

From the Editor

I returned from Hamvention® a few days before writing this column. I had a wonderful time seeing and talking to many contesters in person again at Contest University (CTU), the Contest Dinner, and the Contest Forum. In the hallway before CTU started, I bumped into ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, who was holding a new NCJ 50th anniversary T-shirt. Turned out he wanted to deliver it to me, and I immediately went into the restroom to change shirts so I could wear it proudly at CTU. NCJ 50th anniversary T-shirts and other 50th anniversary swag is available via the ARRL online store. I will discuss my Dayton/Xenia experiences in an article to be posted on ncjweb.com along with photos taken either by me or “TV Bob,” N6TV.

Remembering Roger, G3SXW

I was saddened by the passing of Roger Western, G3SXW, on April 24. He was a member of the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame and well-known by DXers and contesters alike. I met Roger in 1998 on my first trip to West Africa with the Voodoo Contest Group. Roger picked me up at Heathrow Airport, and I spent the night at his home before we met his mates the next morning for the airplane ride to Accra, Ghana, followed by a bus ride and memorable border crossing to Lomé, Togo, where 5V7A competed as a multi-multi entry in the CQ World Wide CW. This was the first of my eight trips to operate with the Voodudes.

Fluent in French, Roger would often be the Voodude negotiating with hotel managers, money changers, and border customs agents to get the best deals or treatment for our contest team. Upon arrival in Ghana on that first trip, the airport X-ray machine displayed a roll of coax in my suitcase. That caused me to be taken into a



P3F Team Photo from the 2013 CQ WW CW: Top row (L – R): Lee, KY7M; Ned, AA7A, and John, G4IRN. Bottom row (L – R): Roger, G3SXW; Karen, wife of 5B4AGN, and Bob, 5B4AGN. [Courtesy of Ned Stearns, AA7A]

customs office for questioning. After a few minutes, Roger came in and announced that we would be leaving on a bus for Togo in the morning, as he steered me and my suitcase out of the customs office and outside, where we quickly were lost in the typical crowd of “passenger helpers.”

Roger was an ardent CW-only operator, and he chastised me for using the microphone on my Heil headset one pre-contest night in Lomé. Nevertheless, our friendship lasted through the years, and he had no objection to my membership in FOC, the CW club in which he held many leadership positions. To my surprise, Roger had read my “True Contest Adventures of

Sparky and Runner” in *DX Magazine* and NCJ and badgered me repeatedly about writing new adventures for my fictional young contesters. I still toy with that idea from time to time while hearing Roger’s request in my head.

Our last time together was in Cyprus in 2013 when we operated in the CQ WW CW as P3F as a M2 with AA7A and G4IRN at the shack of Bob, 5B4AGN. Always up for a challenge against the ‘mericans, it was Roger and John versus Ned and Lee to see who could make the most QSOs in 48 hours. I won’t disclose the result.

(Continued on page 8)

(continued from page 2)

From the Editor

Suffice it to say we had fun as a team racking up 22 million points. The best part was our traditional post-contest sharing of a good bottle of Scotch and telling tales from our many African adventures. RIP Roger, you are and will be missed!

If you look closely at the picture in my column in the March/April 2022 issue of *NCJ* you will see Roger in the background eating his dinner during our Mali trip in 2005.

In this Issue

Pat, N9RV, a former *NCJ* editor, tells us the story of how he redesigned his station in Montana to take greater advantage of automation that also eliminates multiple cables from the shack. If you are struggling with a “rat’s nest” of wires in your station,

this is a must-read.

Scott, KA9FOX, recounts his contest experience at IO5O with a smile that never goes away. Good food, good wine, good teammates, and lots of QSOs made for a memorable contest experience.

Most of us these days rely on our computers and freak out quickly when our contest logging program stops working. In Part 2 of his series on station resilience, John, NN1SS, provides a couple of practical recovery scenarios that you should find informative.

Gerry, W1VE, continues his series on remote radio with details about useful networking and software tools for a remote radio set-up.

Why do you contest? Steve, AG4W, offers several scenarios that have

one common theme — it’s *fun*. He suggests various ways to approach a contest that meet your needs for a goal based around your available time and station capability.

Jim, KKØU, gives us an account of his harrowing experience with lightning, bad weather, and fickle antennas when kicking off his participation in the 2021 Missouri QSO Party. His is the first of several articles about state QSO parties that will appear in upcoming issues of *NCJ*.

Please keep your email comments and proposed articles coming. I am always looking for new ideas and new material. I am especially interested in your thoughts about the June Digi Contest and the use of FTx modes for contests, as the software is currently configured.