

## From the Editor

Time flies when you are having fun! Well, 3 years have come and gone along with the 50th anniversary of *NCJ* and my term as editor. This will be my last issue as I hand the reins over to John Pescatore, K3TN, for 2024. John comes to the job with many years of contest experience and as editor of the *PVRC Newsletter*. I have no doubt that *NCJ* will continue to thrive with John leading the way.

So, what has been the fun part for me?

- ◆ Getting to sing “On the Cover of the *NCJ*” with enthusiasm and a sense of ownership at Dayton last year when The Spurious Emissions band played it for the first time post-pandemic.

- ◆ Having contesters fulfill my requests to write stories, and having contesters send in unsolicited stories.

- ◆ Interacting with the Sprint and NAQP contest managers who, along with the regular columnists, serve as the heart of the magazine through their dedication.

- ◆ Getting to pick who *does* go on the cover of *NCJ* for each issue.

- ◆ Watching the positive impact that adding the Assisted category had on NAQP scores and participation (including my own).

- ◆ Eliminating the backlog of NAQP plaques.

- ◆ Putting together special issues — for Dayton in 2022 and WRTC in 2023.

- ◆ Having Dayton Hamvention® press credentials in 2022 and 2023 that included VIP parking.

- ◆ Having contesters thank me for being the *NCJ* Editor at any event I attended.

- ◆ Getting to work with the team at ARRL — Rick, Maty, Shelly, and Becky — who made *NCJ* happen after I collected the content.

What’s next for me? I am continuing as the editor of the Northern California DX Foundation’s *Newsletter* as well as serving as a NCDXF



I got to meet another Lee in Dayton this year — Lee Moyle, VK3GK. We are part of a very exclusive name club.

Director. I plan to stay radio-active in contests with my fellow Arizona Outlaws and chase more band countries in pursuit of, hopefully, one day joining the DXCC Challenge 3,000 club (currently at 2,957). Outside of radio, I will pick up on writing poetry and sculpting with clay.

I have enjoyed ham radio since 1962, and it will always be a part of who I am. Let’s continue to enjoy it together, inside and outside of contests.

### In this Issue

One of the most enjoyable articles to cross my desk came from Michael Burton, KY4ID, describing how he enticed his family to participate in the August NAQP SSB. I hope some of you can apply his tactics to your own family and have a fun time watching them compete against each other to see who can make the most contacts.

John, K3TN, arranged to interview Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. You will gain some new insights on how Dave started in the hobby and what led him to spend many years serving ARRL in a variety of positions, ultimately as CEO. Still a fixture in many CW contests, Dave played a key role in the history of *NCJ*, and we would not be here celebrating 50 years of publication without his involvement.

If you have ever wondered about how to cure a Yagi that “sings” in the wind from vibration, Don Daso’s “Workshop Chronicles” column has tips on how to cure this phenomenon.

Scott, KØMD, tells the story of the lengthy journey he had during the COVID years to upgrade his 80-meter four-square antenna. This was a major undertaking that took extensive planning and commitment to complete. His contest results with the finished antenna made overcoming the many challenges along the way very worthwhile.

The Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure was not able to travel outside of the US this year, but young operators did have a chance to operate from the K3LR superstation during the IOTA contest. Grace Papay, KE8RJJ, one of the participants, details their amazing experience in the “Next-Gen Contesters” column.

The *NCJ* profile in this issue from John, K6MM, is Mark Bailey, KD4D. If you want a recipe for how to participate in the next WRTC take a look at how Mark has done it. You can’t just sit back and hope for an invitation. Mark has actively pursued opportunities to post the contest scores necessary for WRTC qualification.