SCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results, and Enlightenments

Volume 18

January - February 1995

Number 1

Message from the Prez

by Bob Selbrede, W9NQ

Well, I hope you've had better luck than I finding time to work the contests. It seems the contest seasons just keep flying by. I recently had the pleasure of traveling to ZL land aboard the USAF C135C "Speckled Trout". While down there we flew over much of the Antarctic. I tried to get the pilot to FLY VERY LOW over Heard Is, Bouvet, and Peter I. I told him that if he could just drag the wheels across the snow for a few minutes I could crank out a few Q's. Too bad the pilot wasn't a ham. I might of had a chance! I was pleased to work numerous SCCC members while traversing the pacific though. My first /AM experience in 20 years of Hamdom. It's a real treat working a UA0/MM while flying nearly right over him at the equator a complete QSO consists of exchanging RST plus Lat and Long. My travels will take me down to ZD8 and other places this year as well. I've been assigned ZD8NQ and could be QRV in the Mar - Jun time frame.

From the looks of it, many people are getting geared up to change there calls when the Vanity Program kicks off (bad choice of names). Maybe it's time to finally give up the /6 stuff and become an official 6. With my luck I would probably wind up moving to another call area as soon as I did. Mark says he's gunna be a 5 soon. Hey Mark, I'll bet WA5OTU is available. Somehow I doubt if that's what he has in mind, Hi. How about you. Will we need to publish a monthly SCCC roster just to keep up with the changes?

The SCCC and SC DX Club have been sent a formal proposal from the NCCC to compete against the Northern Cal contingent for a trophy in the ARRL DX competition. I received a letter from NCCC President Bruce Sawyer, AA6KX, asking for our thoughts and suggestions concerning their proposal. Unfortunately, the proposal came a bit late to effectively get the word out to everyone within the SC Contest and DX communities for the 1995 contests. By now you're saying to yourself, "isn't there already a program like this in place right now"? The answer is yes, but this proposal is for a new trophy, which they have already purchased, and it's based upon a specific and different set of rules. I am interested in hearing your thoughts in general on this. I will have the proposal with me to discuss at the next SCCC meeting and will probably publish it in the next SCCCore as well. If there's sufficient interest from both clubs, we'll pursue it. In general I feel the San Diego DX Club should also be included in the Southern Cal score since the Southern Cal DX community is divided and the Northern Cal DX community isn't.

Lastly, as you can see in Mark's column, he's getting ready to move to OK. This means the SCCCore is in need of a new editor. In the mean time, I'll be editing the bulletin until we can find a new editor. I want to say thanks again to Mark for his MANY contributions to the SCCC. He has made the SCCCore into what it is today. His presence in the So Cal contest community will surely be missed. Good luck Mark and Kathy!

73 es CU in the Test, Bob W9NQ/6

FROM THE EDITOR

It is with butterflies in my stomach that I proceed into the next phase of life. That is to say, 'Big Changes on the Home Front.' I must announce my resignation of the post of Head Honcho of this Bulletin, my replacement as chairman of the CAC, and best of all, that I am moving out of California!

It all started in 1978 when I was stuck in the airport in Bangor, Maine, for 21 hours so they could swap out an engine on our plane (it's always good not to put this off any longer than absolutely necessary). I bought a book called From the Ground Up at the bookstore. I read it from cover to cover while stuck at the airport. This book would have me believe I could successfully go against conventional wisdom and build a house for myself, by myself. Not just any old house, but the house of my dreams, better than any 'store bought' (my words) house you could find.

Well, friends, that was 16 years ago and I was 20. You who know me well know this book affected a lot more than my outlook on real estate. That day (and night) stuck in the airport, on the verge of adulthood, learning that there was a lot to be said for not 'just doing what everyone else does' has guided me down a road where I find I rarely believe anything I didn't learn for myself. Some people call this "the hard way." This is true in some ways. I admit there are many lessons I could have learned from somebody else's hard experience, but on the other hand, it is a small price to pay for all the pleasant successes I have had because I have dared to be different or try something new.

One thing I always wanted which is contrary to what it seemed everybody else wanted, was to NOT live in California. For any number of reasons (don't get me started on this), I concluded a long time ago that the only reason to stay here was because of my job. Being a farsighted individual, I adjusted my job so one day I wouldn't be dependent on living here. That time has come. I no longer have to live in California to continue my work in the performing arts. We have been looking for the perfect opportunity to move to the country.

We figured this might take some time, but it just plopped into our laps. Kathy's family has invited us to live on her grandmother's estate in Oklahoma. Mind you, this isn't the part of Oklahoma that looks like Texas (God forbid), this is the part near Arkansas dubbed "Green Country." Rolling and wet. There is a quaint little white house waiting for us, which we will have all to ourselves. Not only is there enough room for towers (plural) where they are out of the way, but they need only be limited by feedline losses.

To you who say "Oklahoma?" I say 'you betcha.' With pleasure. I won't even look back. Shoot, we might even have kids. (I used to run very strongly against conventional wisdom on this, but I think I'm coming around). Nothing against any of you personally, but I am going to be really happy to get out of here. I will enjoy coming back to visit and keeping everybody's antennas up.

So with this announcement comes my inevitable resignation from my post editing this SCCC Newsletter. I am glad that such a happy circumstance forces me to loosen my grip on what has been a fabulous pet project in my personal life now for many years - my first issue was January-February 1991. That's four years no matter how you slice it, and although the deadlines have run a bit tight at times (this issue is a good example) I can honestly say I didn't burn out, and have enjoyed the opportunity to share another point of view with all my contesting budies in Southern California (and the world, this Club has such a broad membership!).

To close, I state my whole-hearted thanks to everyone who has made running SCCCORE such a blast for me: Presidents Kevin, NC6U; Jim, N6TJ; and Bob, W9NQ. Vice President Ken, soon-to-be ex-AB6FO, Publisher Will, KN6DV, Former editors Tree, N6TR; and Dennis, NE6I. Regular contributors Ray, N6VR; Dick, N6AA; and Columnists Don, W6EEN; Mike, KA6SAR; and Bruce, WA7BNM. My sincere apologies to anyone whom I left off the list. You guys are all the best - heck, the Southern California Contest Club is the best, it logically follows.

I think Ken, AB6FO makes some good comments about the new callsigns - I am planning on retiring WA6OTU after 24 years of service as one of the most never heard on the air callsigns of all time. I, too, have my own ideas of what would make a good NEW callsign for me, and you can bet your life it will have a 5 in it! 73,

Mark, soon-to-be ex-WA60TU

SCCCORE

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Southern California Contest Club

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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

Non-adjacent Countries: \$10 per year SCCCORE is published 6 times a year. Deadlines for submission of bulletin material to Editor: March - April 1995 issue - March 3

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WA7BNM

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I'm very excited by the recent announcement that the FCC is going forward with the Vanity Call Sign program. Visions of a 1 X 2 call sign are dancing in my head. When this was first proposed I spent a lot of time going through the callbook looking for potential calls that work on both phone and CW. I think I've found a few, including one that stands, in my mind, head and shoulders above the rest, but they will have to remain secret until after my application is submitted. (OK, OK, I'll give a clue. I like K6??, N6?? and A?6?.)

It is with little reluctance that I will shed AB6FO, which I received in 1991. The only reason for the little reluctance is that I've been active enough the last few years that some other active contesters can pick the call out of the QRM or QRN. That is a small concern in the big scheme of things.

One thing that does bother me about the Vanity Program is that the FCC totally ignored the ideas that I submitted in a formal response to the initial proposal. I wanted the FCC to issue 1 X 1's to individuals. I didn't want to see neglect (letting a call lapse) and nepotism in the form of allowing relatives to have priority to obtain the call of a silent key. The ARRL came out on the other side of both these items and got their way.

In fact, neglect and nepotism reign so supreme that the first group of applicants in the Vanity Program will be those who are looking to reacquire their own old calls or calls of deceased relatives. The justification from the FCC is that this smaller pool of applicants will let them get the bugs out of the system before they are inundated with requests from the masses.

In any event, by the next contest season, AB6FO should be retired. I've thought of a neat way to announce the new call, but I'll leave that for a surprise also. 73,

Ken, AB6FO

"Mr. Cable" Responds...

You might recall from last time I related how during my recent trip to the East Coast, I learned that cable companies were starting to use fiber optics and moving away from coax transmission lines (i.e. "CATV Hardline"). I don't recall what put it into my head to state that the reason was to reduce RFI. Either I was told this or else I surmised it on my own.

I have since learned I was in error, when I received the following note on Email from my long time friend, colleague, and competitor, Dennis, NE6I, whom I will affectionately call "Mr. Cable" since Cable Television is his business and he is an expert in his field:

Hi Mark. Where ever did you hear the rumor that cable TV companies were going to fiber optic cables due to RFI?!!! That is what you state in the Nov-Dec issue of SCCCORE. It is very far from correct!

We are moving to fiber due to its increased bandwidth capacity over coaxial cable. We are able to go farther in the network without amplifiers. (Each amp adds distortions and reduces reliability.) And, nowadays, it is actually cheaper to install fiber on the poles than hardline!

At this point, we are still running hardline in the neighborhoods which means there should be plenty of surplus available to hams. This would most likely be in the .500" or .625" diameter size.

RFI problems are not the reason we are going to fiber!

Thanks to Dennis for setting me straight!

Mark, WA60TU

KC6WLC Takes #1 Spot

A check of the results of the 1994 June VHF QSO Party in December QST, the biggest VHF/UHF event on the calendar, shows that SCCC member Ron Hammel, KC6WLC, won top honors in the country among the Rovers.

With the help of KD6WZR (Rovers are allowed and encouraged to go out in two-man teams), KC6WLC racked up a healthy 473 contacts in 308 multipliers for a top score of 206,052, the top score nationally. Ron has worked for many years to amass the equipment and skill to accomplish this goal. From all of us in the Southern California Contest Club: Congratulations, Ron!

Name:		Call:
Address:		Home Phone:
		Work Phone:
Internet addres	is:	

SCCC CALENDAR

Truly all the dates that fit! by W6EEN

FEBRUARY

Of course we all worked the Dutch PACC test on the 11th, on Publisher Will's Order! 24-26 CQ 160m DX Contest SSB, 2200z (42) 25th CLUB MTG-AFTER TRW SWAPMEET SEE MEETING NOTICE TO RIGHT

MARCH

4-5 ARRL DX Contest SSB, 0000z (48) 25-26 CQ WW WPX Contest SSB, 0000z (48) APRIL

21-23 International Dx Convention-Visalia SCCC LUNCHEON- TIME/PLACE TBA 28-30 DAYTON '95 HAMVENTION MAY

27-28 CQ WW WPX Contest CW, 0000z (48)

To: Retiring Editor Mark Beckwith, WA6OTU, Good luck with your and Kathy's move to OK. It's o.k. to be in OK, so long as you remember where you came from! Mark, you made a difference in the hobby and in the SCCC.

We will miss you! 73 de Don, W6EEN

NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club
Meeting will be held:
Saturday, February 25th
11am Sharp - Out by 1pm
"After the TRW Swap Meet"

at

Coco's Restaurant

2620 N. Sepulveda

Coco's is located on the corner of Marine and Sepulveda near the TRW Swap Meet. Lost? Try Coco's telephone: (3/0) 545 8439.

3 or 4 items to choose from on the menu. Fixed price includes drink and gratuity.

Demonstration and discussion of the leading logging programs will be conducted and a Contest Program Raffle will be held.

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





NOVR MEMBER THROUGH 02/96

Ray Benny 160 Brandt Ave. Oak View CA 93022

FIRST CLASS