

Editorial

Your editor just finished operating the WPX CW contest, and conditions were wonderful from middle Tennessee. Twenty meters was open around the clock, and 15 was rocking well into the night. The weekend before was the Dayton Hamvention®, where I had the pleasure of meeting many *NCJ* readers, reconnecting with old friends and making some new ones. It was great to meet several members of the Louisiana Contest Club, for example, and not only learn about how to fire up a strong club spirit but a little something about Cajun cuisine. Thanks to those who put up with the Spurious Emissions band on Friday. We really have fun rearranging those tunes and playing them for your amusement. I'd like to give a big tip of the hat to Tim, K3LR, who, over the years, has turned Dayton into a first class event for contesters.

New NAQP Management Team

After many years of service, Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, will hand over management of the North American QSO Party to a new team of volunteers. I'd like to thank Bruce for all of the time, energy and resources he has put into the NAQPs. These events are as vibrant and popular as ever, and we have Bruce to thank for guiding their growth over the years.

Bruce began overseeing the SSB NAQPs in January 1998 and took over the CW NAQPs in January 2003. As Bruce recalls, "Bob Selbrede, K6ZZ, who was managing NAQP CW asked me if I'd be interested in managing the January 1998 NAQP SSB. Bob had been using an *Excel* spreadsheet for log checking, but it was limited by the maximum number of rows allowed by *Excel* at that time. I subsequently built a log-checking system using Microsoft *Access*, which was later used for CW log checking a couple of years later. I then wrote a more sophisticated log-checking system based on Web applications that I've used until the present. I started producing the CW results writeup and correspondence (in addition to SSB) starting in January 2003. Finally, I started log checking the RTTY logs in January 2006, when the contest had a manager transition."

In addition to assisting in the transition to the new NAQP management team, Bruce will continue to handle online certificates and team registration for the NAQPs. Bruce will also work directly with ARRL Headquarters on other contesting-related IT challenges, applying his considerable experience and programming skills.

The new team of volunteers consists of operators who are very familiar with the NAQPs and includes contesters with

decades of collective log-checking experience. The new NAQP contest managers (and contest report authors) are Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, for NAQP CW, and Bill Lipfert, ACØW, for NAQP SSB. Mark Aaker, K6UFO, remains onboard as the NAQP RTTY contest manager. Log collection and log checking will be handled by Trey Garlough, N5KO, and Tree Tyree, N6TR, respectively. Bruce, WA7BNM will continue to handle online certificates and team registration. Finally, Steve London, N2IC, and Rich Strand, KL7RA, will manage NAQP score records.

Many thanks to these top contesters for offering their time and experience to carry the NAQPs into the future.

New Phone Sprint Manager

In another changing of the guard, we would like to welcome aboard Chris Tate, N6WM, as the new manager for the SSB Sprint. Chris brings a lot of enthusiasm to the table and has some ideas to help boost SSB Sprint activity. Jim Stevens, K4MA, has been overseeing the phone Sprint since February 2001, and we thank him for his decade plus of service to *NCJ*. Jim recalls the early years. "I did my first Sprint writeup for the February 2001 event, and I was getting ready for my second one when September 11, 2001, happened. Those events happened on the Tuesday before the September SSB Sprint. After some discussion on the forums of the time, I decided to cancel that Sprint. As far as I know, that was the only Sprint (CW or SSB) ever cancelled since the founding of the Sprints. It has been a good 10 years, and I am sure that Chris will carry the flag for the SSB Sprint for many years. Good luck to him."

One immediate change is a new date for the winter phone Sprint. Due to the proliferation of contests in February, we have decided to shift the phone Sprint to the third weekend of March, where it will face less competition on the air. The next winter phone Sprint will take place Sunday, March 17, 2013, 0000 to 0359 UTC (the evening of Saturday, March 16, in US time zones).

Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, SK

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, on Sunday, June 3, at the age of 71. From 2002 until 2011 Zimmerman wrote the popular *QST* column "The World Above 50 MHz." He also served on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, edited the VHF contesting column for *CQ Contest* magazine during its 5 year lifespan, and

was director of the CQ VHF Contest from 2000 until 2002. Zimmerman was a member of the CQ World Wide Contest Committee for many years and was a pioneering advocate for more aggressive log checking. Ward Silver, NØAX, says, "Gene brought the same intensity and depth of knowledge of his career at the National Institutes of Health to understanding propagation. His tenure as the conductor of *QST*'s 'The World Above 50 MHz' usually resulted in a sharp recounting and analysis of the month's unusual on-the-air events. I learned something from every single column. But what most will remember about Gene will be his amazing capacity for storytelling and the twinkling of his eyes as he told of the undoing of scoundrels with obvious and undiluted glee. I've had the pleasure of being his roommate at Dayton and WRTC, and I don't believe I've ever laughed harder or longer. Gene knew where all the bodies were buried and relished his role as sage and historian."

Busted QSOs

Our apologies for swapping identities in two photos that appeared on page 31 in last issue's "Contesting on a Budget" by Ralph, K9ZO. That's Brian, K9QQ, on the left, and Matt, KB9UWU, on the right.

In this Issue

We report scores from the winter series of *NCJ* contests, including the CW, SSB and RTTY North American QSO parties and the CW and SSB NA Sprints. Brooke Allen, N2BA, presents Part 1 of a series of articles looking into the art of game design, and he introduces us to the fascinating concept of *flow*. Elsewhere, John, KL7JR, tells his tale of operating from HI3K at Loma Del Tor, and Hank, N8XX, gives us a taste of state QSO party operating. This edition also features some technical articles, including RFI solutions from Steve, NY3A, while Art, K3KU, offers another take on adding a receive-antenna jack to the venerable Kenwood TS-850S.

Our regular columnists serve up their typically tasty tidbits from the care and feeding of RTTY audio to cable etiquette. John, K6MM, introduces us to WRTC competitor and award-winning low-power contesting, Marv Bloomquist, N5AW. Finally, we would like to recognize Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, who marks his 25th year as an *NCJ* columnist with his 150th edition of "Contest Tips, Tricks and Techniques." Thank you, Gary, for a quarter-century of service to *NCJ* readers and for all of the advice over the years.