

From the Editor

This is my 59th year in the hobby, and some of my fondest memories are from Field Days past. I can't put the exact year on most of them, but that doesn't matter. The first one I remember was as a teenager with a Chicago-area radio club to Apple River Canyon State Park which, at 900 feet above sea level, was supposedly the highest point in northern Illinois. We set up camp at a picnic area on one of the hilltops. One of the guys was an electrician and brought his van full of wire. He had a huge spool of square, copper ground wire (#2?) that was rolled out across a ravine for hundreds of feet to be used as a long wire. The concern was that it drooped over the main road in and out of the park and might snag a truck or RV. I was assigned to 15 meters and had a simple dipole that worked quite well with my Heathkit Marauder and Drake 2B. A thunderstorm rolled in on Saturday afternoon, and I remember scrambling to get inside a car as the lightning flashes got closer to our hilltop.

The next FD memory is one I try to forget. It was the worst Field Day of

my life. I was home from college on summer vacation, and one of the ops from the Illinois CW traffic net owned a 28-foot sailboat docked at Monroe Harbor in downtown Chicago. He invited several of us to sail along the coast of Lake Michigan and operate FD from the boat. That was when I learned for the first time just how nasty it is to be seasick. I don't think I ever touched the radio, because I was leaning over the side of the boat for a good part of the 24 hours (and it wasn't to check propagation!).

The best memories of Field Day were in the 1990s, when the Scottsdale Amateur Radio Club (SARC) joined forces with the Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA) up on the Mogollan Rim just beyond Strawberry, Arizona. This is an amazing part of the state at 7,000 feet above sea level in the cool pine forest. SARC had accumulated Rohn 25 tower with homebrew tilt bases and monobanders for 10 – 40 meters. We would have Europeans calling us when we warmed up on 20 meters before the "not a contest" began at 1800 UTC. SARC provided a lot of

the gear setup and the food. CADXA provided the experienced contesters to do most of the operating. (This was many years before the Arizona Outlaws Contest Club was formed.) We used the call sign of Bob Johnsen, K7TR ("Texas Radio" now SK).

For more than 10 years we generally finished second to W2GD and his New Jersey team in class 4A until 1996. That was a magical year, when K7TR had an all-star team of operators and W2GD had thunderstorms, and we reached the top of the 4A listings in QST for the one and only time. Needless to say, we were ecstatic, and SARC even issued certificates to commemorate our achievement.

The fun of Field Day for me has always been the camaraderie of being with old friends and solving problems together to make the stations sing with our beams pointing east. I always looked forward to operating Bob Johnsen's Drake TR-4 transceiver with Bob usually logging for me. We ran some outstanding rates with those monobanders!

Those days up on the Mogollan Rim are long gone, but I still think



A much younger KY7M in 1987 operating Field Day with Bob Johnsen, K7TR, logging. The CW signals were so loud that no headphones were needed!



After more than 10 years of trying to beat W2GD in Field Day Class 4A, the SARC/CADXA team finally took first place in 1996 and honored participants with a certificate that is proudly displayed on a KY7M shack wall.

about them every June. The past few years I have been operating 1E using my Honda generator in my backyard while operating inside my air conditioned home shack. It's not the same!

If you have a favorite story about Field Day, please send it to me. I would love to collect those stories and find a way to share them with the *NCJ* community.

This Issue

This issue features an optimistic look forward to the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) scheduled to take place in Bologna, Italy, in 2022. George, K5KG, provides an overview of the planning for the event; Roberto, CE3CT, reports on his interviews with several of the pre-qualifiers for WRTC 2022, and Adrian, KO8SCA, recalls his experiences as an excited first-time participant at WRTC 2018 in Germany.

We are celebrating a milestone in this issue. Gary, W9XT, is publishing his 200th "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques" column! Get out the confetti and noisemakers. Congratulations, Gary!

In the "Next-Gen Contesters" column by Neil, WB9VPG, you will learn how Field Day can be reinvented to involve a wide variety of communities

while demonstrating the excitement of ham radio for next-generation contesters. John, K6MM, has a fascinating profile of G4IRN that details how a youngster from across the pond was captivated just as many of us were on this side of the Atlantic as youngsters hearing commercial broadcasts from faraway places.

Erratum

The incorrect photo somehow managed to get into the March/

April "NCJ Profiles" column about Lar, K7SV. This is the photo of Larry "Lar" Schimelpfenig, K7SV, that you should have seen. Many readers correctly identified Sig, N3RS, in the erroneous photo. We appreciate Lar's understanding.

The "VHF-UHF Contesting!" column about operating 220 MHz in VHF contests highlighted on the cover of the March/April issue was mistakenly omitted. It's being published in this issue. We apologize for the error.



Lar, K7SV

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