

From the Editor

Welcome to the new *NCJ* schedule — in what is left of 2025, this August/September issue will be followed by October/November and December/January.

This year for the first time, I did the hamfest trifecta: Orlando HamCation®, Visalia International DX Convention, and Dayton Hamvention®. Attracting more people to the hobby and new hams to contesting was a big topic at both Visalia and Dayton.

Friday night at the hotel, I had the honor of joining former *NCJ* editors Randy Thompson, K5ZD; Trey Garlough, N5KO; John Crovelli, W2GD; Ward Silver, NØAX; Kirk Pickering, K4RO, and Rusty Epps, W6OAT, in singing “On the Cover of the *NCJ*” with the Spurious Emissions Band. Luckily, the vocal skills of Nancy Livingston, N9NCY, and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, seemed to drown out the editor QRM.

The Contest Dinner on Saturday night was huge and featured an opening talk by a “medium-age” accomplished contester, Chris Hurlbut, KL9A/KM7W. “Seasoned” contesters Pat Barkey, N9RV; Uli Weiss, DJ2YA, and John Laney, K4BAI, were inducted into the Contest Hall of Fame for their amazingly long and accomplished contesting careers. Real-live young contesters filled a table at the dinner and the contesting gods ended the night by having Katie



Former and current *NCJ* editors joined with members of the Spurious Emissions Band at Hamvention to sing “On the Cover of the *NCJ*.” From left, Randy Thompson, K5ZD; David Hodge, N6AN; Mark Beckwith, N5OT; John Pescatore, K3TN; Nancy Livingston, N9NCY; Ward Silver, NØAX; Patrick Barkey, N9RV; John Crovelli, W2GD, and Kirk Pickering, K4RO. [Hidden from view: N5KO and W6OAT]

Campbell, KE8LQR, win the raffle grand prize ICOM 7610 (provided by DX Engineering).

One building at Hamvention was largely dedicated to youth and makers and seemed very busy the entire weekend. The contesting forum had an engaged discussion about real-time scoring and the possibility of faster adjudicated score reporting attracting more to contesting.

Contesting will continue to evolve, but I think there are some constants in seeing more calls in contests: club efforts, multi-op stations and good old-fashioned Elmering will still be key. All three of those often come together at ARRL Field Day. How'd you do?

[Photo courtesy of K8CX Ham Gallery]