

From the Editor

I had a memorable ARRL Field Day this year in Colorado Springs. We have cousins who live there in a beautiful home on a ridge at 6,700 feet above sea level with a sheer drop off to the eastern horizon. Sunrises there are breathtaking. Every time we have visited, I have thought about taking along an HF radio to put on the air. FD 2023 was when it finally happened.

Rather than pulling my Elecraft K3 out of the home station, I decided to take my old Elecraft K2, built back in 2002 when the Voodudes were using them for the CQ World Wide CW in West Africa. Roger, G3SXW, had raved about how wonderful the K2 receiver was for CW, and several of us wasted little time ordering and building our own for our next trip. When the K3 came out, the K2s went into mothballs. Mine had been sitting in its own Pelican case for many years. I turned it on and tested it at home before the trip north, and it seemed to be working normally.

Alan, KØAV, and his wife are good friends of our cousins and also live in the Springs. I was introduced to Alan on one of our first visits to Colorado Springs over 20 years ago, and we catch up with each other most years in Visalia at the DX Convention. I called Alan and told him about my plan to operate FD in the Springs, and he offered a fiberglass mast to support the inverted V antennas I planned to use.

We arrived in Colorado Springs on Friday afternoon before FD. I had hauled a car battery to power the K2, which I planned to operate QRP at 5 W in the 1B category. This was going to be my first foray ever into the QRP category. With help from Alan on Saturday morning, I had a 20-meter inverted V up about 20 feet on the mast — more than enough for that location. Alan headed back home



Alan, KØAV, with your Editor at my Colorado Springs ARRL Field Day QTH at 6,700 feet ASL, where you can see the curvature of the Earth to the east in the background.

after suggesting that we have a QRP competition, although he would be operating 1E using his home antennas about 5 miles away.

When Field Day started, I would have preferred to operate on a higher band, but there did not seem to be enough activity to warrant a move to 15 meters. I quickly discovered that running with 5 W was not going to happen on 20, but my S&P efforts were fairly successful. I did not take a microphone along, so all of my activity was on CW. The SuperCheckPartial history file showed me as “1E AZ,” so there were many pauses and ??? after I sent “1B CO.”

I had 160 contacts in the log when it seemed to be time to QSY to 40 meters. I changed to the 40-meter antenna and, while the SWR looked good, I could not hear any signals. I texted KØAV and asked if there was activity on 40, and he assured me there was. The K2 was working perfectly on the higher bands, but

something was wrong on 40 and 80.

In a stroke of good fortune, Alan offered his own K2, which had been sitting on a shelf and said he'd take it over for my use. I felt guilty pulling him away from his own FD operating, but he didn't hesitate to make the trip.

After some pizza with Debby and our cousins, I got on 40 and added 90 contacts to the log before retiring for the night. In the morning, I got back on 20 for a few hours and finished up on 15, where I was finally able to generate some small runs with my 5-W signal. I finished with 390 Qs and new respect for QRP operators. **3830scores.com** shows me in 5th place in 1B, but I am sure there were unreported scores still out there.

After getting back home, my Arizona Elecraft guru Gary, N7IR, asked if I had the 160 module in my K2, which provided for the use of a receive antenna to be switched in.

Continued on p. 12

Guess what? I do have that 160 module, and the antenna was switched to use a Beverage on LF from the time when the Voodudes used them in West Africa! The K2 works perfectly on LF now and it is ready for another FD try in 2024.

The bottom line on FD: I had fun and could not have done it without the help of Alan, KØAV, my Colorado cousins, and Debby, my very patient and supportive wife for 53 years.

In this Issue

After a long, long wait, WRTC 2022 finally happened in July in the area of Bologna, Italy. While I was unable

to attend, I wanted to capture some of the excitement of the event in this issue, which is dedicated to the Organizing Committee, Team Leaders, Team Mates, Referees, Judges, and the hundreds of volunteers, station hosts, and spectators that made this event a success.

Congratulations to Yarik, UW7LL, and Yuri, VE3DZ/UT4UZ, on their WRTC 2022 winning effort!

I have assembled stories from a Team Leader — Randy, K5ZD, at I42G; a Team Mate — Yuri, VE3DZ/UT4UZ, at I44W; a Referee — Mike, KC7V, at I42M, and the Chief Judge

— Rusty, W6OAT, along with comments and photos from a number of other participants. Nodir, EY8MM, was kind enough to share a few of his 2,000 WRTC 2022 photos for this issue.

Also in this issue is a sequel from Paul, NØGN, on “Contesting Observations from the Steep Part of the Learning Curve — Phone Edition,” following up on his CW installment in the Jan/Feb 2023 issue. And, we take an innovative look at FT4 contest possibilities for high QSO rates from Peter Driessen, VE7AB, and Ed Muns, WØYK.