current NCJ. Although WA0RJV did a good job, it's impossible to do true justice to the merits of Tree's work, and anyone not using it is missing out on a lot of fun. But Tree, you need a name for the S/W!

At Dayton, I picked up a new remote tuning device for my '950, similar to the Ekletech, but seemingly much more versatile. It just may solve the energy-sapping dilemma of having to reach over the keyboard to tune the radio. Will give a full report after trying it at NH6T/AH6AZ in the upcoming WPX.

Congratulations to our brethren up north as the NCCC was No. 1 in both the 92 SS and WPX.

Our amigo Ville (OH2MM, EA8EA) will be in LA the second week in June and we're going to have an SCCC meeting at the N6TJ place on Sunday, June 13, beginning at 11:00am. Directions are provided with the meeting announcement on the back. All food and drinks will be provided, so please come and meet Ville. He's even promised to bring some slides of the EA8BH/EA8EA/EA8AH super station. 'DOS' Garlough, WN4KKN, has even promised to fly in from Atlanta for the event. 73,

Jim, N6TJ

THE VICE PRES SAYS:

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Dayton Hamvention again this year and thought I would let fellow club members know what contest related activities and programs were presented. The usual forums of interest again were the Antenna Forum Friday afternoon and the Contest and DX Forums which ran all day Saturday. The Antenna Forum, moderated by Tim Duffy, K3LR, was excellent as usual. The first paper was presented by Dick Weber, K5IU, on "Determining the Wind Loading of Yagi Antennas." Dick argued that the present methods used by various antenna manufacturers, software writers, and authors to determine wind loading were not the best method to use. He discussed the "cross flow" method for determining wind loading and proved that our current thinking needed some adjustment. If you are concerned about mechanical design of yagis you should get a copy of Dick's paper.

The Contest Forum was also moderated by K3LR and included presentations on "Contest Operating Techniques" by KQ2M, "The VE3EJ Contest Station" by VE3EJ, "Contest Video Essay" by WZ3Q, "Multi-Multi From a Roof Top, CQWW From VS6WO" by VS6WO, "Operating Single-Op Plus Packet" by K3WW, "The K3LR Contest Station" by K3LR, and "A Tribute to Al Slater, G3FXB" by G3SXW. Bob, KQ2M discussed techniques he has used to become one of the most accomplished contesters active today. VE3EJ and K3LR showed slides and discussed the Multi-Multi super stations they are currently building with hopes of finishing by this fall. The Contest Video Essay, when completed, will be a video tape interview with many past and present contest operators discussing their contesting ideas, opinions, experiences, etcetera. WZ3Q indicated it will be a video sold through CQ magazine and should be completed soon. VS6WO showed what it took to set the new all-time CQWW Multi-Multi record for Asia. K3WW presented a home made video which was humorous and informative. Every chance he could he put in a

promo for the Frankford Radio Club. Lastly, Roger, G3SXW showed some slides and discussed the many accomplishments of the late Al Slater, G3FXB. I never knew Al personally, but I certainly knew of him. Roger paid tribute to the passing of one of contesting and DXing's finest operators.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the DX Forum moderated by N8BJQ. Some of what was offered included "DXAC Happenings" by W4VQ, "Botswana" by A22MN, "South Orkney" by VP8CFM, "P5RS7" by JA1BK, "VP8SSI" by W6MKB and WA4JQS, and "AH1A" by K9AJ. Romeo, P5RS7 etc., wasn't able to make the convention due to illness. The other notable item was that the VP8SSI crew formally announced their plans to activate Peter I Island in the spring of 1994.

The WX was rainy, putting a damper (did I read that right? -ed.) on the swap meet portion of the Hamvention. The Friday evening DX Dinner was very nice and featured Carl and Martha Henson with a program on operating from Ethiopia and Eritrea. Eritrea will most likely become a new DXCC country in the very near future. This year was the first year of the "Annual Contest Dinner" sponsored by the North Coast Contesters. I would have liked to attend except you didn't even know about it unless you are fortunate enough to be on Internet and use the Contest Reflector (I think that's what they call it). When I got there I was told the tickets had all been sold out. Perhaps someone else will comment on how the dinner turned out. Perhaps the SCCC/NCCC should do something similar to this at Visalia Friday evenings? I think it could prove to be quite popular. Anyway, that's it for now. Hope to see you at the next SCCC meeting. 73,

Bob, W9NQ

P.S. If someone would be interested in setting up a contest dinner at Visalia, let me know. Maybe we can work something out!

SCCCORE

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

Anyone may leave bulletin related messages at any time for W9NQ, WA6OTU, or KA6SAR via the Southern California DX Packet System. They may also be mailed to:

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Domestic: \$5 per year
Mexico/Canada: \$8 per year
Non-adjacent Countries: \$10 per year

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FROM THE EDITOR

Sitting around reading the mail . . . having a good time putting out this issue of SCCCORE. I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the club to Mike, KA6SAR, for gathering the WPX scores, to Don, W6EEN, for taking on the job of editing the Calendar column on the back (looks great, doesn't it?), to Bob, W9NQ, for reporting on the events at Dayton of interest to us - kind of reaching a bit there when he said he regretted he couldn't attend the DX Forum; and to Jim, N6TJ, for hosting the next meeting at his house, which, if you didn't see the notice, includes providing food and drink, as well as an opportunity to meet one of the best, Ville, OH2MM.

My personal thanks especially to every single one of the above guys, for getting their columns and info to me by the deadline. This has made it so easy. Finally, an issue that is getting mailed the weekend before the meeting . . . and you thought it couldn't be done.

I guess that means I lied last month when I said I felt a 6-pager coming on. I guess I just couldn't tell WHEN it was coming on. Mail? Did I say mail? I've received a few notes this time around which bear repeating in the bulletin. First of all, from Marty, N6VI/KH6, thanking me for the WR-1000 manual. I guess our bulletin gets around, since a week after I sent out the February issue, I received a photocopy of a WR-1000 manual from a couple of guys in the YCCC who have about 6 of them and read of Marty's woes. They sent it to the P.O. Box asking me to forward it to Hawaii. Marty goes on to say that SCCCORE advertising scored again, and the tower sold.

I had a note from Jim, WB6JMS, confirming he was also present at the meeting at WB6OKK's, and got inadvertently left off the list. We'll mark your attendance as such, OB.

Wayne, N6NB, writes that he is enjoying life in the 'private sector.' He is enjoying devoting more time to Ham Radio instead of Ham Radio politics! I gather that he *really is* devoting more time to Ham Radio, since I have seen him listed as the winner of the CQ WPX VHF Contest last July. To you HF guys this may seem like no big deal, but to us VHF aficionados this is no small feat. This is the first time since the inception of the Grid Square scoring system in 1984 that any West Coast station has been the overall winner of any VHF contest. This is truly one for the record books. Congratulations, Wayne.

Finally, Larry, N6AZE, writes with his own interpretation of what happened in the November Sweepstakes, where we came in second to the North Texas Contest Club in the Medium category. He points out that the NCCC won the Unlimited category by entering 91 members with an average of 100K each. When you look at it in these terms, our club could field 50 members on both modes making only 800 QSOs each and win the Unlimited category. He asks for my thoughts.

Somehow it is so much easier on paper. Maybe it is time to mount this effort. We've been threatening to do it for a long time now. Larry may not be aware of the extent to which our Vice President W9NQ pushed to get the club to the top of the Medium category last fall. It was like pulling teeth. It will always be like pulling teeth. We just don't seem to be a Club Aggregate Competition kind of club. Maybe this can change.

Maybe we can come up with some way of committing ourselves to a goal and working together to achieve it in SS. It is a tall order with CQWW rising ominously above us all at that time of year. I don't know. I don't want to be the one to lead it, but hey, how about YOU, Larry? Between you and Bob we might be able to really get something going! Maybe you two guys should talk. (I smell a Vice President nomination brewing).

I gotta tell you, it was really cool getting all those letters. I am beginning to feel like people care about what is going on with our little pizza eating and beer drinking (and CQ Worldwide WINNING) club.

Speaking of people caring, how about this: Now that I am a bona-fide member of the CAC, I must say it is disappointing to see how little the CAC actually does, and how little anybody else really cares what we think. This is a pretty miserable state of affairs and needs to be attended to. It looks like I have my work cut out for me.

To begin with, I am announcing my plans to propose some radical changes to the DX contest, and I am going to need a small committee to work on this with me from the ranks of the SCCC. We will have to do things like: 1) Write some really solid new rules and 2) design a presentation that is so good looking and so polished that everybody actually takes the idea seriously. The main thrust will be to de-emphasize the National Top Ten idea in favor of smaller, more geographically competitive regions, as few as three (Left, Middle, and Right?) or as many as 15 (ARRL Divisions). The talk I've heard figures probably something like six. The format would remain USA-works-the-world, but the results would show the Northeast competing with the Northeast, the Northwest competing with the Northwest, the South-central with the South-central, and so on.

Instead of Top-Ten boxes, there would be, say, Top-Five boxes for each category in each region. Trophies would go to the top station in each region in each class, and certificates on down the line. You can see there will be many more "winners" recognition-wise.

Another goal will be to broaden the amount of computer processing by getting more logs on disk than at present. The better scrutinized the logs are, the more meaningful the status of winning an event like this. Therefore, logs-on-disk will be eligible for awards, but logs-not-on-disk will not, but will still be published in the standings appropriately identified as Participants but not Competitors.

Along with these new concepts, I am pondering some really leaps-and-bounds stuff like requiring the top competitors to keep an audio tape of their operations.

Out will be: the 10 minute rule, any semblance of a 24-hour category, and use of packet in Single-operator categories. It is my belief that any one guy with all the packet spots can outscore any two guys with two radios operating Multi-single. Packet means Multi-op.

It's a big bite to chew, I know, but it has the potential of making a trophy in the ARRL DX Contest a very coveted award - more than it is now, at least, and at best displacing the CQWW as the most popular serious contest. The only thing that could be better would be a CQWW administered and reported to the same degree of detail and accuracy. I need help drafting the rules and taking last year's results and retabulating them into our proposed new format. Does anyone want to talk about it?

73,

Mark, WA6OTU

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Anyone applying for New Membership should fill out the following:

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

Telephones: _____

Everyone: Check here if you would like a club badge - include an additional \$6.

Current Members: Check your mailing label on the back of this form. If everything is current, fine. Just send this in with a check. If there are changes, note them.

Dues are: \$5 per year Domestic, \$8 Canada/Mexico, and \$10 anywhere else.

Mail to: SCCC c/o Mark, WA6OTU - Box 4 - Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0004

SCCC CALENDAR

Truly all the dates that fit! by W6EEN

JUNE

- 12-14 ARRL June VHF Contest
- 13th CLUB MEETING, SUNDAY, 11:00am
N6TJ's QTH, Come meet Ville, OH2MM!
- 19-20 All Asian DX Contest CW Weekend
- 26-27 ARRL Field Day

JULY

- 10-11 IARU HF World Championship
- 10-11 CQ World Wide VHF WPX Contest

AUGUST

- 7-8 North American QSO Party, CW w/e
- 16th Deadline for August Issue
- 21-22 North American QSO Party, SSB w/e
- 28th CLUB MEETING, Location TBA

SEPTEMBER

- 4-5 All ASIAN DX Contest SSB w/e
- 12th North American Sprint, CW w/e
- 19th North American Sprint, SSB w/e

NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club meeting will be held:
Sunday, June 13, 1993
at 11:00 am

at the QTH of N6TJ

Jim is hosting the next meeting at his house. *This is a Sunday, make no mistake.* Special guest Ville, OH2MM, will be the Guest of Honor. N6TJ will be providing all food and drink for this one, so just bring yourselves.

DIRECTIONS:

Take the 91 Freeway east to Imperial Highway exit. Turn right on Imperial, go short distance to light and turn left onto Santa Ana Canyon Road. Go 2.2 miles to fourth light, Mohler, turn right. Go short distance to stop sign. Go straight through stop and take first left onto Mill Stream. Jim's QTH is 3rd house on left, 7451 E. Mill Stream Circle. If you are coming west on the 91, take Weir Canyon exit (one exit *before* Imperial). Turn left on Weir Canyon and right on Santa Ana Canyon about 2 miles. Turn left onto Mohler, then follow the directions above.

LOST? Call (714) 281-3209

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