

From the Editor

This edition of *NCJ* continues the theme of Station Building. Part II of Peter Chadwick's superb series on HF receiver design appears in this issue. Part III should be ready for the May/June issue. We're very happy to also have an article on solid-state amplifier design issues by well-known radio amateur and RF engineer Adam Farson, VA7OJ. Adam has long maintained a superb technical website for ham operators. He is one of many hams who give far more than to the hobby than they take! You will find Adam's article of great interest, if you are contemplating upgrading to a solid-state amplifier in your contest station.

Ham Radio and Social Media

Many of you are engaged in social media. I am on Twitter and find a lot of useful ham radio material there. An article in this issue is a result of a tweet by the famous contester José, CT1BOH. José also operates CR3OO and is a strong proponent of 2BSIQ — two-bands, synchronized interleaved QSOs. If you don't know about 2BSIQ, look up José on QRZ.com and watch a webinar he did for the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (www.wwrof.org) explaining it. José tweeted after the CQ World Wide CW that the differences between the winning and 2nd place teams were determined in the last few hours of the contest. He advises contesters to "finish strong." His article applies business analysis tools to contest performance, and I think you will find it enlightening and instructional for your own contest performance.

I posted a poll on Twitter in December 2017 about the preferred receiver architecture for contesting: Superheterodyne with selectable roofing filters, superhet without modern roofing filters, or software-designed radio (SDR). I found it surprising that two-thirds of those voting chose SDR. I suspect this represents a sea change in the hobby.

The availability of social media content for ham radio contesting is growing and becoming more sophisticated. Two of my favorite podcasts offer interesting insights through interviews with famous and not-so-famous contesters. "QSO Today" by Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, is a very entertaining interview between Eric and his ham guest. Eric has interviewed a significant number

of Hall of Fame contesters, including Tim, K3LR; Doug, K1DG, and Randy, K5ZD, as well as others who have contributed to the technology we enjoy today in our stations. I find the interviews interesting and informative and often learn something to improve my contesting skills. A relatively new podcast is "Ham Talk Live" by our "Next-Gen Contesters" contributor Neil Rapp, WB9VPG. Neil has interviewed a many contesters and DXers. One of my favorite bi-weekly podcasts is "ARRL The Doctor is In." Joel Hallas, W1ZR, and Steve Ford, WB8IMY, entertain and inform listeners on a host of issues. All of these podcasts archive, so you download past podcasts of particular interest.

WRTC 2018

World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 — the "world cup" of ham radio contesting — takes place this July in Germany. There are a lot of competitors, including three youth teams, and the "Next-Gen Contesters" column in this edition offers a bit of interesting and inspiring background on these six young competitors. The future of radiosport is strong with leaders like these. We hope to feature more about WRTC 2018 in the next issue.

Speaking of WRTC 2018, our featured DX contester this issue is Roberto Ramirez, CE3CT. Roberto operates the best-known Multioperator, Two-Transmitter (M2) contest station in Chile, and two of his teammates are WRTC 2018 competitors. Roberto himself will be there as a referee. How Roberto has designed and built a competitive contest station on a small lot in a suburb of Santiago, Chile, should be inspiring. One of our cover photos highlights the beautiful southern hemisphere sky from his location.

ARRL November Sweepstakes CW

I invited veteran contester Al, K0AD, to submit an Op-Ed advocating modest changes to the ARRL November Sweepstakes CW rules. That idea expanded a bit, and this issue offers Al's opinion piece plus another by Bill, W0OR, that proposes a "makeover" for SS. An Op-Ed in the May/June issue will present opinions on SS from two other veteran contesters. I urge those of you with strong emotional reactions to such articles to resist the temptation to strike out at those offering thoughtful opinions. *NCJ* is a forum for the exchange of ideas, not a sounding board for the ARRL Program and Services Committee.

If you feel strongly about this particular issue — or about any other ARRL-related matter — share your thoughts with your ARRL Division Director. Contact information is in each issue of *QST*.

Bouvet Island

Many of you told me how much you enjoyed the article by Craig Thompson, K9CT, regarding design issues for the Bouvet operation. As you likely already know, the 3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition team unfortunately had to turn back because of poor weather and a possible mechanical issue — this after their ship set anchor within clear view of the remote island in the South Atlantic. It was a matter of safety. The team was on its way to Capetown, South Africa, as of this writing, but already has said it will try again. In the meantime, a team of operators from Poland has revived its plans to operate from Bouvet as 3Y0I.

Sad Notes

I want to pay tribute to two contesters who died recently.

Jack Hammett, K4VV, was a well-known PVRC member and past president, as well as an active DXer and contester on HF and VHF. He was a long-time member of the W3SO VHF contesting group in Pennsylvania and a ARRL Life Member. Jack retired from the Army Signal Corps with the rank of colonel. He held a PhD in physics and specialized in noise research. Jack was an avid station builder and inspired many who operated with him.

David Collingham, K3LP, was an avid contester and even better-known DXer. He led or co-led DXpeditions to several destinations and also contested from the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa. A very generous individual, he often donated his equipment to local hams after finishing a contest on their turf. He enjoyed several first-place world finishes, and he established a school club station at his former elementary school, Dorothy Grant Elementary School in California.

Our condolences to their families. We acknowledge their contributions to our hobby. May we all be remembered someday as having made meaningful and lasting contributions to the betterment of those around us as these two operators have done.