

# SCCCORE

## Southern California Contest Club Organization, Results, and Enlightenments

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The 1991 International DX Convention was held on April 12, 13, and 14 at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. The usual compliment of DXers and Contesters were present. The program of events for the three day affair consisted of banquets, happy hours, DXpedition slide shows, forums and panel discussions. The surroundings were made complete by vendors of Contest and DX related products displaying their wares all around the Hotel.

It is impossible to see everything they put on at this convention, because the organizers program multiple things at the same time. This is usually not a problem since much of what goes on there is of little or no interest to Contest operators, so there is plenty of time for the most important aspect of Visalia - rubbing elbows with all the ops you otherwise only run in to in the pileups.

Of note to Contesters was K5RC's speech as editor of the National Contest Journal about the state of radio and contesting. This was almost a verbatim reading of his editorial in the March-April 1991 NCJ. Read it. Among other things he pointed out that you can't stop 'progress' and that progress has a positive track record. As an example, he likened the current Packet Radio trend to the early days of the electronic keyer, when everyone who didn't have one thought it was an unfair advantage. Hindsight shows the

electronic keyer did not wreck contesting. He implies that Packet is no different. We'll see.

N6TV hosted an incredible Visalia Panel during the contest forum for which this reporter failed to keep adequate notes. The panel members were N6AA, K3ZO, K3EST, and somebody else who I forgot (oh no). The topics for discussion were Packet, the ARRL DX contest, and the Low-Power category. One question fielded from the audience was raised by SCCC member AE6E - what to do about the fact that the JAs don't allow themselves to 'be run' anymore. Bummer. If I was a better reporter I would have written down what they said about all these things, but I didn't. All I remember was that I agreed with the good guys and disagreed with the bad guys, and that Bob, N6TV, made it very entertaining.

The SCCC held it's second meeting of 1991 at lunchtime on Saturday at the Convention, and again, we had our best turnout since the first meeting in 1976. This time we had 42 attendees and discussed no business whatsoever, as per our bylaw, and simply ate and jawed instead. It was great, and the food was okay too. See elsewhere for the Meeting report.

So that was it. Another Visalia Convention come and gone. If you didn't make it this year, you ought to make double-sure you get up there next April.

# EDITORIAL

I had a splendid time in Visalia. As usual it was a very educational experience, and I learned a lot about the current trends and feelings among those in our sport.

One thing that got impressed into me this time around was the value of awards. Awards seem to mean different things to different operators. To some they are of absolutely no value whatsoever, and to others they are the only reason they compete in radio contests. To even more of us their value lies somewhere in between.

The way I feel about them is this. I like winning awards but they are not the reason I compete. I compete because I really enjoy the thrill of competition, and this form of competition seems very well suited to me. I'm quick and accurate and I respond well under pressure, three things this game tests beautifully.

I appreciate the recognition of my peers and enjoy owning some sort of prize I can look at that brings back memories of the contest. Personally, I like handsome awards, and when I have them around me while I'm competing, they bolster my confidence. (No, I don't take a case of plaques and certificates with me to HC8U).

That's what awards mean to me. I know some guys to whom they mean nothing, and many more who enjoy collecting them. Throughout this whole discussion, though, one thing has become clear over the years - if a contest sponsor offers lots of awards then the activity in their contest goes up. This has been shown over and over again.

To the point - If the SCCC wants to do things that make contesting better, and more activity means a better contest, and more awards mean more activity, then shouldn't the SCCC sponsor awards?

Naturally we can't do it on our budget at present, but it looks to me like a good argument for raising dues, or as an alternative, finding some way for our club to raise some REAL money. But then, of course, there are a lot of members of our club who have absolutely no interest in anything like that, their arguments being "let's get realistic, that's more work than we want to do," and "our club is for getting together informally and exchanging ideas and experiences."

Fine. Let's all sit around until we die and watch our hobby crumble to dust. Somebody's got to do the work that makes what we all enjoy possible. I love Pizza and Beer as much as the next guy, maybe even more, but I also know when it's my turn to do my share of the work.

Awards aren't the only thing we could do, either. One thing I'd like to see the SCCC lead the way on is facilitating better contest judging so the results are more meaningful. Here is an example (this is a rash example, not intended to be taken seriously): Let's say the SCCC sponsored a contest, CW only, 160 through 10, that was held on the last weekend of November, where any station in the world worked any other station in the world and the value of the points was based on the respective continents involved in the QSO, and countries counted as multipliers. The exchange would be signal report and zone.

Entrants would be required to submit their logs on disk, along with an audio tape of their complete operation. The tapes and logs of any entrant would be made available to any other entrant who desired to hear and see them. The standards for

checking would be the highest, most stringent, exacting standards ever used to evaluate contest operating performance. The results would be made available in an extremely timely fashion. Protocol for appeal or challenge would be in place.

Once the challenge period was over, the winner would be awarded a really special trophy (say between 3 and 4 feet tall with a large tower and stacked yagis as its crown), at an awards ceremony held at some significant meeting of the competitors, say a DX convention.

I don't think I have to tell you that an operator who scored well in a competition run in this fashion would have earned the true respect of his peers beyond question, and that that trophy he took home to his station would be very special indeed.

I also shouldn't have to tell you that a coup like this would require quite a bit of time and money, but, in my opinion, would be a project truly worthy of the Southern California Contest Club.

I guess what I'm saying in short is this: We're sitting on a wealth of potential to make our sport better than it is and save it from an apathetic demise. I am constantly bombarded with comments from members who want the club to do MORE-MORE-MORE. At the same time we have a budget in two digits and a charter and founding fathers (of which I am one) who say "keep it cheap, we're not one of THOSE kinds of clubs.

Ah, what to do. I wish I knew. This is an awful lot of effort to put into a bulletin for a club that doesn't need it. Anyone interested in a club that really wants to do something about contesting? Maybe we should start one.

## NEW MEMBERS

Our club extends a warm welcome to the following new members: Art Wallace, KK6XN, Charles Weir, W6UM, and Trey Garlough, WN4KKK. When asked why he chose to join the SCCC even though he has moved to Santa Cruz from his home in Texas, Trey commented "It's the only club that really DOES anything." All that and cheap dues, too.

# SCCCORE

is the official Journal of the

## Southern California Contest Club

President - Kevin, NC6U  
Vice President - Bob, W9NQ  
Editor - Mark, WA6OTU

Membership in the club is open to anyone.  
Dues are \$4. per year. Please use membership  
located elsewhere to join or renew.

Mail all correspondence to:

Southern California Contest Club  
c/o Mark Beckwith, Box 4  
Sierra Madre, California 91025-0004

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just a short note this time - my good wife has been expecting #4 for nine months now and she just said the contractions are 5 minutes apart....

The summer doldrums are upon us and it is payback time. How did you get into contesting? I'd bet your first real contest experience was Field Day. Mine was. I was a four-eyed skinny teenager with a brand-new Novice license in 1969. Dave, W7DQU, and his wife Anita, K7PGG, asked if I would like to ride with them up to the mountains near West Yellowstone park to be in the local radio club Field Day. I remember pitching the tent while Dave smoked his rum-soaked Crookes cigars, guaranteed to kill any winged beastie at 20 feet with that green smoke - nasty stuff. One of the college kids had a Heath 20M single bander hooked to a dipole at 70 feet. I listened in amazement to him running stations hour after hour. Anita was the CW operator - she told me once she learned to copy code in her head by turning up the radio while washing dishes in the kitchen. She worked 40M CW all night long, heating the tent with an old Heath Apache/Cheyenne combination that took up the entire table. All this was done out in the boonies with wire antennas and a very old generator that Dave nursed the whole 24 hours. What a blast! I was hooked. Even today I get jazzed just thinking about Field Day. If you have ever had that kind of experience, then you should pay back your "Dave and Anita." Attend a local Field Day. Get involved. Introduce a new kid to the joys of contesting. I can still smell those awful cigars....

Time to go. Looks like the baby will miss Field Day by a week. 73 and keep the rate up!

Kevin, NC6U

## MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The second meeting of the SCCC for 1991 was held, as is traditional, at the International DX Convention in Visalia on Saturday, April 13, 1991 at 12:30pm in the Brass Elephant restaurant which is inside the Holiday Inn. The agenda was to take an hour out from the DX Convention business and go have lunch, all together.

Originally, we reserved space for 25. As the day and time drew closer and closer, however, it became apparent we would have to seriously up that number or draw straws to see who could have lunch. The staff at the restaurant were very accomodating, and ultimately set aside space for 40 of us. Well, wouldn't you know it, after all was said and done, we had 43 turn out for the meeting. This is the biggest turnout for an SCCC meeting since the barbeque at W6RTT's in 1976, and that for the second meeting in a row. One might venture a guess that our club's enthusiasm is at an all-time high. (What to do with that enthusiasm? -ed). Those members who attended were:

N6AA - Dick	N6ND - Rick
KG6AR - Chris	W9NQ - Bob
N6AV - Jerry	W6NV - Oliver
W7CB - Larry	KF6OG - Joe
N6CQ - Bill	WB6OKK - Rick
N6CW - Terry	WA6OTU - Mark
AE6E - Neal	W6OUL - Jim
K6GXO - Keith	K6SVL - John
W6HAL - Leon	W6TKV - Fred
N6IC - Don	AA6TT - Bill
WA6IET - Bill	W6UQF - Chas
K6JYO - Bruce	KI6VC - Vic
WN4KKN - Trey	N6VI - Marty
K5KT - Joe	+ - Clara
W2KVA - Tom	N6VR - Ray
N6LL - Paul	NY6Y - Gary
N6MB - Milt	KI6ZH - Rich
W6MDH - Jerry	WA6ZTN - Mike
K6NA - Glen	N6ZZ - Phil

Also attending were the following visitors:

AK1A - Dick	WA6WZO - Fried
NOAFW - Pete	WA6WZN - Sandi
W6EEN - Don	

This meeting is going to be hard to top for attendance. The club has taken the liberty of sending complimentary copies of this bulletin to the visitors who had lunch with us, so they can see their calls in print, and so they might consider joining up with the most likable bunch of ops around.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Members: fill out the following.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dues are only:

**\$4** /YR!

The best  
deal in town!

Checks payable to "SCCC"

Everyone:  Check here if you would like a club badge - include an additional \$5.  
Current Members: Check your mailing label on the back of this form. If everything is hunky-dory then don't do anything else, just send this and a check. If there are changes either note them on the label or on the form above.

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE JUNE 29 MEETING AT AA6TT

To All SCCC Members:

Here are directions to my house.

I live on a ridge in the Santa Monica mountains approximately halfway between N6DX and N6AA.

To get to my house from Pacific Coast Highway: Take Las Flores Canyon Road to its end at Rambla Pacifico (next to the County Fire Camp). Go right on Rambla Pacifico. Rambla Pacifico becomes Piuma Road. I live at 24568 Piuma Road. You can't miss the antennas.

To get to my house from the Ventura Freeway: Take Las Virgenes Road towards the beach (if you've gone through the tunnel you've gone too far). Turn left on Piuma Road. Take Piuma Road to the top of the Santa Monica mountains. My house is at 24568 Piuma Road. You can't miss the antennas.

Parking (very important): The house is at the end of a quarter-mile long private road. You may park at my house (approx. 12-15 cars) or anywhere you can fit along the private road EXCEPT AT OR IN FRONT OF MY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE. Please stay clear of this, the other house on the private road.

I look forward to hosting the June SCCC meeting.

Best Regards,

Bill, AA6TT

Editor's Note: Bill Faxed me a couple pages of the Thomas Guide to show where his QTH is, but the image was not good enough to reproduce in the bulletin. To give you a good idea where it is, since everyone should have access to a Thomas Guide, it is on map #114 (L.A. County) in grid C-1 south of Piuma Road.

# NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club Meeting  
will be held:

## Saturday

June 29, 1991

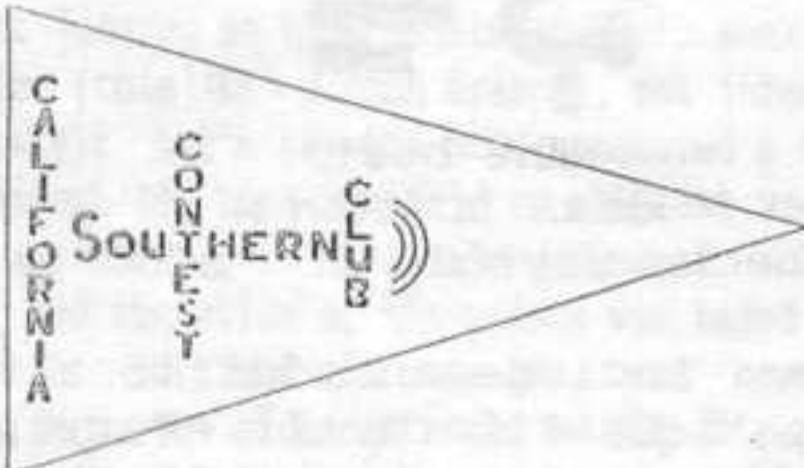
11:00am

at the QTH of:

Bill Hein, AA6TT

In the summer we have barbeque-type meetings, and this promises to be quite an affair. Bill asks you to bring something to barbeque and something to drink. Everything else will be provided. For directions to his QTH, check the instructions listed to the Left.

Southern California Contest Club  
c/o Mark Beckwith, Box 4  
Sierra Madre, California 91025-0004



N6VR                      EXPIRES 1992/02  
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