Message from the Prez

by Ken Widelitz, AB6FO

I am pleased to announce the SCCC WRTC '96 Nominating Committee has chosen Dave Hachadorian, K6LL, as our team leader for the WRTC '96 Team Championships. As Bob Cox, K3EST, one of the directors of WRTC '96 told me, "An excellent

choice." The WRTC '96
Team Championships
will be held in the San
Francisco Bay Area in
conjunction with the
IARU Contest in July.
Dave is selecting a
partner, who can not be
a SCCC member.

This contesting game we play is certainly an interesting one, and a tough one for *outsiders* to appreciate. When describing

contesting to non-ham friends, I like to say it is competing with technology in a mixture of a marathon race and a chess tournament, but one in which you never see the other participants and your opponents. The marathon quality is obvious from the time spent playing. The chess aspect is what band to be on when, which way to point the antenna, when to take off times, when to call vs. when to ask to be called, among other considerations.

I've always been a domestic contester for the most part. I just didn't think I had the aluminum, or the desire and stamina for the DX contests. But with a new tower, antennas, amps and two radio capability, last year I gave the CW CQWW a shot. If CQ hadn't lost Mike's, KA6SAR, W6EEN log, I would have been third in zone 3, but was listed as number 2.

I decided this year, with some more aluminum in the sky, I would give number 1 in zone 3 a shot. I also decided to work all 48 hours. Well, at least one other zone 3 station beat me, but I did operate almost 48 straight hours. Talk about marathons. I have never been awake so long in my life, not even in college. What with getting up around 7 AM Friday

morning and not being successful in my attempt to take a nap Friday afternoon, after finishing off building a 21-foot K6STI 80/160 receiving loop 5 feet above the garage roof, by the end of the contest I was pushing 57 hours without sleep. Such a lack of sleep does interesting things.

I started seeing things in the shack.

The carpet was undulating in a very interesting pattern, as was my reflection in the computer monitor. The transceivers' displays took on an eerie three dimensional quality. I got to wondering if I was seeing things, was I hearing things also? I remember being frustrated at not being able to work some of the DXpeditions. I was sure I heard 3B8/N6ZZ twice without working him. Then when I was printing out my logs and dupe sheets, I saw that call listed. My first thought was, "uh oh, I must have hit the return key instead of F11." Then I listened to the tape, and sure enough, I did have a QSO with Phil. And that occurred only 26 or so hours into the contest. I know I was asking for fills on every JA call by the 2200 hour Sunday.

I worked the first 25 hours straight, took a 15 minute break, and then was back in the chair for 11 hours before another 15 minute break. I do not believe I would

continued on page 3



Letter — Oklahoma Report

Greetings to you all from the state of Oklahoma. When I was editor of this fine newsletter, I was always amazed at the mail I would get from SCCC members in other states and countries. Now here I am generating some of my own!

As with all ham-radio related things, because of the nature of the hobby, most things wind up taking longer than originally expected, because they keep getting put off — that is to say I don't have a competitive station on the air yet. Neither do I have a new short callsign. I guess the FCC considers amateur radio a hobby, too.

I say all this because I found myself faced with the SSB weekend of the CQ Worldwide without having given it a second thought, and all I had to get on the air was my trusty TS-850S and a neato dipole I had made out of wire and hardline that made the station truly all band. This antenna is about 20 feet off the ground, and I can actually talk to people on it late at night when I can't sleep (if I turn off the computer first to lower the noise floor about 50 db).

Well, I got on anyway and braved the frustration of not being heard by anyone, and I made 30 contacts on 20 and 15. It was so much fun (and so frustrating) that I made a pact with myself then and there to put up a 15-meter yagi before Thanksgiving, borrow an amp and enter the 15-meter single band class next month on CW. See you then.

One small thing I wanted to clear up — Will, KN6DV, wrote issue-before-last, that the bank account "really needed your dues" or something like that. I felt like an important fact was being unceremoniously swept under the rug.

When I accepted the SCCCORE job, it was a bit of a mess, having been run for too long by a guy who was totally burned out and not a

very good bookkeeper. Hey, that happens. He claimed it had been costing him money and that there was zero balance on the club's books. I promised myself I would pass it on before I got to that point because I saw what happened to him. My personal mission with our newsletter was to show everybody that when done right, it could be a quality newsletter and would survive at a very low cost. What nobody knows because I didn't make a big deal out of it at the time, was that along with the newsletter, I sent Will a check for over \$200 that represented the balance of the club's account I had set up when I took over SCCCORE. This account started with a balance of zero, and I deposited dues and withdrew expenses, adding occasional gifts of \$5 or \$10 from good natured members. \$5 a year really does pay for the newsletter.

The SCCC is not about anything that costs money, except a bare-bones newsletter that is only required to say when and where the next beer-and-pizza meeting is going to be. Period. Every time somebody has moved to raise the dues, it is always with some notion about "buying beer for the Visalia contest suite" or "sponsoring an award" or "helping toward equipment for the Mexico expedition" or things like that. These raises have always been squashed, except one time when one was actually passed and then immediately repealed by the membership. So far the membership of the SCCC has made it clear that they don't want to do any of those above listed things as a club. In fact, a hat pass has always netted satisfactory, immediate results for those who wanted to take part, without raising the dues.

I see Larry Shapiro, KJ6HO, wrote in frustration about how completely non "gung-ho" our club is, and I felt a comment or two might be in order, especially since Larry is not the only one who feels this way. He says, "I have only been a constester about three years..." To better understand the SCCC you have to go back a ways. A brief recap: When it was created in 1976, the SCCC quickly found out it couldn't support full-on club aggregate activity like many other contest clubs. We didn't have the time, the money or the inclination. We crashed and burned hard and a few years later reorganized into what we are today, which is the way a lot of us like it.

Well, some of us don't like it, and I would like to address some of the things Larry said in the last bulletin. He comments we "can't seem to win NAQP or Sprints on a regular basis." Fact is, before Larry got bit by the bug, we were cleaning these contests up with such regularity that it just got old. Until only recently, an SCCC team regularly won the top spot in the Sprint, time after time after time. Yawn. We also had a run on the NAQP, and we still dominate the CQWW team competition.

Team competitions are easy for us, but the ARRL DX Contest and Sweepstakes, on the other hand, are vastly bigger projects that other clubs (with their \$25 dues in slower-paced parts of the country) are better suited to tackle (yet we mustered a victory over the NCCC recently anyway, nya). It takes a major effort to sustain that degree of activity. Long ago, we realized we ought to only bite off as much as we can chew. As any member who has tried to put together a Sprint team can attest, it is not an easy job to get all 10 guys on the air.

When it comes to working members on the air, consider the role propagation plays before you assume SCCC members don't get on the air. It is normal to not work the local guys, except on 80

continued on page 3

From the Prez (from page 1)

have had the endurance to do this but for working out a lot the last few months and drinking a lot of iced tea. My gym, where I had worked out for almost 25 years, seemingly the last men's only gym in LA, closed over the summer. Being quite the creature of habit, this was very traumatic for me. The owners of my old gym moved me to Sports Club LA, a palace of a gym. A new routine, an upcoming contest season, plus women working out around me gave me the incentive to get into shape again.

I had six hours with single QSO numbers. I don't think I'll try this type of effort again until the sunspots pick up. Now I'm thinking it might be more fun next year to go assisted and take a few hours sleep break each night (or day). There were times that it wasn't fun. But, then again, I find myself thinking that in every contest. The contester's byword is persevere. Therein lies the reward, and not only in contesting.

Letter (from page 2)

and maybe 40-meters, and then only if you bump into them. Check the results — SCCC members get on the air (admittedly more on CW than on phone). The reason you hear so many guys from Northern California is because they're loud and your local teammates are not. There are ops in other parts of the country who are convinced we have set up secret "members only" Sprint frequencies that explain our dominance.

In some ways, the SCCC is such a strong force in radio contesting that most other clubs don't want to mess with us — we've made many challenges over the years that have not been accepted. And yet, anyone can join, go down to the local pizza joint and drink

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beer and rub elbows with frontrunners in our sport several times
a year (many of whom founded
this club). Many of us think this
is closer to the spirit of a real club
than some of those "paper giants."
There is a large percentage of our
membership (myself now included)
who don't live in Southern California, but opt for SCCC membership
— we want to be a part of what
the SCCC really is, not just a
group of guys who pool their
points to win trophies.

Not a bad deal for five bucks a year — and next year the SCCC will be 20 years old — not a bad track record either. Maybe it is time for SCCCORE to compile an issue that recaps the greatest moments in a long and distinguished 20 year history. Ah, sweet memories!

I think thanks are in order to Bruce, WA7BNM, for continuing the tradition of SCCCORE where we can air our various points of view and retain our gentlemanliness. The newsletter hasn't looked better, if I say so myself.

Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU/5

The Editor Says... by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

The Fall contest season is rapidly coming to a close. I'm writing this during a break in the "action" in the ARRL 10-meter Contest.

Although I did less serious contesting this Fall than I would have liked, it was a season of major changes for me. As I intimated in the previous SCCCORE, I spent much of the summer designing changes to my station. It would have been a lot easier if I could have decided to be just a DXer or a contester, not both.

In mid-October, I took down all of my HF antennas: the log periodic for 10m - 17m, 4-el 20m and 6-el 15m monobanders, 40m rotatable dipole and 80m loop. In their places, I put up two Force 12 33-foot boom tribanders, stacked at 72 and 105 feet when the tower is fully up, a M2 3-el 40m yagi at 90 feet and a Force 12 80m rotatable dipole at 100 feet. Initial results are promising. Now I just need to develop a feel for using the stack.

Hope your holidays are happy, and 1996 is filled with high scores.

SCCCORE

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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

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From the Prez (from page 1)

have had the endurance to do this but for working out a lot the last few months and drinking a lot of iced tea. My gym, where I had worked out for almost 25 years, seemingly the last men's only gym in LA, closed over the summer. Being quite the creature of habit, this was very traumatic for me. The owners of my old gym moved me to Sports Club LA, a palace of a gym. A new routine, an upcoming contest season, plus women working out around me gave me the incentive to get into shape again.

I had six hours with single QSO numbers. I don't think I'll try this type of effort again until the sunspots pick up. Now I'm thinking it might be more fun next year to go assisted and take a few hours sleep break each night (or day). There were times that it wasn't fun. But, then again, I find myself thinking that in every contest. The contester's byword is persevere. Therein lies the reward, and not only in contesting.

Letter (from page 2)

and maybe 40-meters, and then only if you bump into them. Check the results — SCCC members get on the air (admittedly more on CW than on phone). The reason you hear so many guys from Northern California is because they're loud and your local teammates are not. There are ops in other parts of the country who are convinced we have set up secret "members only" Sprint frequencies that explain our dominance.

In some ways, the SCCC is such a strong force in radio contesting that most other clubs don't want to mess with us — we've made many challenges over the years that have not been accepted. And yet, anyone can join, go down to the local pizza joint and drink

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beer and rub elbows with frontrunners in our sport several times
a year (many of whom founded
this club). Many of us think this
is closer to the spirit of a real club
than some of those "paper giants."
There is a large percentage of our
membership (myself now included)
who don't live in Southern California, but opt for SCCC membership
— we want to be a part of what
the SCCC really is, not just a
group of guys who pool their
points to win trophies.

Not a bad deal for five bucks a year — and next year the SCCC will be 20 years old — not a bad track record either. Maybe it is time for SCCCORE to compile an issue that recaps the greatest moments in a long and distinguished 20 year history. Ah, sweet memories!

I think thanks are in order to Bruce, WA7BNM, for continuing the tradition of SCCCORE where we can air our various points of view and retain our gentlemanliness. The newsletter hasn't looked better, if I say so myself.

Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU/5

The Editor Says... by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

The Fall contest season is rapidly coming to a close. I'm writing this during a break in the "action" in the ARRL 10-meter Contest.

Although I did less serious contesting this Fall than I would have liked, it was a season of major changes for me. As I intimated in the previous SCCCORE, I spent much of the summer designing changes to my station. It would have been a lot easier if I could have decided to be just a DXer or a contester, not both.

In mid-October, I took down all of my HF antennas: the log periodic for 10m - 17m, 4-el 20m and 6-el 15m monobanders, 40m rotatable dipole and 80m loop. In their places, I put up two Force 12 33-foot boom tribanders, stacked at 72 and 105 feet when the tower is fully up, a M2 3-el 40m yagi at 90 feet and a Force 12 80m rotatable dipole at 100 feet. Initial results are promising. Now I just need to develop a feel for using the stack.

Hope your holidays are happy, and 1996 is filled with high scores.

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.

SCCC Calendar

December

31 RAC Winter Contest, 0000-2400Z

January

6-7	ARRL	RTTY	Roundup,	1800Z

13-14 NAQP, CW, 1800Z

20-21 NAQP, Phone, 1800Z

20-22 ARRL Jan VHF Sweepstakes, 1900Z

26-28 CQ 160m Contest, CW, 2200Z

February

4		NA Sprint, Phone, 0000-0400Z
1	1	NA Sprint, CW, 0000-0400Z
1	7-18	ARRL International DX Contest, CW
2	3-25	CQ 160m Contest, Phone, 2200Z

March

2-3	ARRL International DX Contest, Phone

30-31 CQWW WPX Contest, Phone

Southern California Contest Club 43150 Sixth St. East Lancaster, California 93535 Next Meeting: Saturday, Dec. 16

Time: 11AM

Caltech Contest Station Tour

Winnett Student Center, 2nd Fl, Club Rm 1
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena California
(parking limited, park on nearby streets)

How to get there:

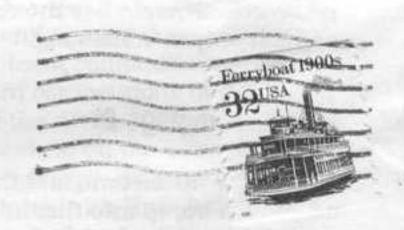
210 Freeway to Hill Street
Exit and go South (past Colorado Blvd.
and Del Mar Blvd.) to San Pasqual
Right on San Pasqual

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110 Freeway (Pasadena Fwy) to end Continue on Arroyo Parkway to California Blvd.

Right on California (past Lake) to Hill St. Left on Hill Street Left on San Pasqual





First Class Mail

N6VR MEMBER THROUGH 02/96

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