

# SCC 3

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB

APRIL 1981

The Southern California Contest Club Bulletin is published once a month and is sent free to all its members. Membership is available to anyone for three dollars a year. Mail any correspondence, including ads (free), to the bulletin editor:

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The Southern California Contest Club meets on random days in random places to avoid discovery. The next meeting is at the Numero Uno's in Torrance and will be held on Saturday, April 25th, beginning at 1 p.m. The address is 21141 Hawthorne Blvd and their phone number is 540-5303. Hope you can make it.

### MEMBRSHIP REPORT

The SCCC is now 25 members strong. Our new member is Tom Berne, W6TAG. Tom's address is 2057 Redcliff St, Los Angeles, CA 90039 for you people keeping your rosters up to date. Welcome to the club Tom!!!

Our treasury is holding out well and no dues increase is planned due to the new postage rates (bet you didn't expect that!). We have at the moment \$50.40. At a running cost of five dollars a month, we should have no problem lasting until renewal time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to Dave Hodge, AA6RX who won the QRM CW contest held at our last meeting. Dave just nudged out Dick Norton, N6AA, by four calls. Dave's total after removing a penalty of one QSO for each wrong guess was 56 compared to Dick's 52. Complete result appear elsewhere in this bulletin.

Thanks are due to Warren Davis for being a great host for the last meeting. We all had a great time sitting in his backyard telling stories, and pigging out on beer and munchies.

This issue contains the first article in a series of radio reviews. I hope that this series will continue with your help. The idea is to share observations each of you have made of various radios. Next month Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU, will share his thoughts on the FT-901 as a contest radio. Be prepared with your thoughts when our ruthless editor asks for your input for your radio. (Don't all run out and buy FT-901s to avoid being asked either!)

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting at Numero Uno's on the 25th, but if I miss you there, see you at Visalia!!

Due to my busy schedule with work this bulletin will be called the April bulletin. Maybe we will have a March bulletin next year.

73 es GL contest

*Larry Tyree*  
Larry Tyree N6TR

QRM CONTEST RESULTS

<u>CALL</u>	<u>GOOD CALLS</u>	<u>BAD CALLS</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>
AA6RX	79	23	56
N6AA	67	15	52
N6NI	58	12	46
WA6OTU	56	14	42
W6EE	54	14	49
WB6KOU	24	18	6



CONTEST RADIO REPORT NUMBER ONE

DRAKE T4/R4 SERIES

The Drake Line has been one of the standards in contesting for at least ten years. It has obtained its fame by providing flexibility and good performance. After the release of the R4C, the Drake Line became one of the leaders. The Drake Line is no longer manufactured but can be found easily in the used market. It represents one of the best performance/dollar figures to be found.

The older receivers put out, the R4, R4A, and the R4B, would not be considered to be great receivers today. They do not use a crystal filter to obtain the sharp selectivity. Instead, LC filters are used. The shape factor of these filters leaves a lot to be desired. I would not recommend any of these receivers to the serious contester.

The R4C uses crystal filters and the difference is amazing. The standard filter widths are 250, 500, and 1500 hertz. The 1500 is sometimes useful for SSB operation. If CW is your game, you can replace the 16 khz filter in the first I.F. with a 600 Hz filter. This filter is available from Sherwood Electronics. This filter greatly increases the attenuation of signals a few kHz away and makes the radio ideal for running JA's on 40 or 80. One problem with this filter is it won't let the noise blanker function.

The R4C suffers from a few problems that can be fixed with published modifications. The receiver seems to pick up garbage off the A.C. line and put it in the audio. This is very distracting at times, but it can be fixed if it is a problem at your QTH. Other mods have been published that help the receiver's performance, but I have not felt the need to do them.

The T4X transmitters all work very well, and with some mods they work even better. I use 6JF6 final tubes. To use these on 10 meters you have to spread out the 10 meter tank coil, replace the resistor across the 10 meter trim cap in the driver output circuit with an RF choke, and then align everything. This will result with an excess of 170 watts out on 160-15, and more than 130 watts out on ten. That should drive the pants off most amplifiers. I also install a switch to defeat the ALC to take advantage of the higher power capacity. If you do this be aware that the MIC gain setting can easily be advanced to far and make you signal as wide as it is tall. The transmit offset on CW can be shifted to suit your tastes. This requires the addition of a trim cap across the 10pf cap responsible for the CW offset. You can go down to about 500 hz before the filter starts dropping your output.

If I can answer any questions you may have about the Drake line, please don't hesitate to ask me.

*NGTR*  
*A*