

From the Editor

I got very annoyed during the ARRL International DX CW and Phone contests at operators who did not think identifying every few QSOs was common courtesy. This old issue is one that demonstrates to me a combination of selfishness and egotism deserving of renewed criticism. Kirk Pickering, K4RO, one of my predecessors wrote an editorial in the May/June 2014 issue of *NCJ*, aptly titled “Is My Time More Valuable than Yours?” It appears elsewhere in this issue. And for those of you who whine, “But it hurts my rate,” look at the contest scores posted by Steve, N2IC, who IDs after each and every QSO, with rare exception. It sure doesn’t hurt his frequent winning and record-breaking scores.

Every few months, KØMD comes to town for meetings at the Mayo Clinic facilities in Arizona. We had dinner together with Ned, AA7A, at his Scottsdale home, and I asked Ned to take a picture of the two editors. You can tell which one is the past editor by who is smiling in the photo.

We talked mostly about radios and antennas, not much about the magazine. Scott told us how much he has been enjoying his new Elecraft K4D radio and 80 meter 4-square antenna.

I asked our *NCJ* columnists to think about Field Day for this issue, and many did. Field Day has always been a favorite event of mine, and I am sure you have noticed how many “*NCJ* Profiles” articles mention Field Day as a memorable event from their early years in amateur radio.

For many, Field Day was also the first time these individuals experienced a contest environment, during the “it’s not a contest” operating activity the last weekend in June. Please make it a point to set up a GOTA station or find another way to provide an opportunity at Field Day this year



Former *NCJ* Editor Scott, KØMD (left) and current *NCJ* Editor Lee, KY7M, on the patio at the home of Ned, AA7A. [Ned Stearns, AA7A, photo]

Smelling the Roses

Wherever you participate in Field Day this year, take a moment to “smell the roses.” Recent world events have caused me to reflect on how lucky we are to live where we do and to enjoy this wonderful hobby.

Ham radio has been a fixture in my life since June 1962, so this issue is a personal celebration of 60 years of dots and dashes, CQs, 599s, 73s, “my name is Lee, Lima-Echo-Echo,” radio friends around the world, travel for contests both domestic and international, thousands of QSL cards, and an ongoing opportunity to meet new people and learn new things in an ever-evolving avocation.

Many have probably experienced what I call “Monday contest withdrawal,” a form of depression that’s unavoidable after losing ourselves in the contest world for a weekend and forgetting about the outside world.

I don’t know how many more contests I have left in me, but I intend to continue enjoying them for as long as I can send CW or talk into a microphone. I hope you will too. — Lee Finkel, KY7M

for new hams or any young people whether or not licensed — the younger the better — to operate and have a memorable radiosport experience.

About this Issue

This is an exciting issue. For those making Field Day preparations, Nelson, KA2C, and Steve, WA8EIH, provide some detailed guidance on steps to minimize inter-station interference, especially to operate on the same band in different modes.

Don, K4ZA, offers a warning about raising towers on Field Day.

I asked Gerry, W1VE, whom I consider one of amateur radio’s remote radio gurus, to write a series on remote operating. His first one, “Pop-up Remotes,” appears in this issue. It should encourage those of you considering remote station operation. “Remote” can be operating your radio from another room in the house or from your backyard — it does not necessarily mean a station miles away in the countryside or on another continent.

John, K6MM, has the first “*NCJ* Profiles” of a South American ham in *NCJ* — Father Ed, OA4SS. With help from his old friend Jim, W9VNE, we profile this well-known and respected ham in Peru who provides the OA multiplier in many DX contests.

This issue also includes January’s NAQP CW and Phone results. News Flash! The world did not come to an end when we added “Assisted” operation to the NAQP. Activity and scores increased noticeably.

For the past 10 years, Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, has managed the North American QSO Party CW events for *NCJ* and authored the results articles. Chris is retiring and has recruited another seasoned contester, Dave Mueller, N2NL, to replace him beginning with the August NAQP CW. Our thanks to Chris for his dedication to the NAQP CW through the years.