

## From the Editor

This issue closes out our 50th year of publishing *National Contest Journal* and my second year as its editor. I must say these 2 years have flown by, and I am looking forward to 1 more year before the reins are turned over to whoever will become the 18th editor of *NCJ*. This job is full of nice surprises, with articles arriving unexpectedly and contesters stepping forward with stories they want to tell. I hope that will continue in 2023. Don't be shy about contacting me if you have a story to tell.

I spent a few hours in my first-ever North American RTTY Sprint recently. I thought the CW Sprint was challenging, but RTTY has it beat! I had to make several modifications to my messages before I could get into a decent rhythm, but once I tamed *N1MM Logger+*, it was easy to make QSOs while there were new stations to work. The Sprints are a fun change of pace from sitting and running on one frequency, and we need more of you to get on to make some contacts. It is a great opportunity to check out and fine-tune your RTTY program before the 48-hour events.

I took on a challenge the weekend of September 17 – 18 by making contacts in all five of the state QSO parties that weekend: Iowa, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Texas, and Washington. Most of my QSOs were made in the Texas party and in the Washington Salmon Run. I had to continually switch among logs but had fun monitoring for when one of the rovers got to a new county line, especially when they were handing out two or more new county multipliers.

October 8 – 9 was the annual Arizona QSO Party. Our NA7TB remote station team decided to have as much fun as possible in this 14-hour event and, using our two stations and five



**Your editor modeling his new favorite T-shirt – “Ham Radio: It’s a Contact Sport”**

operators, we logged more than 2,000 QSOs using CW and SSB. The best part was having 10 meters open for more than 600 of those contacts. It is definitely more fun to be the hunted, and state QSO parties always provide that opportunity.

### In this Issue...

If you participated in any of the fall NAQPs, you will see your results in this issue. Participation in the new Assisted category continues to be popular and is making a positive impact on the scores of all NAQP participants. I hope to see even more of you in all categories of the January/February NAQPs.

One of the best-known contesters through the years has been Jim Neiger, N6TJ. After the Dayton Ham-vention this year, Jim asked me about publishing his memoir of 70 years

in the hobby. The first installment of Jim's amazing contest journey appears in this issue. He takes us from logging on paper into the early computer age for contesting and tells of making the transition to programmable keyers. For those of you newer to contesting, it is a history lesson I think you will enjoy reading.

Gerry, W1VE, has provided the next article in his series on remote radio for contesters. In 2023, Gerry will become a regular *NCJ* columnist, as more contesters utilize remote stations for their efforts. If you have questions about any aspect of remote radio, please send them to Gerry and he will try to address them in upcoming columns.

I saw a message from Pete, N4ZR, on a contest reflector recently talking about the RBN system, and I asked him to adapt his message for those of us who are RBN users. If you have wondered about how to get spotted in a CW or digital contest, be sure to read Pete's article.

This issue brings to a close the remarkable job that Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, has done with his “Contest Tips, Tricks, & Techniques” column for 35 years. Along with many prior editors. I want to express my thanks to Gary for providing practical advice to us through those years with the help of his loyal following of advice contributors. Gary, I hope you enjoy your retirement and if the muse strikes, please send in more “CTT&T” any time.

### Closing Thought

Happy holidays to everyone from my family to yours. Here's hoping that 2023 will bring a year filled with sunspots and increased contest activity. Above all, I hope the new year will bring us peace on Earth.