

Message from the Prez by Larry Serra, N6NC

Dues: This heated controversy has generated more e-mail on our reflector than anything else since we went online. Question: Is this the Southern California Contest Club (SCCC), or Southern California Administrative Club (SCAC)? I have asked SCCC member Bob Marston, K1TA, <k1ta@earthlink.net> to review the entire dues/budget situation with Bruce's, WA7BNM, and Don's, W6EEN, help, and to present a pro-forma budget to the officers with various options to offer the membership. This will get the issue and its ramifications off the front burner, and get us all back to contesting. More later.

Sprint Clinic: Was to be held August 29, but was postponed indefinitely due to a crowded August of ham activities and vacations.

E-mail Addresses: We're getting a lot of bounced-back e-mails in mass e-mailings to membership. Would everyone who is online please send an e-mail with no text, just the header "SCCC E-mail Address" to Bruce, WA7BNM, <bhorn@hornucopia.com>, cc to me <hlserra@acusd.edu>, so we can update the list. Again, if we convert from paper SCCCORE to e-mail/web version, it will save us a bundle on postage and costs.

SCDXC/SCCC Summer Bash: Will be held Sunday, August 9, at Arnie's, N6HC, in Orange County. See directions/info elsewhere in this issue.

ARRL SW Division Convention: Will be held weekend of August 15-16 in San Diego.

The Editor's Ramblings by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

First of all, thanks to the 53 SCCC members who volunteered to receive their issue of SCCCORE electronically, rather than having it mailed to them in printed form. This makes a significant contribution to the club's financial resources.

If you're interested in receiving SCCCORE electronically rather than as a printed version, just e-mail me. You can get the electronic version by one of two methods: 1) an e-mail notifying you of both web addresses of the web version and the Adobe Acrobat (pdf) version, or 2) an e-mail with the Adobe Acrobat version attached and notification of the web

address of the web version.

For those of you who have been using my contest calendar web page, I've made some improvements and moved it to a new address:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

In addition to the long-term calendar of contests, the web site now also includes a weekly calendar that provides more details about each contest with pointers to the complete rules. Check it out.

As a reminder for old members and an encouragement to new members, join one of the SCCC teams for the NAQP SSB Contest, NA CW Sprint, and/or NA SSB Sprint. These contests are a lot of fun — contact Will, K6NDV, to join a team <k6ndv@contesting.com>. Since we usually field as many teams as we have members for, there's always room for another team member.



Jul - Aug 1998

Vol. 12, No. 4

SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results and Enlightenment



Point: Too Much Power

by Jim McCook, W6YA

It goes without saying that we have one of the best hobbies in the world, judging from the comraderie that is so characteristic in ham radio. In times of stress or conflict, nobody comes to the aid of a ham faster than another ham. During my 44 years in this hobby, I have continued to be amazed by this. Other hobby groups and professions have great comraderie; I have seen none where it is stronger than in amateur radio.

In spite of this, however, one thing continues to mystify me. Why are there so many contesters and DXers who cheat? It's like the golfer who picks up his ball to improve his lie or the volleyball player who intentionally carries the ball and expects to get away with it. It is the same person who cheats at cards and crowds into lines. These are people with no pride or responsibility. In spite of the great comraderie, sportsmanship and respect are frequently lacking.

I'm referring to intentionally running excessive power. Over 1500 watts. In some contests it is running amplifiers, period. In QRP contests it is running more than 5 watts. Why, why, why? Do these people think cheating is justified to win at games? Do they think their peers actually respect them for winning a contest with illegal power? Do they think they are heroes when they break through pileups running many kW? Do you think these people are OK to cheat in order to win a contest you have participated in? Do you smile when someone jumps into a pileup using 10 kW and later brags about it?

We seem to have become complacent about this. One distributor of a popular amplifier line clearly advertises a linear amplifier with 5 kW output in the ham section of his web site. In his discussions, he talks about the problem being the operator abusing the use of this huge amplifier. Does he really think hams are dumb enough to believe this? Is there anyone out there who really believes the owner of an amplifier that can run 5 kW output (and much more with that amplifier, by the way!) is running legal power? Sorry, that flimsy story about the cool kW and the conservative use of a husky amplifier just doesn't play. Undoubtedly, there may be a couple of exceptions out there somewhere. Not many. It is a macho game for losers. Real contesters don't cheat.

By the way, I always believed that 30-meters was a wonderful addition to the spectrum because it is a band where people run 200 watts or less. Now I constantly hear that there are many people running high power on 30-meters. Apparently, many DXers on this relatively new band are using amplifiers that they use on other HF bands, in complete defiance of the rules and principles of good sportsmanship.

Does anyone care about this?

Is there anyone else out there who thinks it may be time for some changes? Let's put the cards out on the table. Peer pressure could be the answer.

Counterpoint: Big Amplifiers

by Dan Magro, W7RF

Since Jim, W6YA, makes reference to a particular Henry Amplifier advertised at my (radiodan.com) web site in the article you've just read, your editor has given me a chance to respond.

Congratulations to you, Jim, on your 44 years as a ham and (presumably) being a straight shooter for all those years. I have been a ham since 1972 and an active DXer and contester as well, and am the rep and distributor for Henry Amplifiers worldwide. Since 1962, Henry has made hundreds of amplifier types for many different services and needs, many of which cross over a few user groups. Most of the amplifiers we make are not for hams, but sold into commercial/industrial service. However, it is impossible for us or any manufacturer to control where a device ends up and certainly no way of controlling its usage! There are always at least two ways to operate anything!

I too agree with you that cheating in any way just defeats whatever the cheater has won or acquired. That is, in a free society, something that must be evaluated for each of us individually. Fortunately, we are free to do so. I shudder to think what a ban on what some would perceive to be "excessive" in almost any category would do to personal choice. Should we look down our noses at those who choose to own what they think is the best just because those items can be used in an illegal way? What about cars? Should we ban the Corvette? Or the Porsche? It's simply not for me to say you can't own them.

continued on page 3

Counterpoint (from page 2)

Personally, I wouldn't want to own an amplifier just barely able to make the legal limit only because I want that amplifier to run at 1500 watts out every time I choose to do so, and do it reliably. That means RTTY contesting for the entire period or operating SSTV or AM on 75-meters, or FM on 10-meters. Being in the amplifier business, I hear stories every day of other popular desktop amplifiers failing when pressed for more than a casual SSB QSO with anything less than a perfect match on the antenna system.

I did a survey in Visalia '98 of what amplifiers were used and what features were important to DXers and testers. Overwhelmingly, the responses showed users owned amplifiers capable of running beyond legal limits for power, and many manufacturers were mentioned in this survey. One of the most important features mentioned was reliability! The key words here are capable and reliable. It's still up to the user to operate within the scope of his/her license.

While I don't doubt that there has been and still are those that will bend rules in their behalf, I really question whether it is widespread and excessive. It's easy to complain about getting beat in a pileup or contest thinking the other guy must have cheated, when in reality the superior operator who put together the superior station won using every advantage possible, all within the legal limits. That's called advancing the state of the art, not cheating!

1998 SCCC Meeting Schedule

August 9, Summer Bash, N6HC
October 10, N6VR, Ojai
December 19, K6LA, Los Angeles

SCCCORE

is the official bulletin of the
Southern California Contest Club.

President: Larry Serra, N6NC
750 B St., Suite 3200
San Diego, CA 92101
W: (619) 595-5466
hlserra@pwa.acusd.edu

Vice Pres: Will Angenent, K6NDV
43150 Sixth St. East
Lancaster, CA 93535
H: (805) 949-9833
W: (805) 948-8800
K6NDV@contesting.com

Vice Pres: Arnie Shatz, N6HC
Develop- 10931 Hunting Horn
ment Santa Ana, CA 92705
H: (714)-573-2965
n6hc@aol.com

Editor: Bruce Horn, WA7BNM
and 4225 Farmdale Ave.
Publisher Studio City, CA 91604
H: (818) 761-4563
FAX: (818) 761-4563
W: (818) 502-5180
bhorn@hornucopia.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 material to the editor.

New/Membership/Renewal (return to Bruce Horn, 4225 Farmdale Ave., Studio City, CA 91604) — 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

August

- 1-2 North American QSO Party, CW
- 1-2 ARRL UHF Contest
- 15-16 W/VE Islands Contest
- 15-16 North American QSO Party, SSB
- 22-23 TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW
- 29-30 SCC RTTY Championship
- 29-30 Hawaii QSO Party

September

- 5-6 All Asian DX Contest, SSB
- 6 North American Sprint, CW
- 12-13 WAE DX Contest, SSB
- 12-14 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
- 13 North American Sprint, Phone
- 19-20 Washington State Salmon Run
- 26-27 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY

October

- 3-4 VK/ZL/Oceania Contest, Phone
- 3-4 California QSO Party
- 10-11 VK/ZL/Oceania Contest, CW
- 10-11 Pennsylvania QSO Party
- 17 Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW
- 24-25 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB

Next Meeting: Sunday, Aug 9
Time: 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

SCDXC/SCCC Summer Bash at N6HC

**10931 Hunting Horn Dr.
Santa Ana
(714)-573-2965**

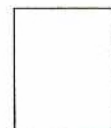
Directions:

Take I-5 or I-405 to 22 Fwy East
Take the 55 Fwy North
Exit at Chapman Ave. East
Follow Chapman east to Crawford Canyon
(~ 2 miles)
Turn right on Crawford Cyn and go to end
Turn left on Newport
Turn right on Cowan Heights Blvd (1st sig)
Turn right on Skyline (1st right)
Continue less than 0.5 mile
Turn right on Hunting Horn Dr.



SCCCORE

Southern California Contest Club
4225 Farmdale Avenue
Studio City, California 91604



First Class Mail