

From the Editor

It was wonderful seeing many familiar faces in Visalia at the International DX Convention (IDXC) on April 21-23. About 480 people attended, and there were non-stop smiles from the opportunity attendees had to see people in person and not on a computer screen. The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) hosted Contest University on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday Bob, N6TV, once again exceeded the Contest Forum, aka "The Visalia Group," with panelists John, W2GD; Tim, K3LR; Craig, K9CT, and Dick, N6AA. Topics of discussion included self-spotting, Field Day QSO points, effective contest audio settings, and the potential for instant LoTW logging in contests. They didn't agree on much except to "leave Field Day alone!"

The banquet program featured Bouvet Island, 3YØJ, with a presentation by DXpeditioners Dave, WD5COV; Adrian, KO8SCA, and Mike, AB5EB. Their story and photos filled in many of the unknowns about just how treacherous their journey turned out to be. The fact is they were lucky to make any QSOs and even luckier that no one was seriously injured or died from their Herculean efforts.

One of my favorite contests has come and gone for 2023, the 7th Area QSO Party (7QP). Our NA7TB remote team was excited to enter the multi-multi category this year as N7A with our two stations (there is no M2 Category in this contest). I set up the logs on Friday in preparation for the early Saturday morning start (6 AM Phoenix time). I updated *N1MM Logger+*, Call History, Super Check Partial, and the country files. I figured out how to access memory (mc) files for both CW and SSB in *N1MM Logger+*. I thought we were good to go.

The first 15 minutes of the contest proved me wrong. We should have run

a live test ahead of time, because our two stations were locking each other out unless we were sending by hand. It turned out the multioperator selection I thought I had made in the setup menu reverted to single-op on both stations. Unfortunately, we initially attributed the lock outs to RFI and shut down one station, but a few hours later realized it was the log setting causing the problem. Once that was fixed, we were back in business running on both stations. That lasted until a few hours before the end of 7QP at 11 PM Phoenix time. I was having good success running on 80 meters, while our other station was running on 40 meters when my K3's receiver went dead. I had discovered our only filtering weakness, and the front end of my 80-meter K3 had been burned out. Another lesson learned the hard way!

In this Issue...

The call sign TKØC will be familiar to many of you who enter the CQ World Wide CW Contest every No-

vember. Except for 2020 (COVID), they have been #1 in Europe in their multiop category since 2016. How do they do it? They describe their "ping-pong" process in great detail for maximizing in-band QSOs. Learn their secrets and try them in your next multiop effort.

Vic, N6DSV, loves the California QSO Party (CQP) and tells the story of how he went from SWL to mastering CW, ultimately winning the New Contester category from Trinity County in the 2022 contest.

John, NN1SS, provided an article with excellent advice on how to best fend off "Murphy" in a contest through a combination of automation, station design, and physical fitness.

Thank You and a Request

Thank you for your emails about *NCJ*. We always enjoy hearing from our readers. If you are going on a contest DXpedition, please take pictures and write a story for *NCJ* about your experiences being the DX.



At Visalia, I chatted with Eric, WA6HHQ, one of Elecraft's co-founders. It is hard to believe the company is now 25 years old, having started in 1998. I built a K2 not long after they first came out. These days my shack houses a pair of Elecraft K3s, a K3/0 Mini, and a KPA1500.



Your Editor and spouse Debby at the Visalia Banquet. Debby staffed the raffle prize room for the IDXC along with WO7R's spouse Inta.