

From the Editor

It is always good to have small wins as the Editor of *NCJ*. Win #1: No pictures of the wrong person were printed in the last issue. Win #2: All plaques for the 2018, 2019, and 2020 NAQP CW and SSB contest winners have been delivered. Win #3: ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, has agreed to manage the NAQP plaques going forward.

The only “loss” was the postponement until 2023 of World Radiosport Team Championship 2022 (WRTC 2022) just as the May/June issue of *NCJ* hit mailboxes with its “WRTC Trilogy” of stories. Let’s hope our friends in Italy and their European neighbors win the ongoing battle against the pandemic, so this long awaited event can take place in 2023. I am planning to attend this next WRTC as a spectator whenever it does occur.

I attended Contest University and was thoroughly impressed by the quality of the presentations. I was shocked to learn from Frank Donovan, W3LPL, that electrical tape is not waterproof, in his program on “Preparing Your Station for Competition” and should only be used on top of a layer of waterproof tape. I immediately ordered some waterproof Scotch 130C Linerless Rubber Splicing Tape and have begun retaping my outdoor cable connections following Frank’s instructions. Who knew?

Frank’s program (slides and video) and all the other programs are available via the contestuniversity.com website. There is always something new to learn, especially with our hobby’s ever evolving technological advances.

A timely program at Contest University was “Youth — the Future of Contesters” by Philipp, DK6SP. You may have seen our recent press release announcing that the *NCJ*-sponsored North American QSO Parties will note the scores of young operators (age 25 and under), begin-



KY7M operating at PZ5V with the Voodudes in 2016 (at the well-equipped contest station of Ramon, PZ5RA, in Suriname).

ning with the August 2021 NAQP CW and SSB events. Young operators are an important part of radiosport. Competing not only with established contesters but among themselves makes contesting more fun and builds our community. For a long time, contesters have expressed the need for “new blood,” and these are encouraging signs. *NCJ* encourages all contesters to welcome and encourage these new radiosport family members. As DK6SP repeatedly pointed out in his talk, you probably have prospective contesters living close by eager to meet you.

Neil, WB9VPG, will continue to feature stories about the youth movement in his “Next-Gen Contesters” column. This issue’s column features the story of Javan Miller, W8UA, already an accomplished contester at a young age. Neil, a member of the team sponsoring this summer’s Youth On The Air camp, youthontheair.org, covered the growing RHR Young Operators program, www.remotehamradio.com/youth in his November/December 2020 column.

This issue features a detailed description of how a contester/DXer can start from scratch to make a dream station come to life. I met Dave Perry, N4QS, when he joined the Voodudes for our first South American CQ World

Wide CW effort at the station of Ramon, PZ5RA, in 2016. We listened to Dave’s mantra about how Western Kentucky was the “black hole” of ham radio for propagation and responded with, “If you want a real black hole, try Arizona.” Well, Dave decided to do something about his situation and now we watch the spots roll by showing him working all kinds of DX from the first-class contest station he built for himself in the Bluegrass State. No more “black hole” complaints allowed, Dave!

Ed Goss, N3CW, surprised me with an article about the Elgato Stream Deck keyboard, a shortcut tool that should be of great interest to contesters. It provides a new way to navigate during a contest without losing focus on the logging program, something that I have struggled with both at my home and remote stations.

Jim Smallwood, N7RCS, a seasoned QRP contester, lends his perspective on what it takes to be successful in this most challenging of contest categories.

John Miller, K6MM, has provided this issue’s Profile about Ira Stoler, K2RD, whose ham journey has taken him from New York City to Reno with many contest stops and contester friendships made along the way.

As always, the columnists have provided plenty of tips to make your contesting efforts more productive.

It is the best time of year in North America for station improvements (unless you live in the desert) and getting everything ready for the major contests in the fall. We tried to beat the Arizona heat by already completing some major upgrades in the antennas at our remote contest station. That paid off nicely in the CQ WPX CW contest where we operated as NA2U in the MS HP category. I hope we worked many of you in that one. Good luck with your summer station improvements.