

National Contest Journal

Volume 54 Number 2

April/May 2026

National Contest Journal (ISSN 0899-0131) is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, Connecticut, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: National Contest Journal, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494, USA.

Publisher

David A. Minster, NA2AA
American Radio Relay League
225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111
Tel: 860-594-0200
Fax: 860-594-0259 (24-hour direct line)
Email: hq@arrl.org
Web: www.arrl.org

Editor

John Pescatore, K3TN
jpescatore@aol.com

Assistant Editor

John McKenna, K3NNA

Layout & Production Specialist

Matt Ali

NCJ Website

Matt Wilhelm, W1PY, Webmaster
www.ncjweb.com

ARRL Officers

President: Rick Roderick, K5UR

Contributing Editors

Mike Goldstein, VE3GFN—Little Pistol Pages
Jon Jones, NØJK—VHF-UHF Contesting!
John Miller, K6MM—NCJ Profiles
Don Daso, K4ZA—Workshop Chronicles
Neil Rapp, WB9VPG—Next-Gen Contesters
Dr. John W. Thompson, K3MD—Book Reviews

North American QSO Party, CW

Dave Mueller, N2NL
10206 Summerlake Dr., Mobile, AL 36608
cwnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com

North American QSO Party, SSB

Bill Lippert, AC0W
2013 6th Ave. SE, Austin, MN 55912-4321
ssbnaqpmgr@ncjweb.com

North American QSO Party, RTTY

Mark Aaker, K6UFO
300 Berry St., Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668
rttynaqpmgr@ncjweb.com

North American Sprint, CW

Phil Koch, K3UA
204 Dana Drive, Eighty Four, PA 15330
cwsprintmgr@ncjweb.com

North American Sprint, RTTY

Ed Muns, W0YK
P.O. Box 1877, Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877
rttysprintmgr@ncjweb.com

Advertising Sales Manager:

Steve Bossert, K2GOG
sbossert@arrl.org

NCJ subscription orders, changes of address, and reports of missing or damaged copies should be addressed to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 and be marked **NCJ Circulation**. ARRL members are asked to include their membership control number or their QST mailing label.

Submit articles, correspondence, and club newsletters to NCJ, John Pescatore, K3TN, 1515 Lost Creek Dr., Ashton, MD 20861.

The NA Sprint and NA QSO Parties are not sponsored by ARRL.

Contents

- 2 From the Editor
John Pescatore, K3TN

Features

- 3 From FT8 to CW: A Modern Path Back to Morse Code
Philomen Leonelli, Jr., WM6Y
- 5 Benchmarking Low-Power HF Contest Performance
Brian Gardener, KE8JVX
- 8 2025 ARRL Sweepstakes — Initial Observations of Text-to-Speech
Rick Heinrich, NØYY
- 10 Using Logbook of The World for Rover and County-Line Operations in State QSO Parties
Ray Todd Stevens, KB9LGS

Columns

- 13 The Little Pistol Pages
Mike Goldstein, VE3GFN
- 15 Next-Gen Contesters
Neil Rapp, WB9VPG
- 18 VHF/UHF Contesting!
Jon Jones, NØJK
- 19 Letter to the Editor
- 20 NCJ Book Review: *Magic Band Revealed*
John W. Thompson, MD (ret.), K3MD

Advertising Index

DX Engineering: Cover 4

Elecraft: Cover 3

FlexRadio Systems: Cover 2

Green Heron Engineering: 7

Yearly Subscription rates: In the US \$25 | US by First Class Mail \$34 | International and Canada by airmail \$32

All original material not attributed to another source is copyright © 2026 by The American Radio Relay League, Inc. Materials may be excerpted from *NCJ* without prior permission provided that the original contributor is credited, and the *NCJ* is identified as the source.

In order to ensure prompt delivery, we ask that you periodically check the address information on your mailing label. If you find any inaccuracies, please contact the Circulation Department immediately. Thank you for your assistance.