

## Editorial

### 40 Years of *NCJ*!

Here we are at the dawn of a new year, which marks 40 years of continuous publication for *National Contest Journal*. We are proud to continue the tradition of bringing you the only magazine devoted 100 percent to Amateur Radio contesting. In this day of instant-everything on the Internet, many publications are falling by the wayside or converting exclusively to digital media. We are happy to continue bringing you a bi-monthly magazine that you can enjoy without a battery. To celebrate 40 years as the premiere journal of radiosport, we have compiled some recollections of past *NCJ* editors, who share what it was like in those days of yore. We hope you'll enjoy the trip down memory lane.

#### NAQP Rules Update

This issue reports the results of several *NCJ* events, including NAQP writeups from our new contest managers KL9A (CW) and ACØW (SSB). K6UFO continues as the NAQP RTTY honcho.

After reviewing the rules for the NAQPs, the managers of all three contests have decided on a couple of minor changes. The most significant is that the log submission deadline has been reduced to 7 days. This brings consistency to the six *NCJ*-sponsored contests, which all now have a 7 day log-submission deadline. We plan to have official results posted on the *NCJ* Web site considerably sooner than our magazine publication schedule permits. Of course we'll continue to publish *NCJ* contest results in the magazine as well, for those who prefer the printed version and for posterity.

The second change in the NAQP rules is a new requirement that *all* entrants, single op and multiop, use one single name throughout the contest. The use of multiple names creates confusion on the air and makes log checking more difficult. Details are in the official rules in this issue.

There are several means to submit your log, including e-mail, a Cabrillo Web-upload form, and even a Web page where you can type your log in directly if you logged on paper. Plaques for 2012 NAQP winners will be going out in the mail as this is being

written. Thanks to K9QQ and the plaque donors for honoring the winners with such nice trophies.

#### Winter SSB Sprint Date Change

Mark your contest calendars! We have moved the next running of the North American SSB Sprint to March 17, 2013. The February date conflicted with several other contests, and activity suffered as a result. After considerable discussion among some SSB Sprint regulars and the new Sprint SSB contest manager, it was decided to try a new date. Please help to spread the word, and we'll look for you in March! Official rules for all Sprint events also are in this issue.

#### Inside

In addition to our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary retrospective we'll report the results of several *NCJ*-sponsored operating events — the

August CW and SSB NAQPs and all three modes of the fall Sprints. Elsewhere, W1HIS shows us how to build an inexpensive yet very effective common-mode choke. N2BA continues his fascinating "Game Design for Contesters" with the fourth in his six-part series. As always, our regular columnists offer up some practical and thought-provoking material you won't want to overlook.

We would like to thank Don, AA5AU, for many years of service to the contesting community and to *NCJ* readers. His "RTTY Contesting" column in this issue will be his last. He's passing the reins to the very capable hands of Ed, WØYK, starting with the March/April issue.

Finally our thoughts go out to those affected by Hurricane Sandy, which left a considerable path of destruction along the US East Coast.

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[www.qsl.net/k1fz/](http://www.qsl.net/k1fz/) home page.

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Click on "**Pennant & Flag antenna notes**" for installation information.

Click on "**K1FZ V-Beam Beverage**" for a more directive, cross between a V-Beam, and phased Beverage antennas. Check out information, and possibilities with your antenna plotting program.

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