

From the Editor

Welcome to 2024 from your new *NCJ* editor!

Many thanks to Lee, KY7M, for the phenomenal job he did as editor for the past three years. Lee and the 16 *NCJ* editors before him have set the bar very high, and I'll do my best to meet those standards.

A bit about me: I was first licensed at age 13 in 1970 as WN2ADH in Freeport, New York. As for many of us, my first contest was a whopping 78 QSOs in the ARRL Novice Roundup. I quickly passed the General exam at the FCC office in New York City, and went home and started operating as WA2ADH — until the actual license arrived in the mail with the call sign WB2EKK. Turns out, I'd forgotten to attach a copy of my Novice ticket. *Oops!*

Later in high school and throughout college, girls, lacrosse, beer, and some studying (in that order) put ham radio way on the back shelf. I moved to Maryland in 1978 and used my long /3 call sign in contests from apartments and a townhouse. It wasn't until 1996 that I shortened my call to K3TN.

In 1985 joined the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), where I learned from experienced contesters whose call signs I'd seen in magazines for years. That resulted in the only times my call sign was ever attached to a #1 score: Top US 80-Meter SSB in the CQ WPX from K1DQV (SK) using the call sign NA3J (SK). More important to my contesting ability was being part of several winning W3LPL multi-multi teams in the CQ WW and ARRL DX contests in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

That was when I first discovered *NCJ*. W3LPL had piles of back issues for operators to read during off times. It may be hard to believe today, but back then those *NCJ* issues were the only place you could find all the



NCJ Editor John Pescatore, K3TN, at the station of Atsu, JE1TRV, circa 2011.

scores of recent contests and also keep up with the latest contesting controversies. These then seemed to be guest ops, the “octopi” that were the predecessors to SO2R, and evergreen complaints about the ARRL November Sweepstakes “work once per contest” rule and the resultant Sunday slog.

I took over as editor of the PVRC newsletter, wrote a “Contest Connection” column for *NCJ* as contesters started discovering the internet, and helped Trey, WN4KKN (later N5KO), and George, WB5VZL (later K5TR) to get what is today the CQ Contest Reflector going on the internet.

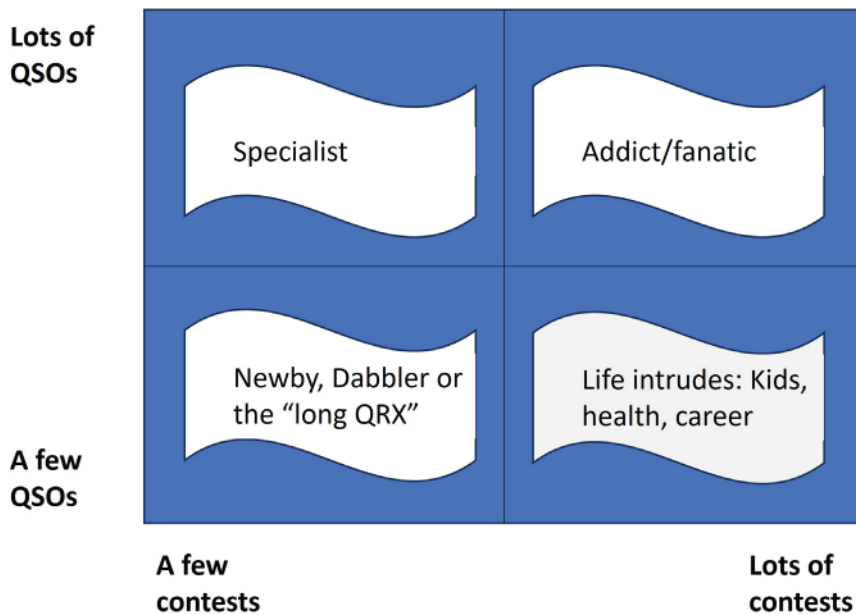
But then, a career in cybersecurity that required a lot of travel, plus getting married, and (9 months and 20 minutes later) my daughter being born all resulted in what Shin, JA1NUT, has called “the long QRX” starting in the late 1990s and lasting until 2009. When I got back on the air, *N1MM* Logger had replaced CT, Elecraft and SteppIR had taken over

transceivers and beams, 3830 was an awesome website (no frequency fights with “pig farmers”), and ARRL was publishing *NCJ*!

I've always enjoyed technology in contesting. I remember Dave, KM3T, and I demonstrating an early version of the CT DOS logging software (previously known as YCCC's “secret weapon”) at a PVRC meeting in the late 1980s, and becoming an early user of the first W3LPL/N2FB packet clusters. This time around, I got involved with W4RN's work in turning Jack, K4VV's, station into an awesome remote multioperator station. We had a few Top 10 finishes in the multi-multi class, and I could see remote operation (like guest oping but with a longer headphone cord) was controversial but would only grow.

In my career, I spent almost 14 years at Gartner, where we published very popular “Magic Quadrants” that

Continued on p. 12



A contesting Magic Quadrant.

provide a two-dimensional representation of competitors' positioning in markets. Figure 2 is a Magic

Quadrant showing how contesting styles can change over time for operators. *NCJ* has a long history of

providing information and publishing stories and interviews are relevant to contesters, no matter what contesting quadrant they are in or heading toward.

NCJ is a place where operators from world champions to first timers, from addicts to dabblers, can share their experiences and learn from others. Contesting has continued to thrive by adapting to and adopting new technologies as progress marches on. We need all types. Someone has to answer all those CQs!

NCJ has survived and been valued for over 50 years because of the contributions of contesters from all over and from all levels. If you have an idea for an article, a few thoughts scribbled down, or a rough draft, send it to me and share your thoughts and expertise across the *NCJ* community.