

From the Editor

Dayton and Visalia are behind us, WRTC 2018 is just ahead, and summer is in high season in North America. I hope that your station projects are going well and that you're preparing for the fall contest season.

New Contesters

This issue highlights two relatively new contesters who have done exceptionally well. Sixteen-year-old Xenia Berger, ZL4YL, will participate in her first WRTC, as Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, reports in "Next-Gen Contesting." John Miller, K6MM, interviewed a relatively new, but not-as-young contester, John McVey, K4AFE, who has won the CQ WPX SSB Rookie competition. These two interviews with contesters who are doing exceptionally well at least suggest that new, talented, and younger individuals are replenishing our ranks. These two operators demonstrate that all of us can be competitive in a category or contest, if we plan and perform with intensity and focus.

This issue of *NCJ* reports the results of four contests: The NAQP CW and RTTY events, and the CW and RTTY Sprints. Our contest managers do a fabulous job, and we want to recognize their hard work and contributions, so a big "Thank You!" to them for their efforts.

It is hard to believe that WRTC 2018 soon will be history, and that preparations for WRTC 2022 will begin. We hope you enjoyed the interview with the participants and learned from hearing about their goals, plans, and tactics. It was also neat to see the number of young adult or Next-Gen contesters participating in WRTC. One of our contributing editors is covering WRTC 2018, and we will include a report in a future issue.

New Contributing Editors

I am delighted to announce the addition of two contributing editors to our already-robust lineup. Roberto Ramirez, CE3CT, will contribute material on contest activities outside of North America. As you may recall, he is a leading contester in Latin America with his M2 contest station just outside Santiago, Chile. He has a long track record for mentoring other contesters, especially in partnership with Dale Green, VE7SV/CE2SV. Roberto is well connected with Latin American contesters and is actively working to grow radiosport in the region. Roberto works as a RF engineer in the telecom industry in Chile, and his station engineering practices reflect his professionalism.

In addition, Mark Aaker, K6UFO, will contribute a new column on remote contesting — something we recognize is a growing and important trend in radiosport. Mark already manages the North American RTTY Sprint and is no stranger to the North American contest community. He is active from his West Coast locations, especially using remote links to his new station in Washington. Mark is a retired patent attorney from Silicon Valley, having worked at Apple among other companies. He is a regular at Visalia and Dayton and at many other ham radio events. We are fortunate to have both of these talented hams and writers join us.

In this Issue

This issue provides some insights into the T17W contest station. Kam Sirageldin, N3KS, has improved the antennas at his award-winning contest station in Costa Rica, and he's provided an update. It is an impressive upgrade. Nate Moreschi, N4YDU, operated in the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) from T17W using SDRs for the first time, and he describes his experience. The use of SDRs in contesting is a growing and, in my opinion, irreversible trend. I am looking for more articles on SDR rigs — design issues, contest implementation, and reader experiences with any of the newly available models. Get in touch with me if you have an interest in writing an article about your experiences with SDR rigs and contesting.

John Thompson, K3MD, churns out excellent book reviews each issue. Amazon and ARRL have made a few deliveries at my home after I read his reviews. I hope

you are enjoying them also, as John has a unique knack to finding superb references and books for us as contesters. John has also been posting a bi-monthly survey at the ARRL website for this journal, and we'd like to see better response from readers. In this issue, John has a full page to describe the survey and entice you to venture online to answer the questions. *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, collates and posts the results. Check it out and let us know what you think.

I have also enjoyed reading the replies about whether changes should be made to the ARRL November Sweepstakes. There is nothing like a little controversy to generate discussion on the reflectors as well as force us to examine whether this event continues to meet the needs of the radiosport community.

I visited both Visalia and Hamvention. At Hamvention, ARRL included me in a "Meet the Editor" session at ARRL EXPO, and I'd like to express my appreciation to everyone who made this possible. It was a productive time, as was my trip to Visalia, my time at the contesting suites and my time at Contest University.

We hope that you enjoy *NCJ* and find it informative and useful. If so, help us to spread the word and encourage others to subscribe. ARRL can provide copies to give away at major Amateur Radio conventions, so you can be a *NCJ* ambassador. We also invite your comments and criticisms.

Fall will soon be upon us, and several operating events are on the calendar in August to help us get ready for the fall contest. Good luck, and I hope to run into you on the air.