

# From the Editor

## Changes at NCJ

You will see some changes starting with this issue of *NCJ*. Readers will notice that the CW Sprint and NAQP RTTY results articles are much shorter than what we typically have run in the past. Most contest write-ups take up to six printed pages in any issue. That's 15% of our allocated pages per issue. We publish six issues a year, and contest results can easily consume 25% of our page count. Additionally, because of our publication cycle, contest results articles appear in print months after the events that they report. The contest community consistently asks to see results sooner; many want results in real-time.

Additionally, I hear from a number of you that we need to emphasize more content about attracting new hams into contesting, and about strengthening/upgrading the skills of contest newcomers and those who are still learning.

With this issue, I have made an intentional decision to de-emphasize printed contest results and move most results articles to the *NCJ* website, <http://ncj.com>. The magazine will publish abbreviated summaries and list the top-scoring stations and Top 10 boxes. *QST* undertook a similar change a few years ago.

## Why Do This?

First, this change allows our contest managers to get articles to the website sooner, with fewer constraints on content and creativity about how they deliver the results. Additionally, we are working to create searchable contest databases, so you can search for prior scores and new records. Second, this allows *NCJ* to place greater focus on expanding interest in radiosport within the ham community and dedicate pages for articles that focus on building skills, improving stations, and sharing stories/tips from the world-wide contest community.

I believe condensing contest results articles in the magazine represents the correct path forward, but time will tell. I surveyed our contest managers and others contesting veterans, and nearly everyone agreed that the upsides trumped the downsides here. If you are unhappy, I'll take the blame.



The Maxwell Cup awarded to K5RC and N6TV. [Bob Wilson, N6TV, photo]

## Digital NCJ

ARRL has agreed to publish a digital version *NCJ*, although it won't have the technical sophistication and appearance of the current digital *QST*. Our plan, when IT resources at ARRL Headquarters are available to help, would be to post a PDF of each issue on a password-protected website for subscribers to access. Ultimately, subscribers will be able to see current and past posted issues. This will not happen overnight. Posting PDFs will allow quick access to classic articles and let you search past editions for content. Journals are moving into the digital arena. I work in the medical field and am an Associate Editor of a large medical journal. Our publisher tells us that online publishing will soon replace all printed content, with most of it being open access. *NCJ* cannot buck this trend and thrive, let alone survive. No

decision has been made regarding allowing subscribers to opt out of receiving the printed version — a digital subscription, if you will.

## New Column Coming

Starting with the September/October issue, *NCJ* will launch a new column, "Emerging Technologies for Contesting," with Ned Stearns, AA7A as the contributing editor. Ned is an electrical engineer and contester *par excellence* from Phoenix. He has a home station as well as a remote station he shares with another ham. Ned has a great handle on new and emerging technology that will offer contesters new opportunities and tools.

Several readers have written or spoken with me about including columns aimed at beginners and new contesters and "contesting with wires." I feel that several of our current contributing editors already cover these topics quite well, and I'm not sure we need to add new, more-focused columns at this point. Of course, we will continue to offer content that zeroes in on these concerns along with articles designed to help or pique the interest of advanced contest operators.

## Congratulations

*NCJ* congratulates long-time contesters and *NCJ* contributors Bob Wilson, N6TV, and Tom Taormina, K5RC (and W7RN trustee), for winning the Maxwell Cup, the West Coast's prestigious top contester award from the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC). A past *NCJ* editor, Tom regularly has written for *NCJ*. Bob mentors and assists contesters around the world with contest software issues, and several of his photos have graced *NCJ* articles.

## Erratum

Several wrote regarding some errors in the May/June issue. One article inadvertently listed in the table of contents was actually a past article. Last issue's "From the Editor" mentioned articles by K1DG and K9LA that had to be held over until this issue at the last minute. Some columns had to be omitted as well, and they will appear in this issue. Our apologies to Mike Goldstein and John Thompson. Thanks again for reading *NCJ* and for writing me.