

Editorial

Casual Operating

Lately, I have been suffering from a bit of *contester shock syndrome*, also known as burnout. Part of this is due to spending more time reading and writing about contesting than actually operating contests. This is an occupational hazard that I knowingly accepted as *NCJ* editor. Business, home and other commitments have also been getting in the way of my radio operating lately. Enthusiasm naturally rises and falls, but I've learned that it always comes back, no matter how burned out I feel on a given day. The magic of radio is irresistible, and I can't stay away from it for very long.

One benefit of taking a break from all-out competitive efforts is the ability to tune the bands at leisure and just *listen* to the contests. The bands have a different feeling when one doesn't feel compelled to spend every moment working anything and everything that moves. Without the pressure of paying attention to two radios simultaneously, I find I'm able to listen at a slower pace and experience the contest from a different perspective. I discovered interesting multipliers in places where I didn't expect to find them. I was able to spend time listening to different operators handle pileups, comparing and contrasting their operating styles.

Perhaps the contest of the weekend is not your favorite mode. That's another great opportunity to spend some time listening to the bands. Chances are that you will get sucked in and start having some fun. Recently during the CQ WPX SSB I was working on my taxes while occasionally tuning the bands. I tuned across a remarkably clear frequency on the bottom of 20 phone. I dumped in a "CQ," and then next thing I knew I had a nice pileup going. An hour later I looked up, and there were 150

contacts in the log. I'd gotten a chance to say a quick "Hi!" to several friends. The contest was over, it was time for dinner, and I had a big smile on my face.

Now just to be clear: I don't recommend getting on and *not* making any contacts. A contester's time is best spent learning to *make contacts* as quickly, efficiently and accurately as possible. If you happen to be just sitting at the desk filling out QSL cards, however, try turning on the radio and giving the dial a spin. You never know what might happen.

NAQP CW Results

Thanks to some strong work by the North American QSO Party management team, we are able to present the January NAQP CW results a full 2 months early. Many thanks to N6TR, N5KO, KL9A and WA7BNM, who worked together to make this possible. There simply was not enough time to complete the January NAQP SSB results for publication in this issue. Those will appear in the July/August *NCJ*. Moving the January NAQP CW results to May/June also will more evenly distribute the number of pages dedicated to contest results each issue.

Busted QSOs

After announcing in the March/April *NCJ* "Editorial" that WØYK was taking over the "RTTY Contesting" column, we inadvertently left Ed's debut column out of the magazine! Owing to a production error, we also managed to omit "Workshop Chronicles" in the same, very busy issue. Our apologies to Ed and Don as well as to our readers for these omissions. We are redoubling our efforts to stay within the page limits for future issues while making

sure nothing falls through the cracks at the same time.

Congratulations to KØDQ

On January 24, the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association announced that it is recognizing Scott Redd with its 2013 Distinguished Graduate Award. The presentation took place March 22 at Annapolis. More information is available on the USNA website, www.usna.com/page.aspx?pid=247.

In this Issue

In keeping with the *NCJ* 40th anniversary theme, KØDQ relates how he set records in the ARRL International DX Contest in 1973 and in 2013. In another anniversary story, K5GN tells his tale how he twice won the Dayton Kansas City DX Club CW Pileup competition — with 30 years between Dayton visits. N5OT shares his story of the VP2ME ARRL International CW DX Contest team effort. N6TR describes operating the ARRL November Sweepstakes CW from India, with room service included. SMØJHF presents us with a view of contesting from Madeira. On the technical side, N4OGW describes his next-generation *SO2SDR* software, K9YC compares some currently available band-pass filters and W4DC provides a current list of ARRL Field Day records to go after in June. Our regular columnists offer some great information in this issue that you won't want to miss either. I look forward to seeing many of you at Dayton Hamvention® in May. We hope you'll enjoy this issue.