SCCORE

Southern California Contest Club Operations, Results, and Enlightenments

Volume 17

September - October 1994

Number 4

Message from the Prez

by Bob Selbrede, W9NQ

Well, is everyone ready for another contest season? As usual, I'm not. I've got too many projects needing completion and not enough time or \$\$ to do them. So what's new! Seems as though our club participation in the NA contests was down a bit this Fall. I hope that's not a sign of things to come. Is it band conditions or is everyone just burning out on the smaller contests? I have volunteered to take over the NA QSO Party from KZ2S and KM9P who have been laboring with it for the last several years. The details are still being worked out but it looks as though I may take over starting with the results of the August 94 contests. I am looking forward to it and appreciate the offers of assistance I've received from several other SCCC members. Believe me, I will take you up on them!

Several of us SCCC'ers are planning a County Expedition for CQP this year. I think we'll be using Jim's call, KG6VI for this go around. We are looking forward to working most of you on at least a few bands. It will be interesting to see how the change in band conditions will effect operating strategies etc, in this years' contests. For contests like the SS the difference may not be significant at all. Speaking of the SS, by now most of you are aware that the next SCCC meeting will be held at Pea Soup Andersen's Restaurant in Carlsbad. See the announcement on the back page. We will be having a couple of guest speakers (K6LL, K6NA and W6UQF) talk to us about SS operating techniques and strategies. These guys are some of the best in the business and the discussion should prove very helpful to our ongoing efforts to score big in the ARRL Club Competition. If you only make one or two meetings per year, make sure this is one of them!

I want to say a big thank you to Larry, N6AZE for doing a great job of spearheading the SCCC SS effort and

setting up the next club meeting. The officers of the SCCC appreciate all the help we can get. Does anyone else have any future suggestions? Also, I want to thank Will, KN6DV, and Bruce, WA7BNIVI and others for stepping up to the plate and offering to help in the publication of the SCCCore and other SCCC duties. Mark, WA6OTU has been doing much of the administrative "dirty work" of keeping the SCCC running for many years now and has earned a well deserved break. Thanks again Mark! That's it for now. Please remember to drop our Vice Prez and Contest Coordinator Ken, AB6FO a note and let him know if you're willing and able to be on one of our NA contest teams. We never have TOO MANY people! 73, Bob, W9NQ selbredb.csc@mhs.elan.af.mil

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to everyone. The summer is about over and it will soon be time for the BIG fall contest season. It seems like there has been a whole bunch of contest activity so far, almost like there was no break - what with all the contests results and announcements that fly accross the internet reflector, and the more well-known NAQP and Sprints behind us already!

It has been a very exciting summer here in a lot a ways. Much happened to really change my own outlook on life which I wanted to pass along as one person's view of what is happening to radio contests. I still don't know what I am going to do, and I am curious to know if anybody else feels the same way I do about some of this stuff. This is stuff that will ultimately make my decision about sticking it out on the CAC or not.

It all started when several contesters who are my close friends and whose opinions I value highly told me

EDITOR (cont'd)

if I didn't get connected to Internet I would be perceived as "out of touch" and "behind the times." This made perfect sense to me. If it was true.

I got email. I diligently checked every message that flew over the CQ-Contest Reflector for over 4 months. I downloaded any comments from anyone that had anything to do with anything before the CAC or any topics of my own personal interest. I think what I learned by doing this is indicative of what is happening to

contesting in the bigger picture.

I learned that just because a topic (a "thread") makes the rounds on the Reflector, it doesn't mean you get everybody's opinions about it that you need to make an informed decision or take a stand on something. I have found that most of the wisest people say the least, if anything, and usually preface their comments with something like "I was reading the comments about...and couldn't stand it any longer and just HAD to say...."

But I care about what these people feel about everything, not just what they choose to comment on. I usually have to call them on the phone, or write them a letter or have a beer with them at a convention. These are all things I have always done which is why I was surprised to hear that I was "out of touch."

Just because something gets discussed and put to bed on the Reflector doesn't mean that the conclusions the Reflector draws are appropriate to the contesting community at large. In my discussions with people who sponsor contests, I am constantly reminded that contests are not run just for the few people who always win them, and they want the rules and the philosophy of the contest to appeal and make sense to all the Joe Hamms out there who like to get on the air and talk to people. The ARRL, in particular, is highly conscious of this priority.

Reflector enough to figure out what it is about and whether or not to keep it for future reference takes some time. A whole lot of time, to put it bluntly. Possibly more time that it is worth, actually, considering that to actually be in touch you still have to write the letters, make the phone calls, and go to the conventions. How much time, you ask? The way I was doing it, in excess of an hour a day. More, if I had any comments to make.

At the end of 4 months, I decided I should break the rules, and judge each Reflector comment based on who was sending it and what the subject was. Those in the know call this an "email filter." This made me feel very guilty. Several people told me to "get over it." All in all, this email reflector thing left me feeling very unsatisfied. I found it to be a major time sink, with very little to show for it.

On top of all this, Tree came out with "Version 5" of what is the best contest operating program available. I had been somewhat out of touch with "Version 4" although I knew my way around his stuff pretty well, but the power of the new program made me realize I had fallen seriously behind. In the last year, staying competitive with my station hardware and software has turned into too big a job for me.

This made me stop and think about contesting and my life, and I realized my enthusiasm for contesting was at an all-time low and I was on the verge of cutting it loose from my interests. I wrote a letter to the ARRL President, resigning from the CAC and outlining my

feelings.

Knowing this was one of those things you don't just dash off blithely, I slept on this letter and sent it out to 4 of my most trusted politically astute mentors. They all contacted me immediately and asked me not to resign, and we began a long discussion which is still going on.

Although you would not know it by following the Reflector, the future of contesting is not at all certain, and it is going to take some savvy, leadership and organization to ensure our future. These guys think I can still be of service despite the fact that I'm not set up with two radios. These matters are a little more important than arguing about the 10-minute rule or remote control of Multi-multis.

Well, with that kind of support, I couldn't very well tell everybody to take a hike, so I think I'll stick around a little longer, and continue being a pain in some people's butts.

@#\$%&*!

Now on to brighter news. As is probably apparent all over this issue of SCCCORE, I have successfully passed the baton for everything except the editing (my favorite part - then I get to write these diatribes for you to line your bird cages with) to Will, KN6DV. We will continue to seek the help of columnists like Dick, W6EEN, who does the calendar and meeting announcement, Bob, W9NQ who writes his President's column, Ken, AB6FO who does his Vice President's column, and now Bruce, WA7BNM, who collected and organized all the scores we were lucky enough to include. Will is running the finances, database, roster, printing, folding, stapling, labeling, stamping, and mailing operation. I know I speak for everyone when I say THANK YOU, WILL!! 73, Mark, WA60TU wa6otu@caltech.edu

SCCCORE

is the official Bulletin of the

Southern California Contest Club

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I recently completed my collection of back issues of NCJs. This was made easy by LTA Industries publishing a four volume set of the early years, from 1973 through 1987. At \$59, it is a good value, and makes for interesting reading. Well, the first few years aren't all that great, but there are a few worthwhile articles. You can reach LTA at 216-565-9950. My subscription to NCJ started in 1991. A call to the ARRL filled in all but three back issues for the intervening years. A post on Internet's CQ-Contest reflector resulted in offers of copies of my missing issues.

In reviewing the old NCJs, I noticed that SCCC used to have two or three teams for the NAQPs and Sprints. I viewed this with interest since, as I understand it, the sole job of the Vice President of the SCCC, apart from writing this column, is to organize the teams for the NAQP and Sprint contests. It is a job that I am happy to do, but I must be doing something wrong, since I couldn't generate enough interest for even one full team for the recent NAQP and Sprint Phone contests. We only fielded one full team for the CW contests. With perhaps two exceptions, no one contacted me to tell me they wanted to be on a team. To even field one team, I had to write to everyone who had been on a team the last few years. Sorry, but I can't write and solicit everyone personally.

I would like to see an increase in team participation for the Sprints and NAQPs. Participating doesn't mean an all out effort. That is why there are teams 2 & 3. Getting on for even a few hours is fun, and helps out the guys who are going for it all. If you have any suggestions for how I might better do the job, please let me know. And since now everyone in the club knows who to contact, I hope we will field more teams. You can sign up at any SCCC meeting. If I'm not going to be at a meeting, I'll have a surrogate pass around the sign up sheet. (Thanks to Larry, N6AZE, for doing it in August.) You can also contact me directly. My packet connection has been down for a month, but you can reach me at (310) 474-1355 or via Internet. Please get in touch at least two weeks before the event. 73,

Ken, AB6FO kwidelitz@delphi.com PS. I <u>DID</u> submit a team for January CW NAQP. The following is a response to the email I sent to John, KZ2S about it:

"I'm afraid the team listings got real screwed up this time. As you know KM9P did the writeup this time. I guess something happened to the team information when I transferred the logs over to him. I guess Bill and I should prepare for a lot of nasty mail ... It's not your fault and I'm sorry for any flack SCCC is going to give you. I have some but not ALL of the team info from the Jan NAQP on my computer here. Sorry for the mix up. - John KZ2S"

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Effective this issue I am taking over Publishing SCCCORE from Mark, including maintaining the membership list and club finances. Mark will stay on as Editor.

First of all, let me say it is a pleasure to serve the SCCC. Basically I will take over most or what Mark has done for the last three-and-a-half years. I just received Mark's letter stating that I "will be assuming the publishing duties of the club newsletter" At this time this is new to me, but I will give it a try and hope that all will work out just fine.

Please make a note that the club address will be changed over to my home address. I would like to receive your Internet (Email) address so I can publish it in the next roster.

In my new function I am glad to announce that we have 2 new members: Will, KC6X and Rick, KM6YX. Welcome Will and Rick to the club and hope to see you at the meetings and scoring for the SCCC.

While writing this I also made time to work SCCCer Jim, N6TJ, at ZD8Z on 75M (big signal Jim). If you know any one who wants to become a member please have them fill out the application and mail it to me. Last of all I would like to say thanks to Mark for the work he has done in the past. I hope that I can knock on your door in case of trouble to help me out. Again a big THANK YOU MARK. 73, Will, KN6DV

willemaa@aol.com

Name:	Call:
Address:	Home Phone:
	Work Phone:
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SCCC CALENDAR

Truly all the dates that fit! by W6EEN

OCTOBER

1-2 CAL QSO PARTY, CW/SSB, 1600z (30)
8th CLUB MEETING, SATURDAY, 11am
PEA SOUP ANDERSEN'S, Carlsbad
SWEEPSTAKES CLINIC
Featuring: K6LL, K6NA, W6UQF
29-30 CQWW DX SSB Contest, 0000z (48)
29-30 ARRL EME - 2 Weekends (48 ea w/e)
(Do we have any Moon Bouncers?)

NOVEMBER

5-7 ARRL Sweepstakes CW Test, 2100z (30) 19-21 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Tst, 2100z (30) 26-27 CQWW DX CW Contest, 0000z (48) 26-27 ARRL EME - 2 Weekends (48 ea w/e)

DECEMBER

2-4 ARRL 160 Meter CW Test, 2200z (42) 10-11 ARRL 10 Meter CW/SSB, 0000z (48) 31st Straight Key Night, 2400z (24)

NEXT MEETING

The next SCCC Club
Meeting will be held:
Saturday, October 8th, 11am
in the GARDEN ROOM

of the world famous

Pea Soup Andersen's

in CARLSBAD

Take the "Palomar Airport Rd Exit" off Hwy 5 (you can see the Windmill from the Freeway) the Exit is a few miles South of Oceanside Lunch from a limited menu, modestly priced

PROGRAM

SWEEPSTAKES CLINIC - With Panelists: K6LL-DAVE, K6NA-GLENN, W6UQF-CHAS

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS AND IDEAS

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





NGVR MEMBER THROUGH 02/96

Ray Benny 160 Brandt Ave. Oak View CA 93022

FIRST CLASS